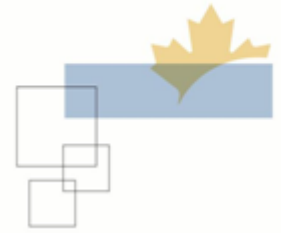




**Canadian Cardiovascular Society**  
Leadership. Knowledge. Community.

**Société canadienne de cardiologie**  
Communauté. Connaissances. Leadership.



## **Open letter to Minister of Finance Bill Morneau: Federal investment needed into cardiovascular quality reporting**

OTTAWA – March 24, 2017

Dear Minister Morneau,

Despite meaningful funding in some areas of health in the 2017 Budget, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) believes increased federal investment is needed to ensure a truly accountable and sustainable health care system for cardiovascular patients.

Approximately 20 percent of Canadians die as a result of cardiovascular disease. Along with cancer, it is the leading cause of death and hospitalizations in our country.

By 2020, approximately 18 percent of Canadians will be over the age of 65, with the economic burden for cardiovascular disease expected to swell to \$28.3 billion annually. As the cost for cardiovascular care continues to put a growing strain on our health care system, attention to critical heart health programs, innovative research and clinical services is becoming increasingly essential.

Federal government spending into cardiovascular health would have a more significant impact on patient outcomes, however, if a national framework to comprehensively measure the quality of cardiovascular care across Canada was established.

### ***Closing the quality gap in cardiovascular care***

Outcomes differ greatly depending on the province, city or hospital in which a cardiovascular patient receives care.

A national, evidence-based approach to quality measurement and reporting would provide Canadians with accessible and comprehensive information about how well the health system is working and equip health providers and administrators with the necessary tools to systematically address disparities in care and drive quality improvement.

Through collaborative efforts with provincial and national partners, including the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), CCS is working to disseminate a more clinically relevant picture of cardiovascular patient care through its [Quality Project](#).

In a pre-budget submission to the Standing Committee on Finance, the CCS asked for a commitment of \$5 million a year for five years to enable a national, collaborative approach to cardiovascular quality reporting.

Unfortunately, this request was not met.

### ***Federal stewardship needed to reduce burden of cardiovascular disease***

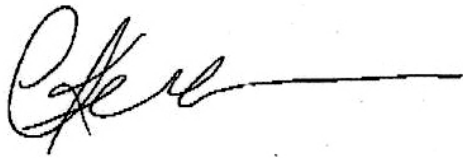
A national investment into quality reporting can help “bend the curve” for future cardiovascular healthcare costs, allow continued system innovation, enhance the sustainability of government investments and improve the health and care of Canadians.

Perhaps most importantly, federal support for programs like the Quality Project can help enhance patient confidence in Canadian healthcare and improve our country's performance against international benchmarks.

Prime Minister Trudeau has established clear federal government priorities to improve outcomes and quality of care, and steer Canada towards a more sustainable economic future.

Now, the CCS is calling on this government to demonstrate stewardship by supporting a national quality measurement and reporting system for cardiovascular care

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Kells', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Catherine Kells, MD, FRCPC, FCCS  
President, Canadian Cardiovascular Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dorian', written in a cursive style.

Paul Dorian, MD, MSc, FRCPC  
Chair, Canadian Cardiovascular Society Quality Project