

The logo for Santis, featuring the word "SANTIS" in a white, serif, all-caps font inside a dark red rectangular box.

SANTIS

Insight | Expertise | Influence

A high-angle, blurred photograph of a crowd of people walking on a paved surface, likely a city square or plaza. The people are out of focus, creating a sense of movement and a busy public space.

Santis Webinar

Responding to COVID-19:

Everything you need you know about provincial supports and federal commitments

April 2, 2020

Santis Health

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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

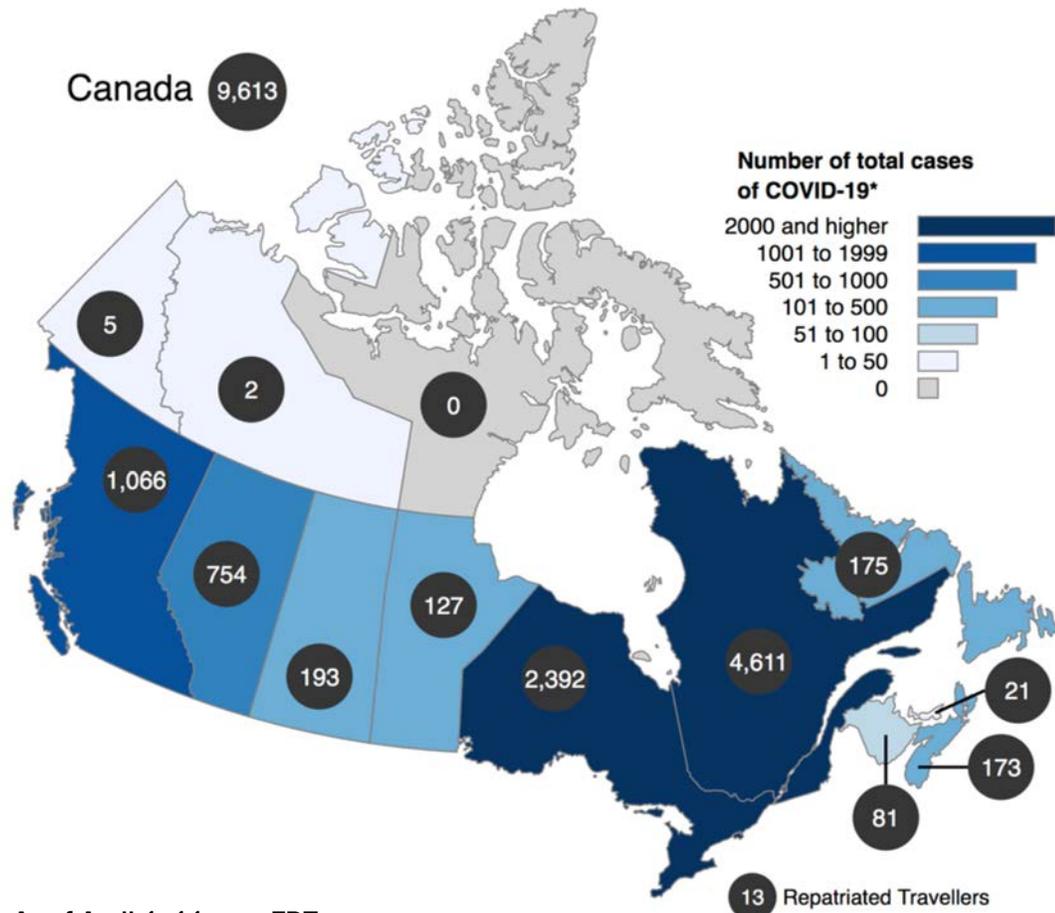
Our track record delivers meaningful results.

Agenda

1. Context
2. Federal, provincial and territorial roles in a pandemic
3. Phase One response
 - a. The federal government
 - b. The provinces
4. What should Phase Two look like?

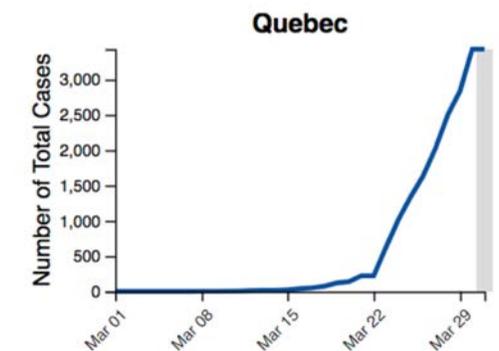
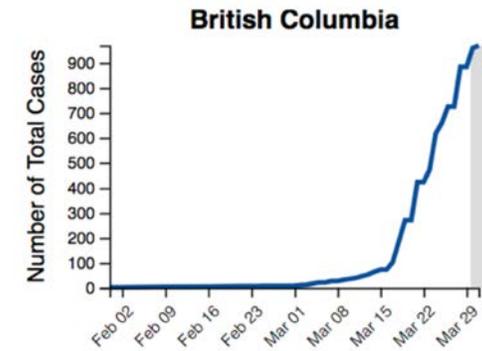
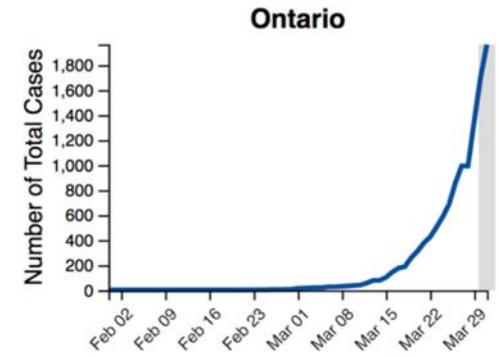
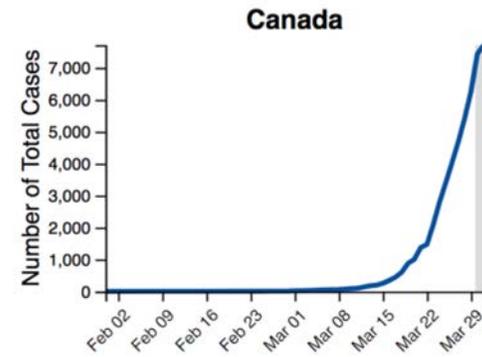
Context

The context for action in Canada

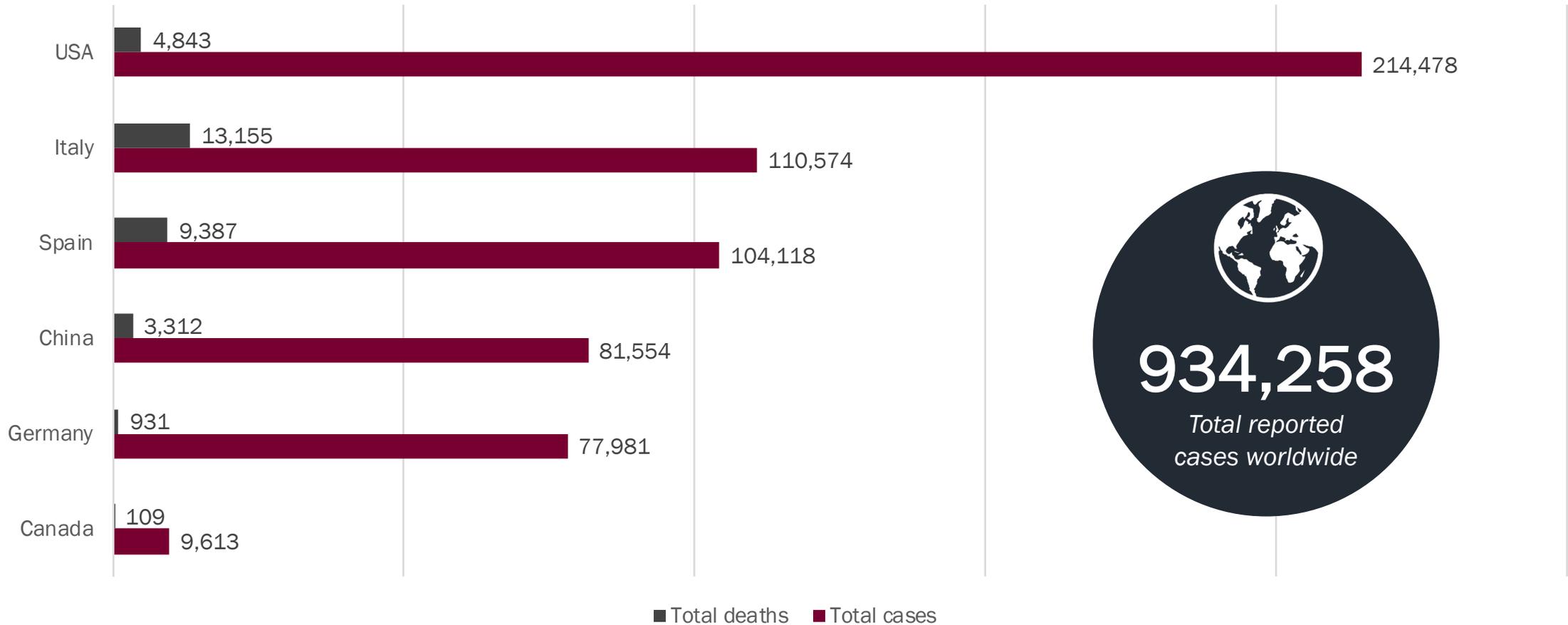


As of April 1, 11 a.m. EDT

Source: www.canada.ca



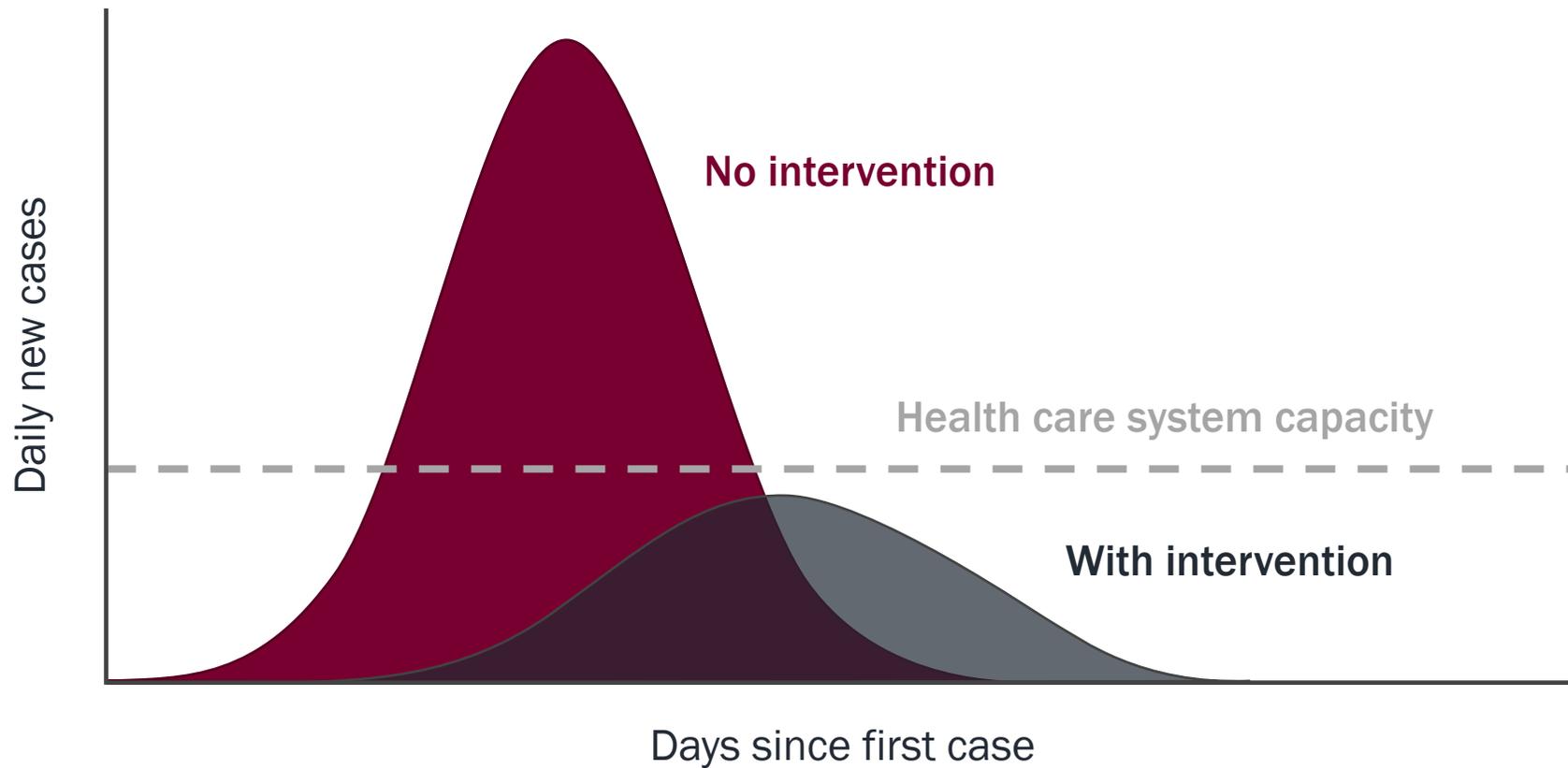
COVID-19 cases globally



As of April 1, 7 p.m. EDT

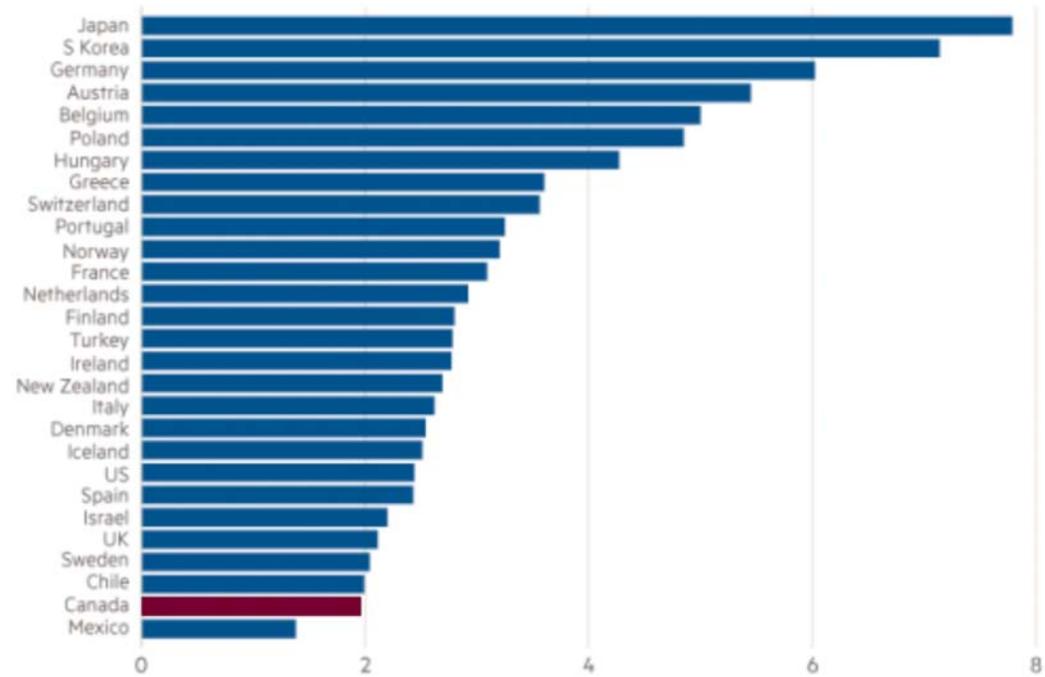
Source: www.worldometers.info/coronavirus

Why must governments act?

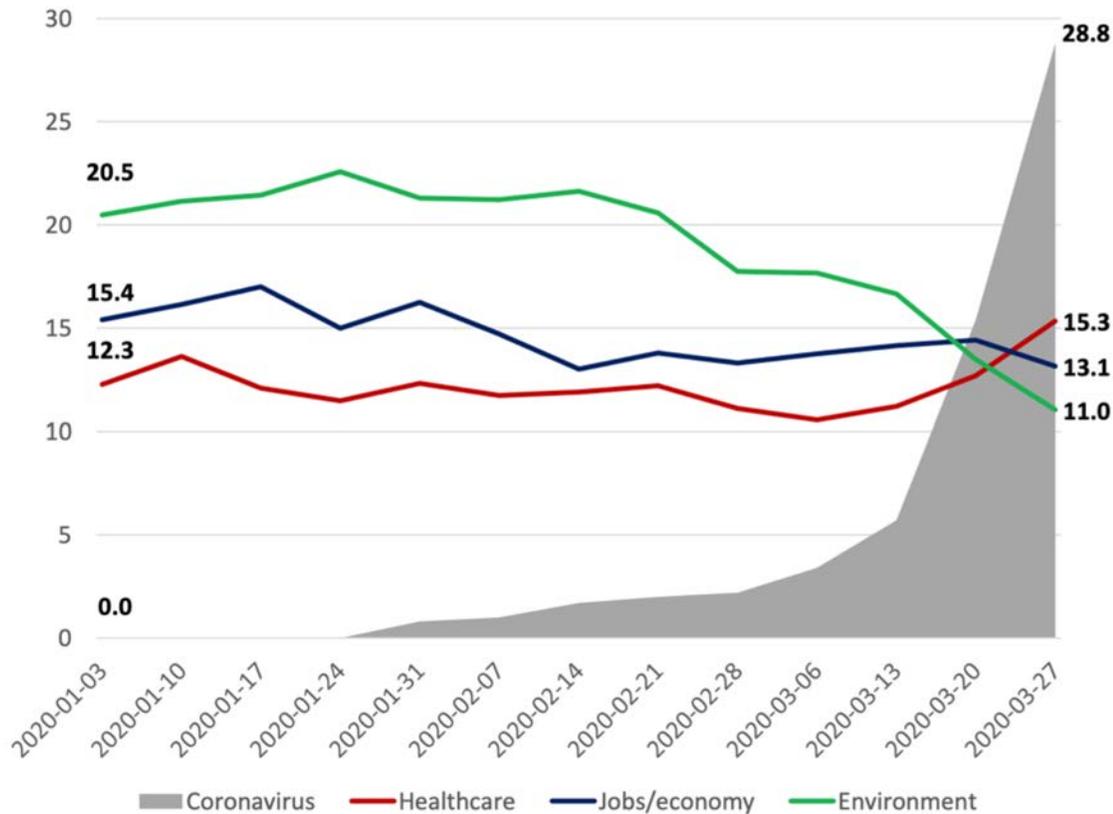


Why must governments act?

OECD acute care
hospital beds per
1,000, 2017



Canadian's attitudes towards COVID-19



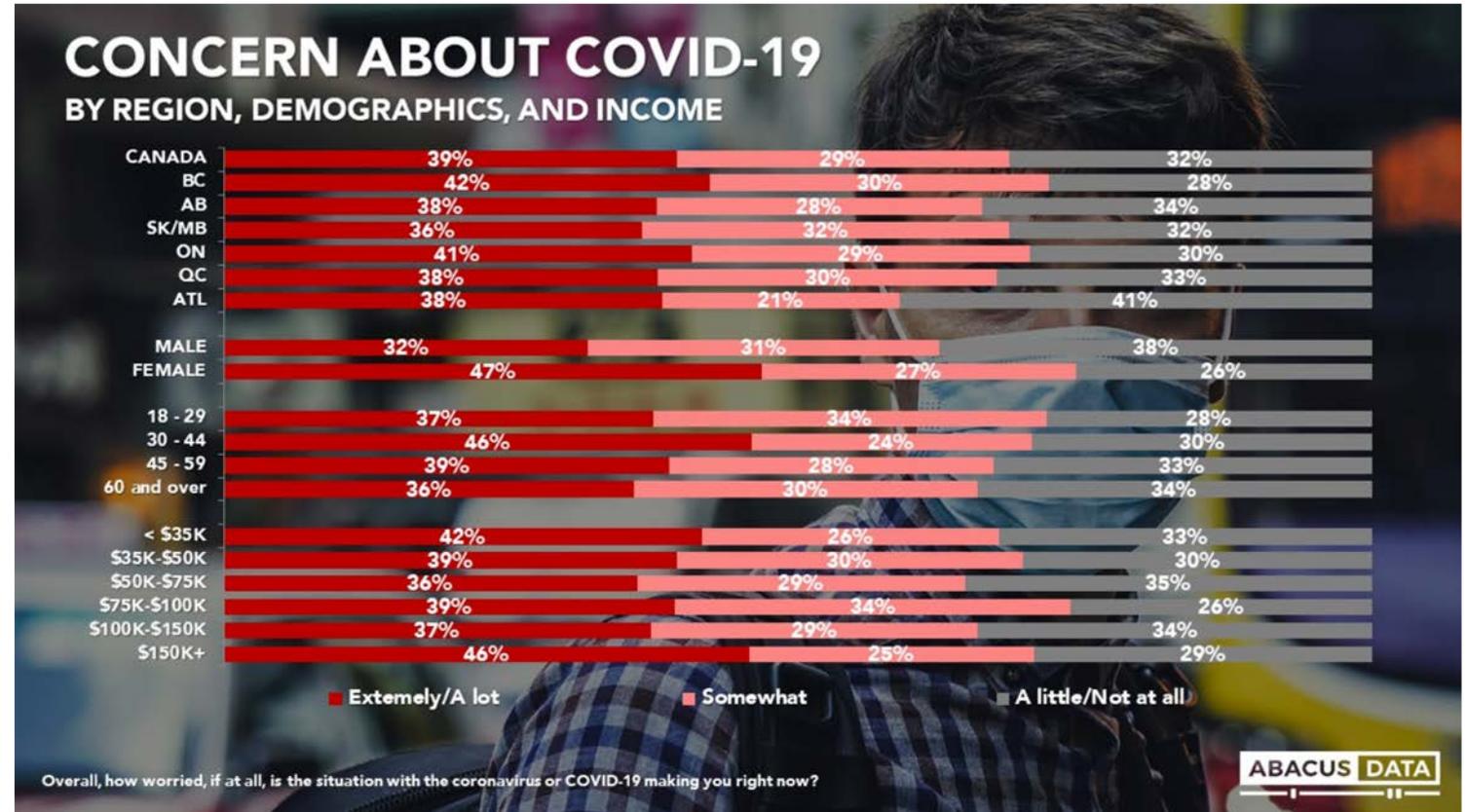
Polling shows that the vast majority of Canadians are worried about COVID-19 and the issue remains their biggest concern at this time.

Canadians also appear to be pessimistic about the future of COVID-19.

However, many polls show that Canadians, so far, **support the actions and response from governments.**

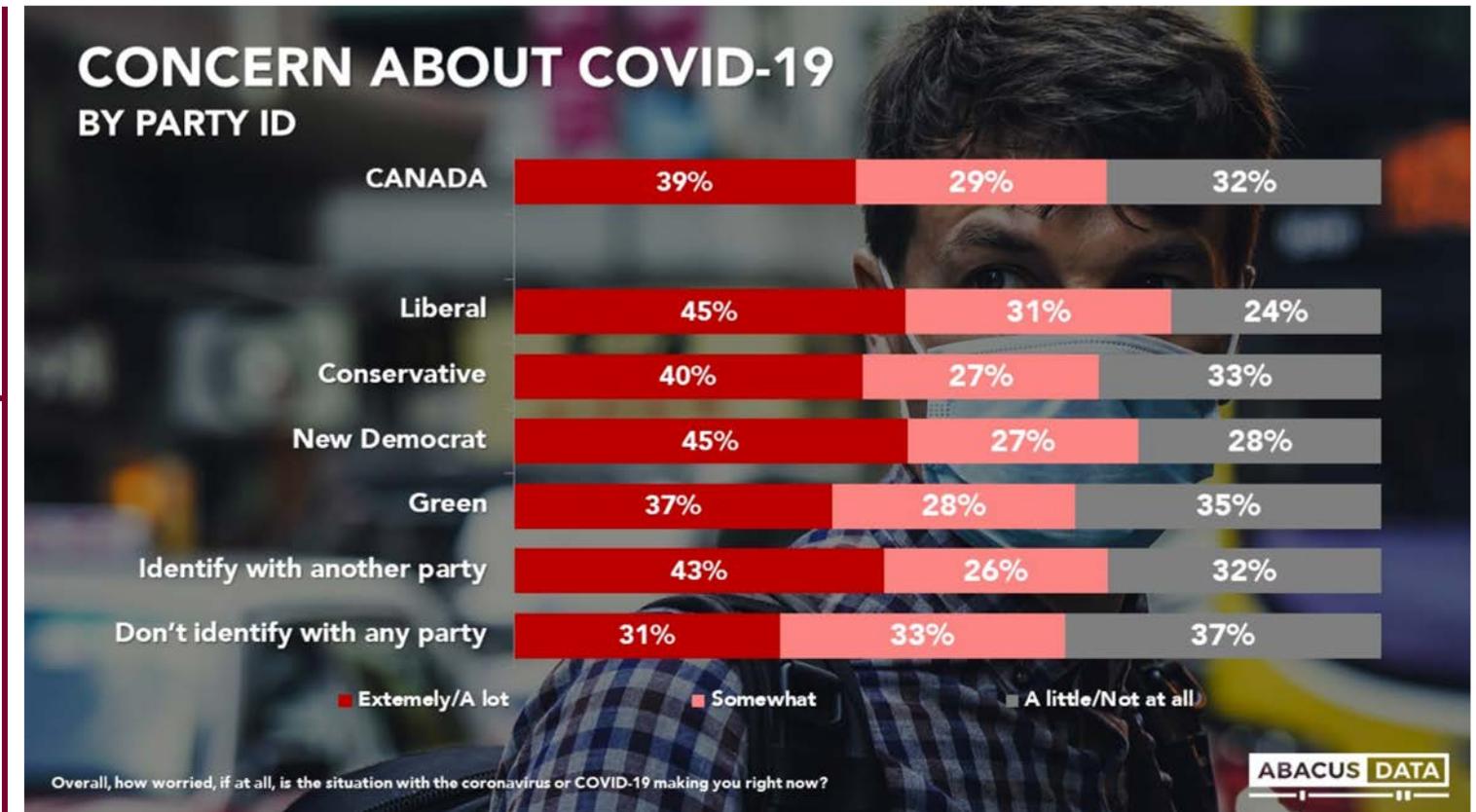
How concerned are Canadians about COVID-19?

By region,
demographics
and income



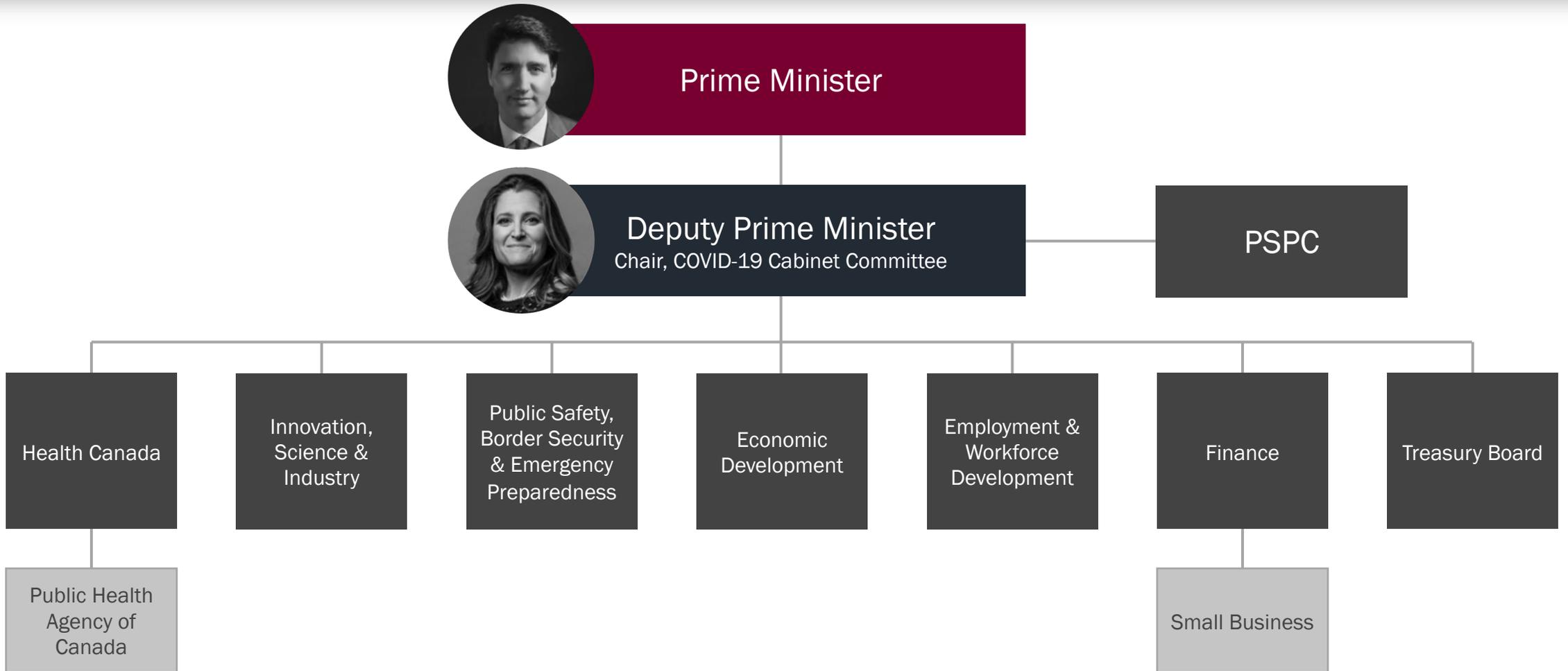
How concerned are Canadians about COVID-19?

By Party ID



Federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) roles in a pandemic

FPT roles in a pandemic
Federal focus



Focus on the Public Health Agency of Canada



Dr. Theresa Tam
*Chief Public Health
Officer of Canada*

Non-partisan arm of government, providing **evidence-based advice**.

Responsible for the **overall coordination of public health response** and dissemination of public health information for Canadians (including funding).

Coordinating need and distribution of resources includes:

- Identifying needs within the provinces;
- Distributing stockpiles; and
- Seeking purchases (centralized through PSPC) through whole-of-government approach.

PHAC also **keeps government efforts scoped and focused** (i.e., prioritizing testing and recommending actions to restrict movements).

Phase One response: The federal government



Support for Canadians:

Income stability

- *EI*
- *Emergency Support Benefit*

Taxpayer flexibility

- *Canada Student Loan Deferral*
- *RRIFs*

Tax credits

- *Goods and Services Tax credit*
- *Canada Child Benefit*



Support for communities:

Indigenous Community Support Fund

Reaching Home Initiative

Women's shelters and sexual assault centres



Support for businesses (and non-profit/charitable sector):

Canada Emergency Wage subsidy:

- *75 per cent wage subsidy to eligible employers for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020*
- *Includes individuals, taxable corporations, and partnerships consisting of eligible employers as well as non-profit organizations and registered charities*
- *Maximum benefit of \$847 per week*
- *There would be no overall limit on the subsidy amount that an eligible employer may claim*

Businesses filing taxes

Business Credit Availability Program

Financial Market Liquidity



Support for the health care system:

Initial \$1 billion on March 27 includes:

- *\$500 million to the provinces and territories*
- *\$50 million for immediate public health response*
- *\$302 million for R&D, including antivirals, vaccine development and clinical trials*

Additional investment on April 1:

- *\$2 billion for PPE (surgical masks, face shields, isolation gowns and ventilators)*

What's next?

Federal focus: Key takeaways

1. Parliament **unanimously passed measures**, being recalled.
2. Government has not been mobilized to this extent **since WWII**.
3. There are over **\$1 trillion** in financial supports.
4. Perhaps the most **significant economic downturn** Canada has faced.
5. Coupled with the **greatest demand** the health care system has ever experienced
6. In rolling out support, government is **balancing** in a time of crisis:
 - *Accessibility and speed of implementation;*
 - *Programs impacted by numerous conditions and safeguards;*
 - *And few health focused investments.*

Phase One response: Ontario

Ontario focus: Provincial roles and responsibilities

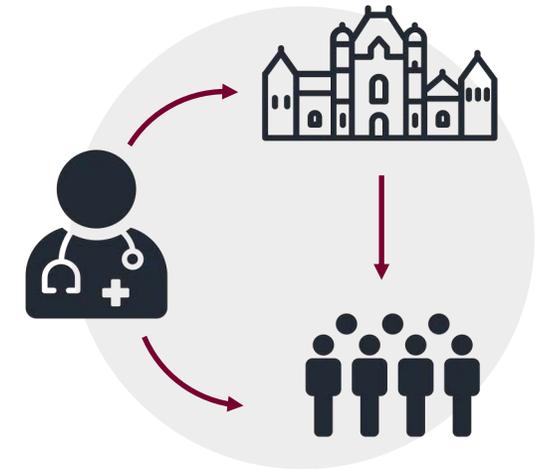
Provinces, like the federal government, **have their own powers** to implement emergency measures and response.

- *For example, the Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and the closure regulation that was implemented on March 17.*

Provincial **chief medical officers of health** can provide recommendations and advice to the public and governments on public health measures and safety.

- *These are issued in the form of public health directives, but they are considered non-binding advice.*

Mandated closures and public health directives **have far-reaching consequences** as most services, businesses, and health care providers that are considered non-essential have shut down.

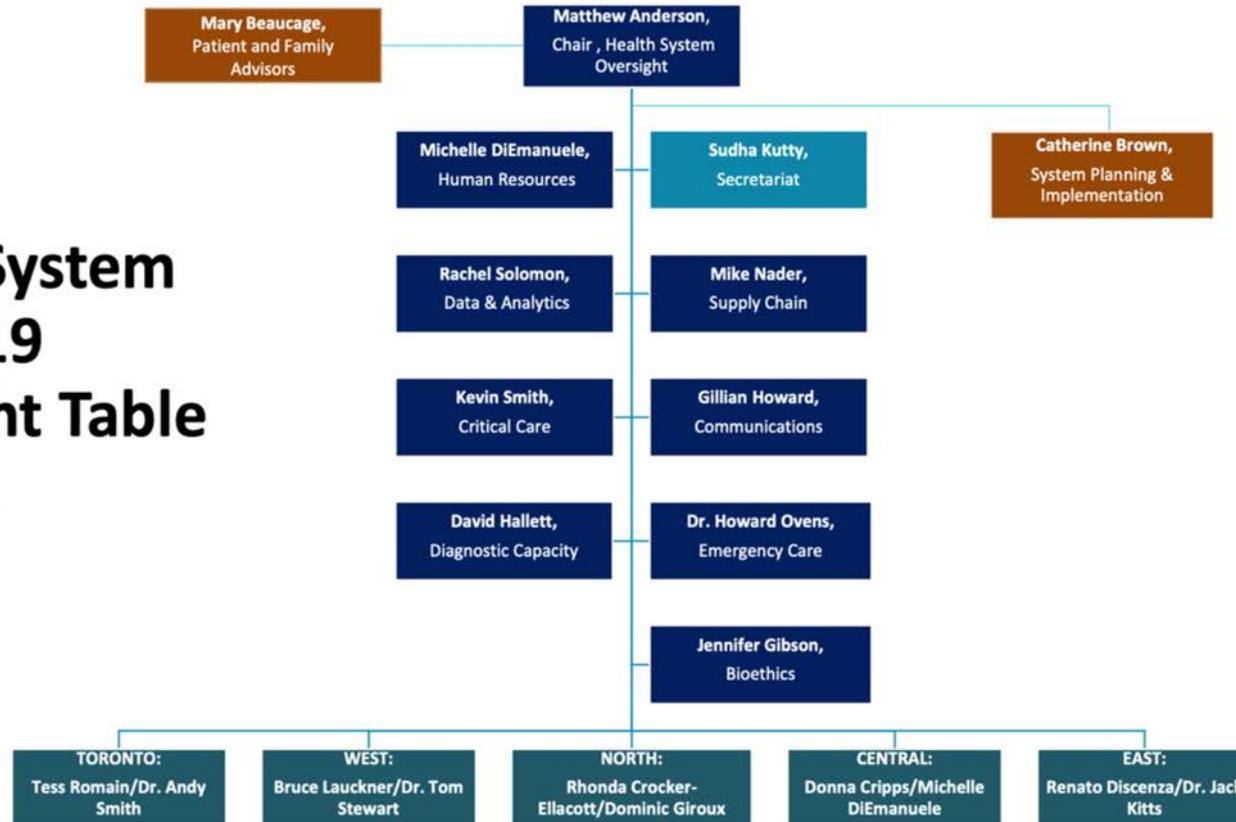


Ontario focus: Provincial roles and responsibilities

While MOH’s Emergency Operations Centre is “Command Central” for the government’s response, **Ontario Health is playing a key role** in coordinating the health system response.

Health System COVID-19 Oversight Table

APRIL 1, 2020



Ontario: Mid-Year Fiscal Update

Last week's \$17 billion Economic and Fiscal Update outlined measures to protect businesses, households and public services.

The update announced **\$3.3 billion in additional funds for health care**, up from \$0.9 billion in additional funds for 2019/2020, to total \$64.6 billion in health expenditures for Ontario's 2020/2021 budget.

\$20.5B

Ontario's deficit for
2020-2021 from an
expected **\$9.2B**

\$2.1 billion will be used to support the **COVID-19 response** including:

- *\$935 million to hospitals, which critics say isn't far off from what hospitals needed to maintain the existing level of care before COVID-19*
- *Creation of a \$1 billion COVID-19 contingency fund for emerging needs*
- *\$160 million to public health funding to support COVID-19 monitoring, testing, virtual care, and Telehealth Ontario*
- *\$243 million for long-term care homes to contain the spread of COVID-19*
- *\$75 million to supply personal protective equipment and supplies to front-line workers*

Ontario: Mid-Year Fiscal Update (Continued)

The fiscal update included \$3.7 billion to **support families and the job market** including:

- *One-time payments of \$200 per child under 12 years of age*
- *Suspending student loan payments for six months*

Measures for businesses will **free up \$10 billion in tax deferrals** including \$6 billion for five months of interest/penalty relief to file and make payments for provincially administered taxes, and \$1.9 billion from deferred company payments to WSIB. Ontario has also postponed a planned reassessment of property taxes for 2021.



The Ford government plans to deliver a multi-year Ontario budget no later than **November 15, 2020.**

Ontario: Mid-Year Fiscal Update (Continued)

Unlike Quebec, B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and P.E.I., there is **no plan for direct cash payments** to help those who have lost work or been forced to isolate because of COVID-19.



Ontario: Supply management, Ford's public image

The province launched **Ontario Together** to invite businesses to supply emergency products and innovative solutions

- The *Supply Chain Management Act* has allowed for MGCS and MOH to manage public sector supply chains, including creating a virtual inventory tool.
- The “**Ontario Together Fund**” announced on Wednesday will provide \$50 million to help companies pivot towards producing critically needed supplies and equipment
- Throughout the pandemic, Ford has been seen a **responsive and engaging leader**, making near-daily public appearances and providing clear messaging and audience to scientists and public health professionals.



Provincial focus: Key takeaways

1. Quick and escalating action by provinces, but **is more investment needed?**
2. Focus has been on acute, but **escalating need in LTC and home care**
3. **PPE supply and protocols still up in air**
4. Unlike feds, **provinces' have limited fiscal room and need federal \$ to escalate**

What should Phase Two look like?

Provincial Phase Two

As / after the crisis peaks, the key health system challenge will be **ensuring that all patients (not just those with COVID-19) are getting access to the services they need.**

This will require significant attention on:

- *PPEs and broader supply chain*
- *Acute care capacity constraints and need for transitional care*
- *Elective procedure backlog*
- *Lack of in-person access for many community-based service (and financial issues for providers)*
- *Lack of funding & deployment of virtual care and other digital platforms*
- *Transition to automated and online service*
- *Overall funding levels*

A major challenge for our public system is the **collapse in private fundraising.**

- *Hospitals, community support agencies and health charities are all significantly impacted.*

Federal Phase Two

Funding transfers are the federal governments primary role.

- *Much more need for federal financing to support health care – be it supplies or service deliveries.*
- *Federal government is far more stable financially than provinces, especially smaller provinces.*

Feds are **operating within a bubble**, and physical distancing measures are compounding that.

- *The federal government needs to have a clear idea of on-the-ground pressures.*
- *An honest assessment from provinces on their challenges is also required.*

Other measures could be on the table, including further legislative powers.

What should Phase Two look like?

How should you engage governments?

Governments in the foreseeable future will be focused on a whole-of-government approach responding to COVID-19.

- *Mandate items and platform commitments are effectively on hold.*
- *This will shift. As the pressure of COVID-19 alleviates, government will reshift focus at the same time.*

Should you reach out to government?

- *Is this clearly related supporting a response to COVID-19?*
- *Can it wait? Don't risk impacting your brand to government.*

What should you be doing?

- *Governments will be under tremendous pressure to balance previous commitments with a new balance sheet and economy while facing pending elections.*



Use this time effectively to refine your policy objectives and approach.

Final thoughts and questions



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**We are ready to support
your objectives.**

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