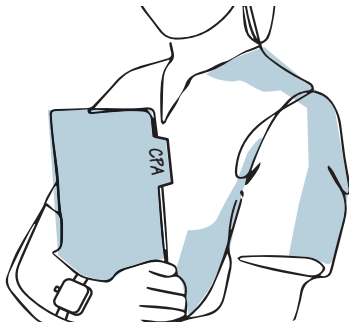




# A Treatment Plan for Canada's Healthcare System



## Assessment

An estimated **1 in 5** Canadians do not have a primary physician<sup>1</sup>

## Treatment

Expand access to physiotherapy services in primary care teams

### OUTCOMES

The inclusion of a physiotherapist (PT) in primary care teams reduces wait times, pain, need for recurring visits, and the intake of pharmaceuticals,<sup>2</sup> including opioid prescriptions.<sup>3</sup>

Increased patient satisfaction with emergency health services with PT integration<sup>4</sup> (up to 85%).<sup>5</sup>

96% of emergency department staff, state that primary contact physiotherapists possess the appropriate skills and knowledge to impactfully service patients.<sup>6</sup>

Enable physiotherapists to work to their full scope of practice across Canada

### OUTCOMES

This has the potential to:

- Increase inter-provincial mobility of PTs.
- Improve access to care.<sup>7</sup>
- Provide more resiliency and flexibility in the healthcare system.
- Reduce healthcare costs.
- Enhance quality of care, including improvements in patient satisfaction.<sup>7</sup>

## Assessment

**20%** of Canadians live with chronic pain<sup>8</sup> with almost 10% engaging in problematic opioid use to cope<sup>9</sup>

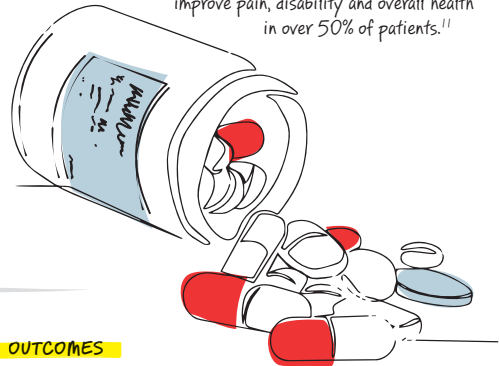
## Treatment

Expand access to physiotherapy services for Canadians, as an alternative treatment solution for chronic pain

### OUTCOMES

PTs are experts in non-pharmacological pain management and rehabilitation.<sup>10</sup>

PT rehabilitation programs have proven to improve pain, disability and overall health in over 50% of patients.<sup>11</sup>



## Assessment

**23%** of the population will be 65+ in the next 20 years<sup>12</sup>

## Treatment

Expand access to physiotherapy services for older adults

### OUTCOMES

This is a mounting concern for rural and remote areas of Canada where access to physiotherapy services is nonexistent or involves lengthy wait times.

Equitable and early access to physiotherapy directly supports the independence and mobility of this growing population and prevents potential declines in their health span.

Physiotherapy is a flexible treatment option that can address the varied mobility and pain issues of this aging population.

## Assessment

**18%** of Canadians live in rural areas, BUT only...  
**8%** of Canada's Health Care Professionals service those areas<sup>13</sup>

## Treatment



Expand the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program to include physiotherapists

### OUTCOMES

The educational cost and debt carried by students is a barrier to servicing rural and remote communities, and in retaining qualified PTs in those areas.<sup>14</sup>

The unmet need for community-based physiotherapy is a critical issue in rural communities and among those with chronic conditions.<sup>15</sup>

With a projected shortage of PTs in the next decade, there won't be enough PTs to meet growing demand.<sup>16</sup>

