



March 30, 2020

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

As the national specialty association that represents over 2,500 cardiologists, heart surgeons and scientists, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) is offering our help to our government and our fellow citizens to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, we have rapidly developed critical clinical guidance to help specialist and others caring for three million Canadians with heart disease whose lives are at risk from COVID-19. We are sharing knowledge as widely as possible to keep the heart care community informed and supported. We are alleviating stress on hospitals by seeing more patients in community cardiology clinics, many of whom would otherwise go to the Emergency Department.

CCS is committed to ensuring effective heart care continues to be delivered across the country, but we cannot do it alone. Coming together to share knowledge and expertise is more important now than ever. The sickest COVID-19 patients will experience heart complications, and as the number of patients grows, so too will the demand for resources and care by our specialist members.

We are already in touch with officials at the Public Health Agency of Canada concerning the need for specialized equipment and data to inform resource allocation and optimal emergency response.

As questions inevitably arise about how to care for the surge of patients requiring intensive care and cardiac life support, and as Canadians seek reassurance about self-care and access to care, please call on us. We are ready to advise and support you with expertise and evidence-based solutions. We ask the same of our government should we need to call on you for resources and support.

In this unprecedented moment, know that we stand at your side in offering all we can to support the government's COVID-19 response, just as we stand alongside Canadian families and patients through the pandemic response.

Sincerely,

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c.c.: The Hon. Patty Hajdu, P.C., MP, Minister of Health