



SANTIS

Insight | Expertise | Influence



Santis Webinar

Year-in-review: Pandemic milestones that will shape 2021

December 11, 2020

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About Santis Health

Santis Health is a public affairs, strategic advisory, public policy, marketing and communication consultancy that is dedicated to providing first-class counsel and support for clients **exclusively in the health care and life sciences sectors.**

Insight

Our robust understanding of key actors and factors drives decisions and change.

Expertise

Our senior leaders have the experience to help navigate the most complex challenges.

Influence

Our track record delivers meaningful results.

Agenda

1. Health care in the news
2. The current environment
3. The impact of Wave One
4. Health care policy, politics and priorities

Health care in the news

The conversation last year looked very different

Premiers to seek more health funding, hesitant on pharmacare

The Canadian Press December 2, 2019

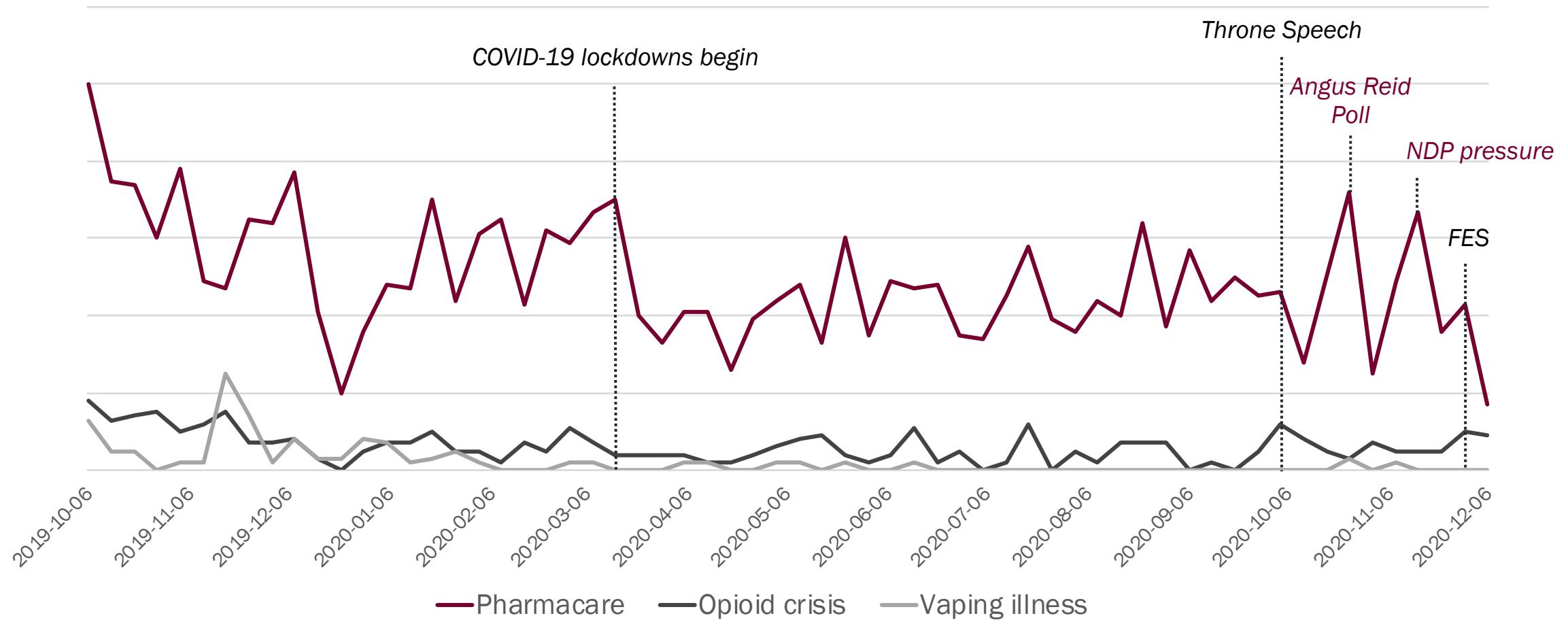
Almost 14,000 Canadians killed by opioids since 2016: national study

The Canadian Press December 11, 2019

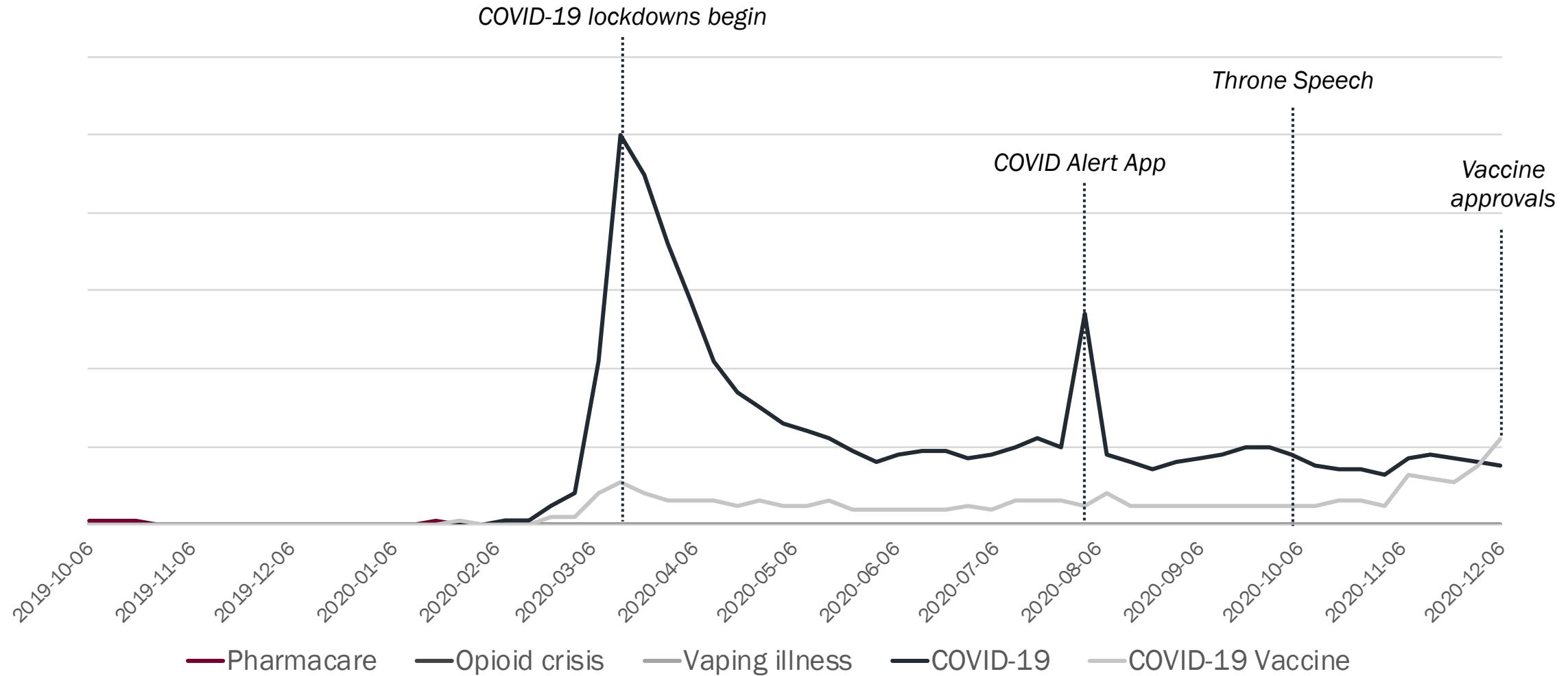
Vaping-related illnesses rise in Canada and U.S.

Thomson Reuters December 5, 2019

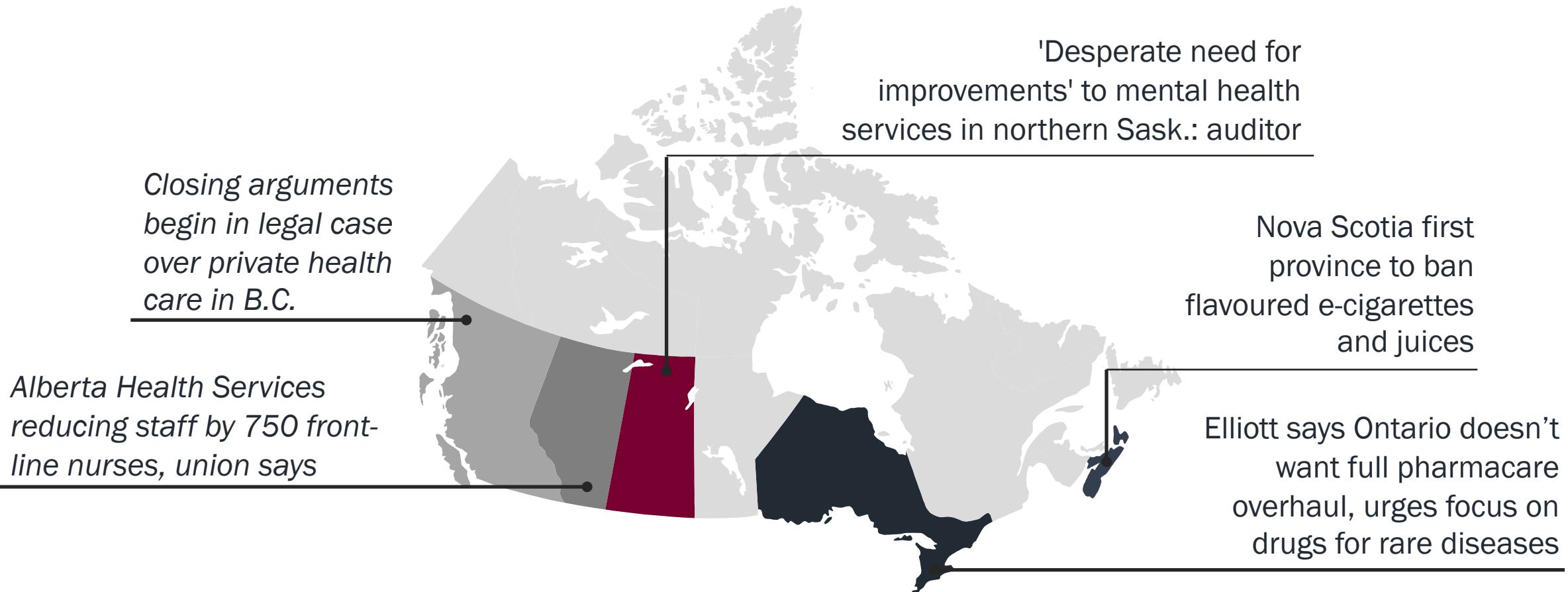
Momentum is ongoing



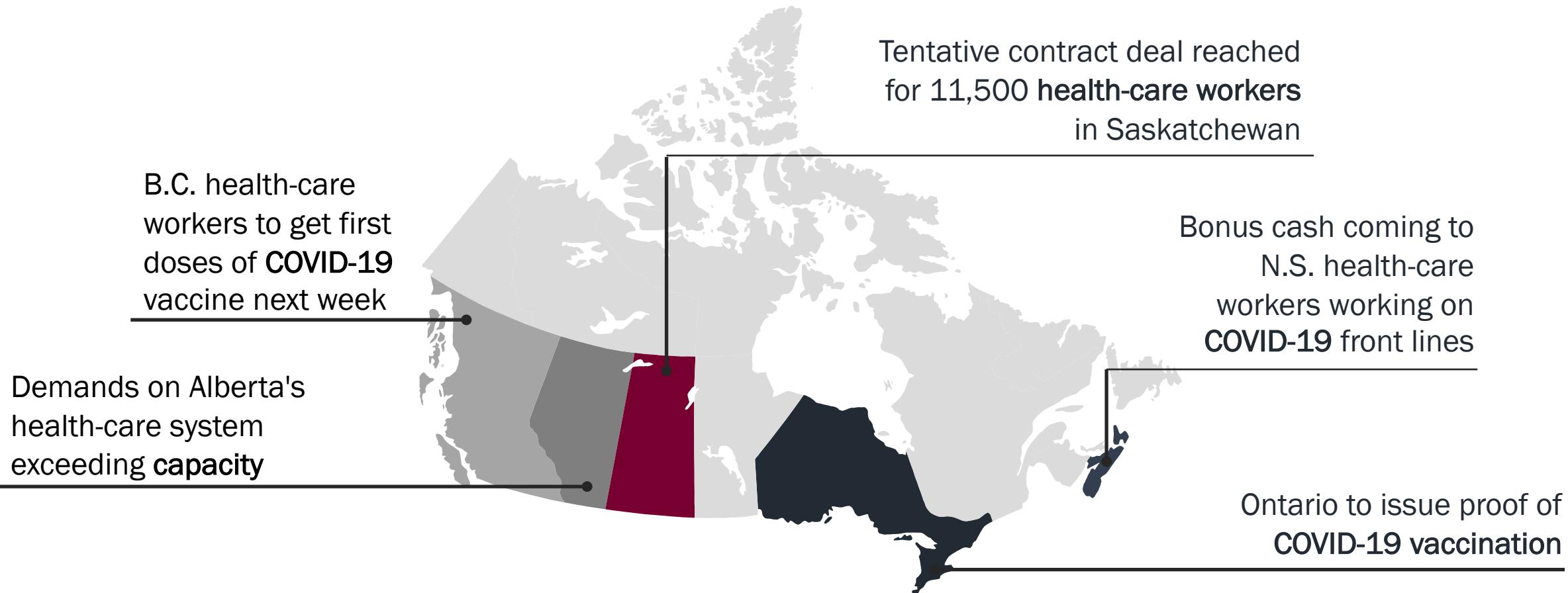
However, COVID-19 remains the news maker



Provincial issues in 2019



Health care in the news Versus 2020

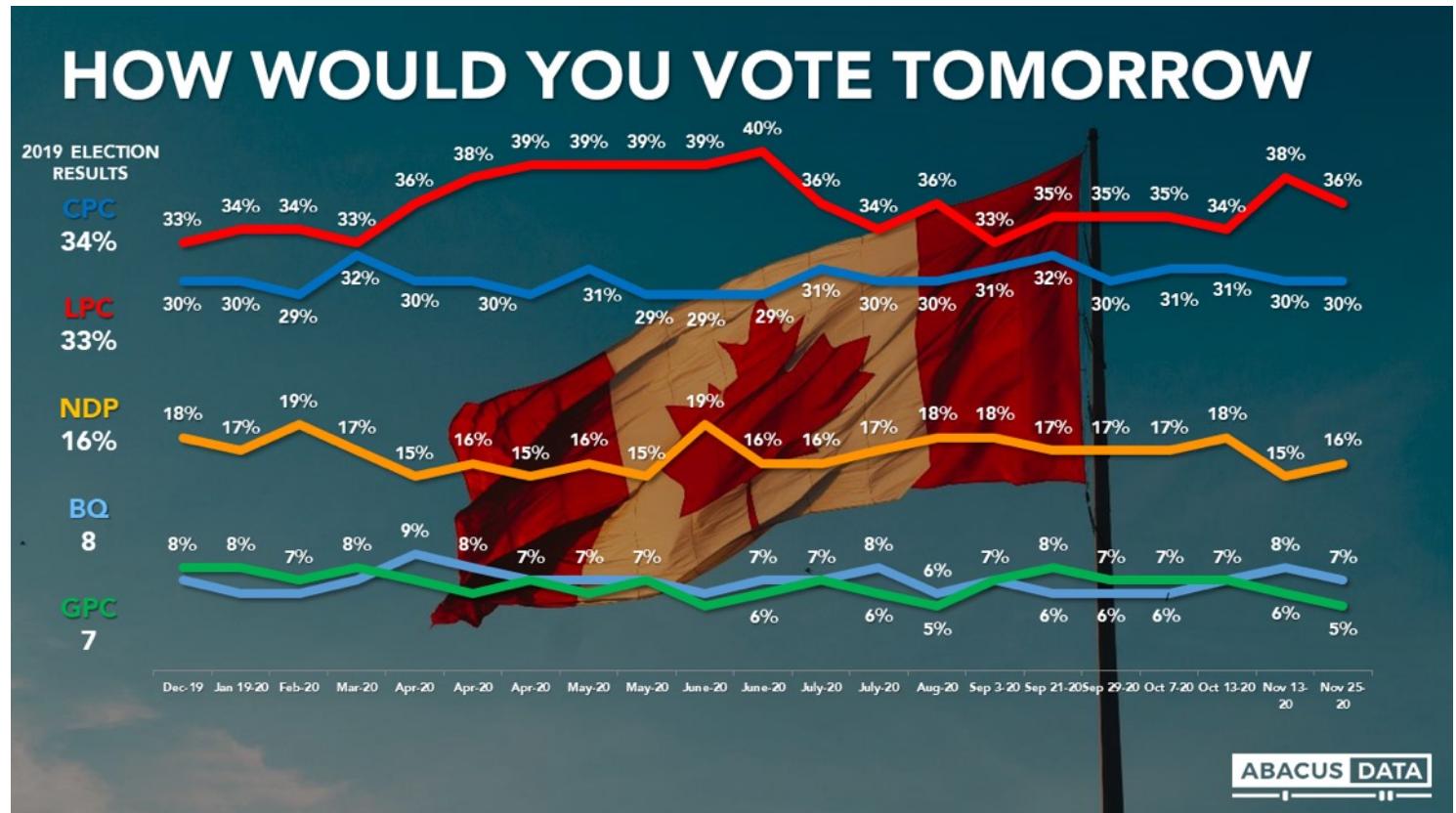


The current environment

The current environment

What do the polls tell us?

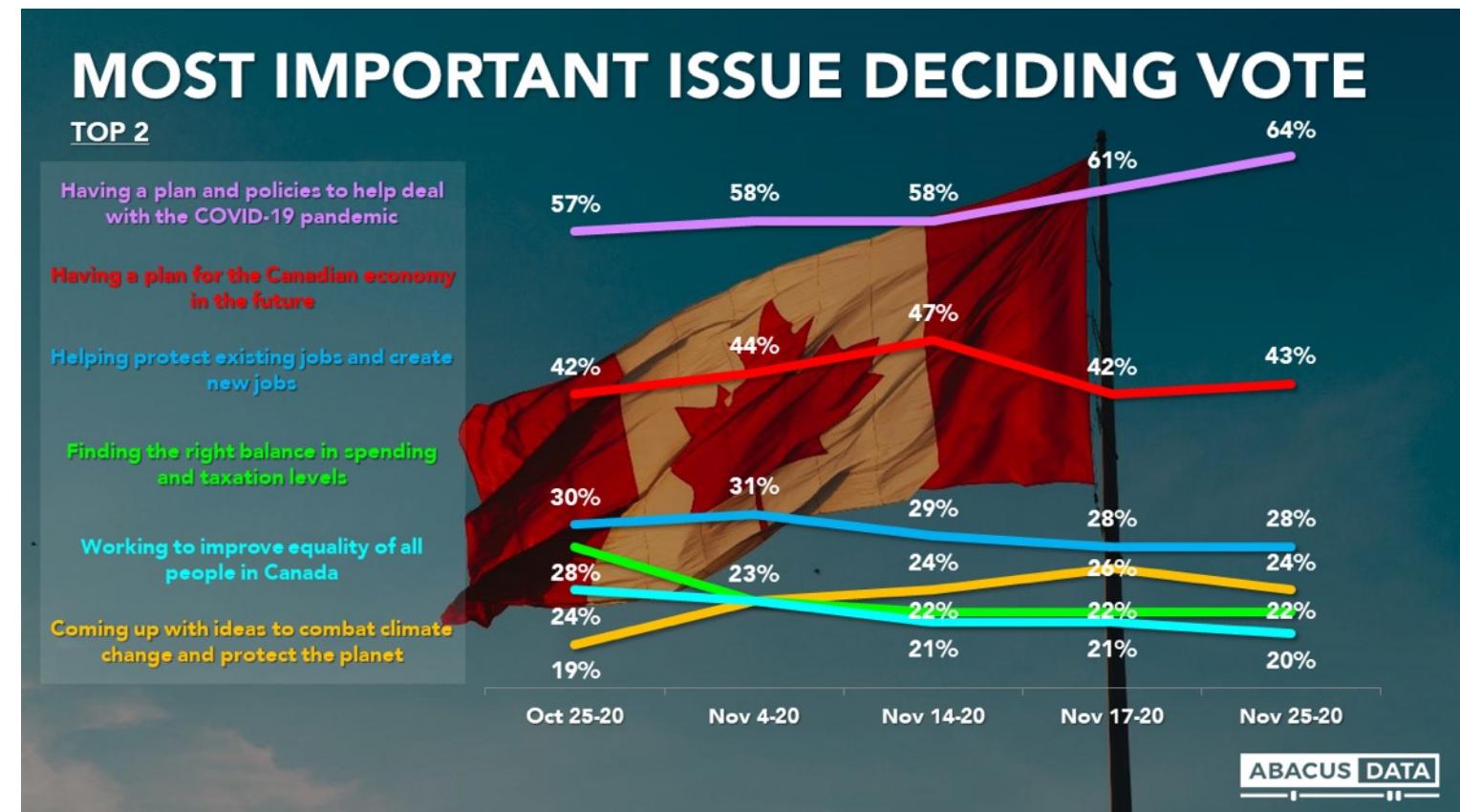
The **Liberals** have held a strong lead throughout much of the pandemic. An election is likely around the corner.



Source: <https://abacussdata.ca/liberal-lead-6-november-economic-statement-november-abacus-data/>

The current environment What matters to voters?

The COVID-19 response is important to voters, an early indication that the government will be judged on their handling of the pandemic in a future election.



Source: <https://abacusdata.ca/liberal-lead-6-november-economic-statement-november-abacus-data/>

The impact of Wave One

What is the unmet need within the health care system?

Impact of Wave One System transformation

Physicians moved promptly to adapt to COVID-19.

Hospitals focused – quickly – on essential care to shore up space for COVID-19 patients.

While this quick transformation focused care on those who needed it in that moment, **substantial issues were also created.**

52%

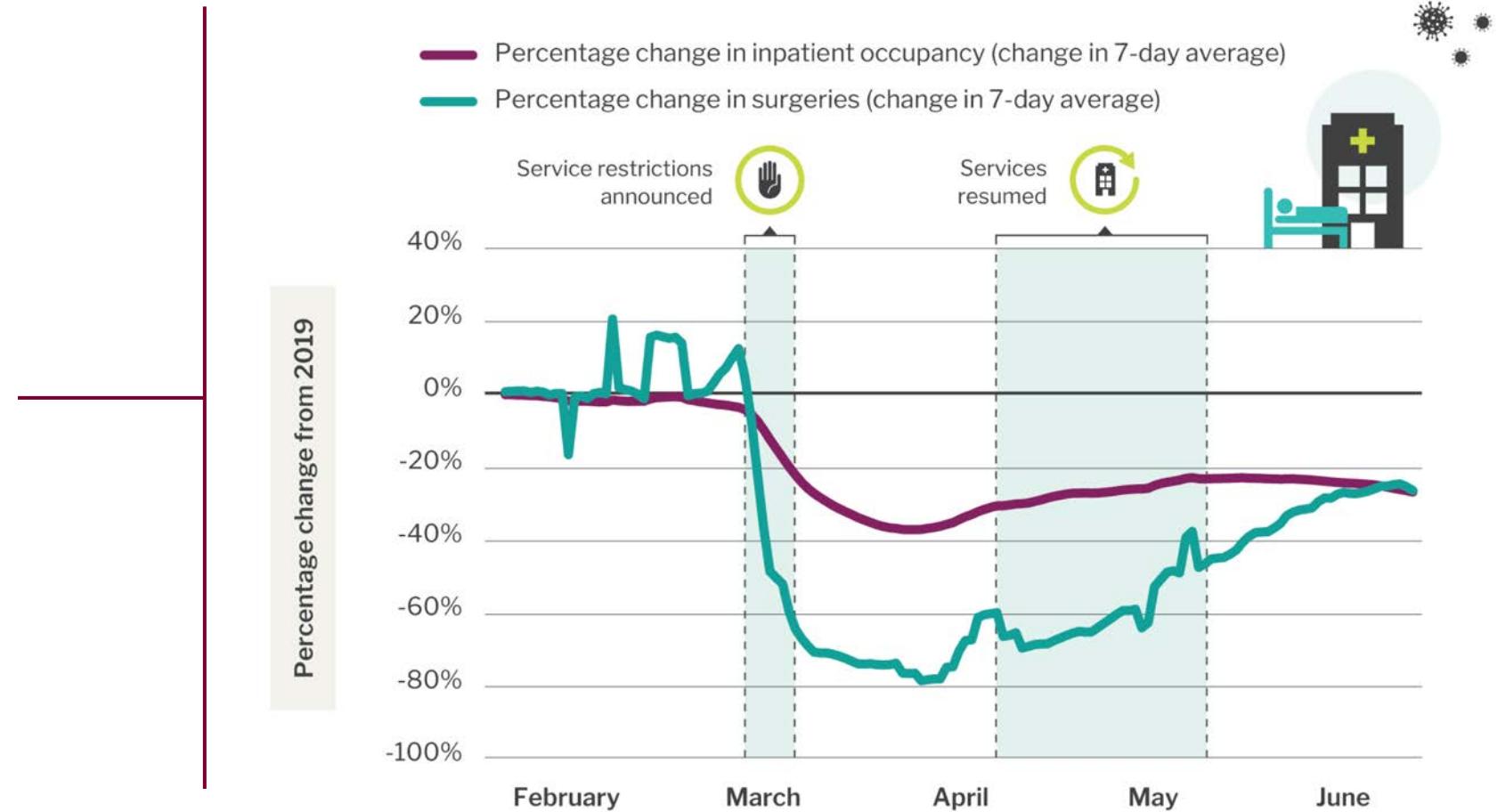


Virtual care in April 2020 (patient visits, psychotherapy and consults with other physicians)

Source: CIHI, COVID-19's impact on health care systems

Impact of Wave One What was the downside?

Changes in **surgeries performed and hospital occupancy**, February to June 2020



Source: CIHI, COVID-19's effect on hospital care services

What was the downside?

Home care suffered, for multiple reasons.

Canadians stopped visiting emergency departments, and still today, visits are below norm.

Those that did show to EDs had more serious conditions.

 **22%**



Initial home care screening assessments in April 2020

 **50%**



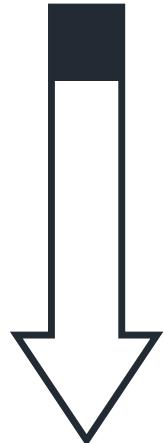
Visits to emergency departments across Canada in April 2020

Source: CIHI, COVID-19's impact on health care systems

What was impacted the most?

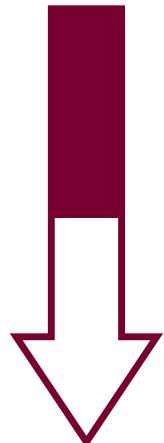
Life saving and
urgent surgeries

17% decrease



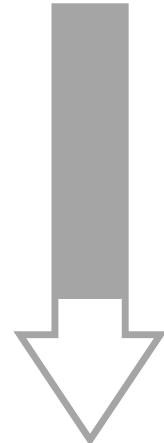
13,500 fewer
hip & knee replacements

67% decrease



Less-urgent
surgeries

80% decrease



What does this all mean?



In Ontario alone, it will take two years to clear the surgery backlog from just Wave One, let alone what is happening right now.



Just as schools required a “Safe Restart” agreement, a similar FPT agreement will be needed to support non-COVID health indications impacted by Wave One and Wave Two.



The impact goes well beyond hospital and primary care:

- Home care’s HHR issues have been significantly exacerbated.
- COVID exposed issues in LTC, well beyond HHR.
- The need for mental health supports is currently not understood, but expected to be significant.

Health care policy, politics and priorities

Looking towards Budget 2021

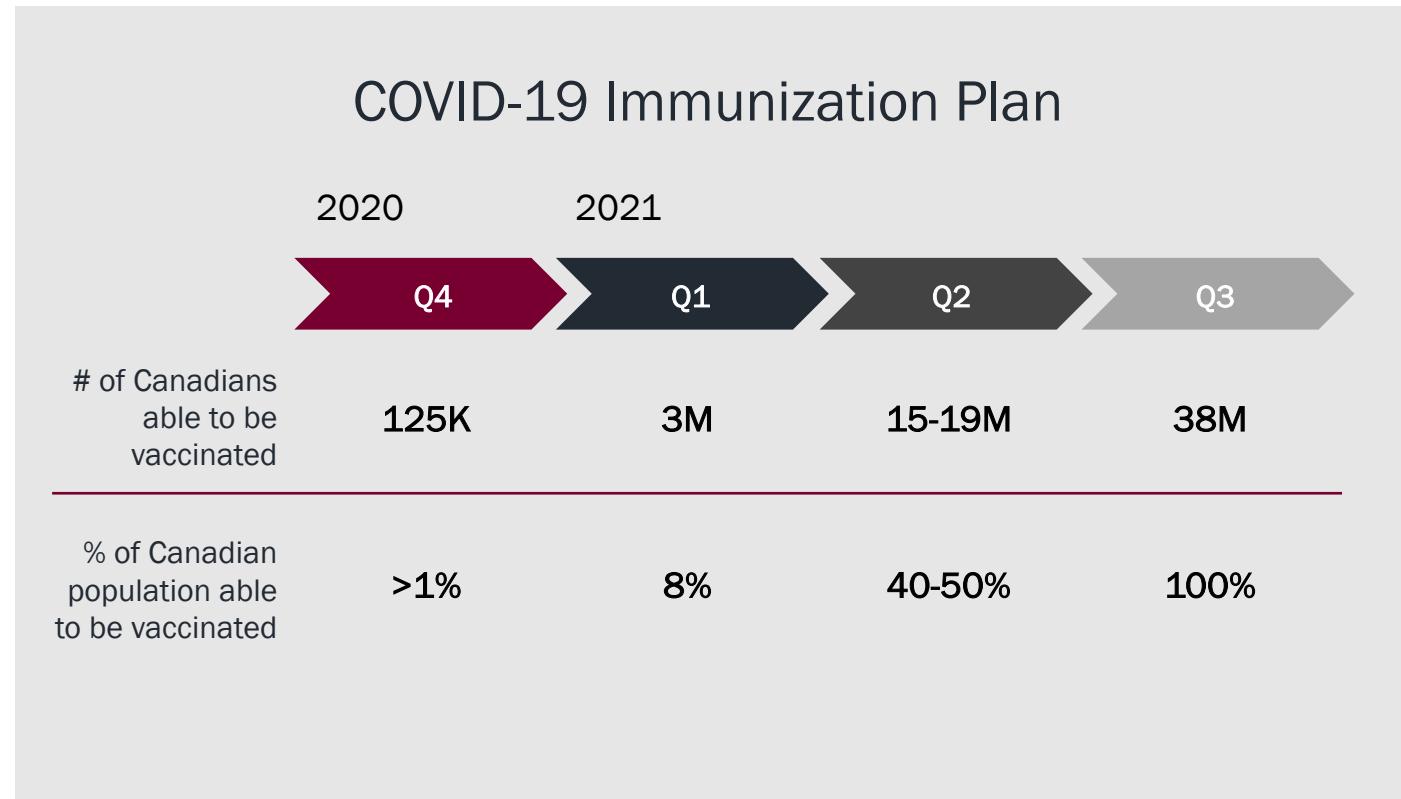
Health care policy, politics and priorities

Priority #1: Vaccine rollout

An immunization campaign is expected to begin the week of December 14, ahead of the United States.

Priority groups include seniors over the age of 80, long-term care residents and workers, primary care workers, and Indigenous communities.

A rehearsal of the complex Canada-wide transportation plan will take place in the coming week, with more than 100 stakeholders, including provinces and territories.



Federal priority list vs. provincial and territorial needs



\$6B in initial 2019 election commitments

Pharmacare program

Family doctors

Mental health national standards

Home care and palliative care

Strategy to address high-cost rare drugs



COVID-19 provincial and territorial (PT) needs

Elective surgery, diagnostic & treatment backlogs

Health human resources

Mental health care

Long-term care infrastructure

Public health modernization

PPE & infection control

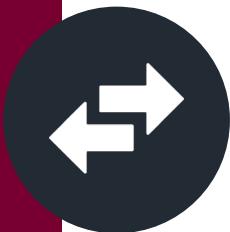


The government is moving forward in establishing the foundational elements of national, universal pharmacare program, including:

- A new Canadian Drug Agency that would negotiate drug prices on behalf of all Canadians, thereby lowering costs.
- A national formulary to be developed by the Canadian Drug Agency.
- A national strategy for high-cost drugs for rare diseases, with funding of \$500 million per year, ongoing, starting in 2022-23. In the coming weeks, Health Canada will be setting out options for this strategy and will engage with provinces, territories, patients, industry and other interested groups to confirm the path forward.

Due to COVID-19, little progress has been made on these commitments.

Health transfers



The federal share of health care is currently at 22%. PT's want it to be 35%, which would require a **\$42 billion in new spending** next year.

The feds continues to highlight that 80% of pandemic funds spent came from the federal government

The Prime Minister highlighted a number of areas of hopeful collaboration with new funding and *increasing* the Canada Health Transfer including:

- Pharmacare, including a national formulary and strategy for high cost rare drugs
- Long-term care
- Virtual Care

The focus, in meantime, is to make commitments to providing further funding as required to support the pandemic.

What is the government's go-forward agenda?



COVID-19 outbreaks:

The federal government's intended approach on FES and health transfer discussions underestimated the severity of Wave 2 in the provinces and territories.

COVID-19 recovery:

The government has committed billions in supports, without definition until the Spring Budget.

The Liberal agenda:

The government continues to struggle with implementing their agenda, beyond COVID-19, and concurrent to managing COVID-19.

Conservative Party of Canada dynamics

The Opposition has been focused **criticizing COVID-19 supports**, particularly vaccines.

MP Derek Sloan continues to be a distraction, launching an anti-vaccine petition calling the COVID-19 vaccine a “human experimentation”. Leader Erin O’Toole, however, has played into Sloan’s rhetoric.

In Parliament, the CPC have been focused on **filibustering the MAID bill** while staying quiet on other health issues like LTC national standards.

O’Toole continues to be a relatively unknown commodity with the majority of Canadians and the CPC lack a coherent, consistent message.



NDP and Greens vying for the “progressive” vote



Bloc Québécois

Maintaining strength in Quebec, one of the few parties comfortable with an election at any point.



NDP

Finding relevance and working to maintain their base while supporting the government. Continue to miss the mark on having an impact, and their support for the government in the public is assumed.



Green Party

With a new leader, the Green's are the party to watch, who are looking to siphon NDP voters away.

Health care policy, politics and priorities Is an election on the horizon?

By taking Parliament to the brink this fall, it checked the Opposition's limits.

However, the issues that will bog the government down (document production at committee), will still continue and **Budget 2021 is a key confidence milestone.**

Opposition parties at committee have lost their common objective, allowing the Liberals to drag out and muddle efforts to subvert the government at committee.



Three things to watch for in 2021:

1. Vaccines rollout
2. The upcoming tax season
3. Budget 2021

What should stakeholders focus on?



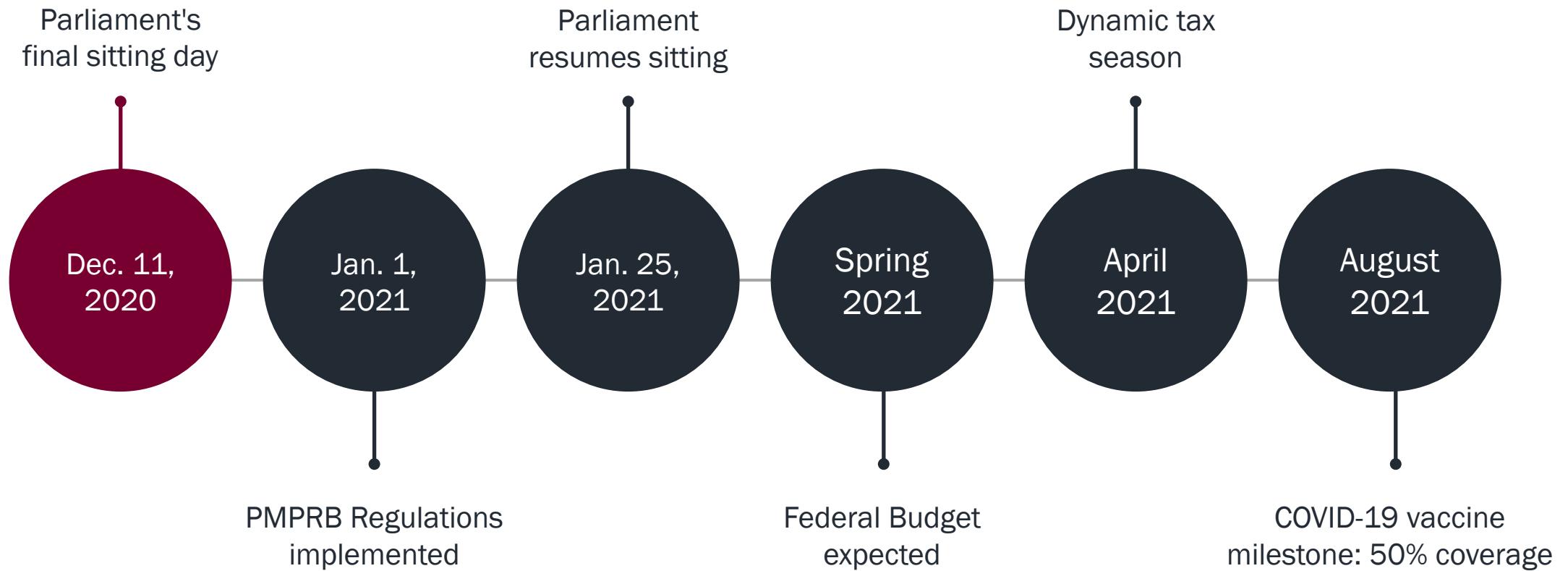
Pre-Budget consultations: When the federal Finance Committee finally gets their process underway, expect a government-led process soon.

COVID-19 response: Governments will continue to address the pandemic with new funding, and they will begin focusing on health care recovery.

Strategy to address high-cost rare drugs: Launching imminently.

National LTC standards: Key question - how far will the feds go and will they make funding conditional on them?

What we can expect to happen next?



Key takeaways

Vaccine rollout is the real test

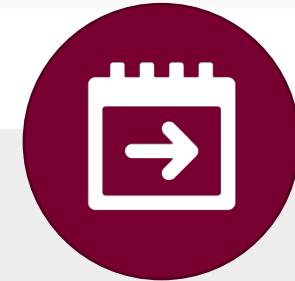
All governments' ability to effectively and efficiently rollout the largest immunization program in Canada's history will be the turning point for Canadian's views of government in the next election. While governments can lose over their handling of it, it doesn't necessarily determine if they'll win either.

The federal government is coming from a position of strength

As compared to January 2020, the federal government is polling high and has the strongest balance sheet, while provinces are bogged down by COVID-19 outbreaks.

The provinces have a long list of health needs and ample room for common areas of focus

In 2016, the feds focused on home, community care, mental health and addictions. Today, those are priorities for PTs along with a long list of COVID-19 related needs, as well as needs exacerbated because of the pandemic.



Next up:

Budget 2021

\$100B in
economic stimulus

New federal
health funding

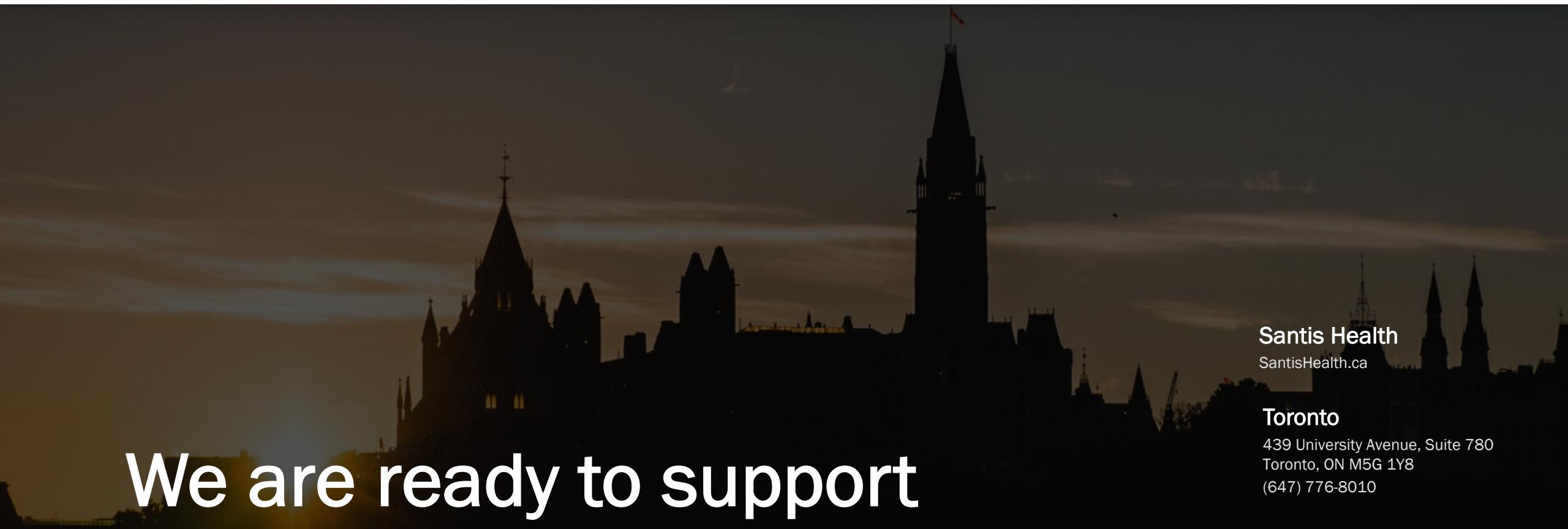


All of the above are contingent on wave two and the impact of the holidays.



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your objectives.

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