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Jan 18, 2023

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos

Minister of Health, Canada

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Please include ME/FM in the Health portfolio's 2023/4 plans

We are asking that the 2023/4 plans of the health portfolio include substantial funding to address the inadequate health care provided to Canadians with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Fibromyalgia.

According to Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey, around one million Canadians have a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome (an old name for ME), FM or both. There are few health care providers knowledgeable about these conditions. Waiting lists at the three small clinics in Canada are years long. There have been great strides in recent years in understanding ME but these strides have not been built into the Canadian health system.

A federal investment in ME and FM would benefit Canadians with these conditions and the people around them. This investment would also benefit many people with overlapping conditions like Multiple Chemical Sensitivities, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and Dysautonomia.

The investment would benefit many people with long-Covid. Many long-Covid cases are expected to turn into ME or FM. Long-Covid can learn much from ME and FM about both health and social issues.

The investment would benefit the health system. People with ME and FM have frequent contact with the health system. Despite these frequent contacts, many people report unmet health care needs. Health care providers have little access to research, information, training, referral routes or compensation for ME and FM. Fixing these gaps would improve efficiency, effectiveness and morale.

With so many benefits, we hope that equitable funding for ME/FM statistical surveillance, health system design, information, awareness, capacity building, and research will be included in the 2023/4 budget.

Yours truly,

Margaret Parlor
President

cc.

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