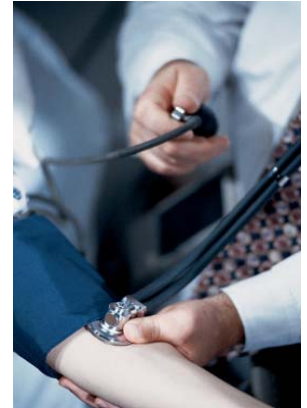




## Facts and Figures

The past decade has seen constant change in both the number of physicians and the manner in which they deliver care. Factors such as: technological advancement; demographics (i.e. the aging of the Canadian population); changes within the medical community itself (i.e. a larger proportion of female graduates, the establishment of health delivery teams); and, the restructuring of the health care systems by governments faced with budget deficits have been the key drivers of this change.

These facts and figures represent some of the findings relevant to Task Force Two's mandate in developing a long-term physician human resource strategy.



### PHYSICIAN MIX

- Of the total number of physicians we have in Canada, 52% are family physicians and 48% are specialists.
- About one third of Canadian physicians (30% or 18,513) are over the age of 55.
- The Canadian physician mix is represented by 30% female and 70% male physicians.
- Over half (55%) of family physicians under 35 years of age are female.
- The majority of physicians (76%) graduated from a Canadian medical school while 23% graduated from an international medical school.

### PHYSICIAN SUPPLY

- As of January 2003, there were 60,859 physicians (excluding residents) practising medicine in Canada.
- The ratio of physicians to patients is one physician for every 533 Canadian patients.
- In 2003, 1582 physicians completed Canadian postgraduate training and were ready to practise medicine or pursue further medical training.

### PHYSICIAN MIGRATION

- In 2002, Canada had 500 physicians move abroad to practise medicine. In the same year, 291 returned from abroad for a net loss of 209 physicians.
- In 2002, 869 physicians moved to another province or territory to practise medicine. This dynamic generated net losses of physicians in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

## **PHYSICIANS IN TRAINING**

- The total medical school enrolment for 2002-2003 was 7392 students.
- In 2002-2003, first year enrolment in undergraduate medical schools was 2028 students; of this total, 54 were international (visa) students.
- In 2002-2003, 59% of first year medical students were female - an increase of 16% since 1982.
- As of November 2003, the number of residents in postgraduate programs was 9460. Of that total, 6888 were government funded positions reserved for Canadian citizens and permanent Canadian residents.

## **PHYSICIAN DISTRIBUTION**

- Whereas about 20% of Canadians live in rural areas, 17% of family physicians in Canada practice in rural areas and 3% of specialists practice in rural areas.
- There is a higher concentration of international medical graduates in Saskatchewan (55% of all physicians) and Newfoundland (46%) than in provinces such as Quebec where only 12% of physicians graduated from medical schools outside Canada.
- The majority of Canadian graduates (74%) practice in the province in which they graduated.
- Retention figures (the percentage of graduates who stay and practise medicine in the province in which they studied) range from 37% in Newfoundland to 81% in Ontario, 83% in British Columbia and 85% in Quebec.

### **Sources:**

CMA Masterfile  
CIHI Southam Medical Database  
ACMC Canadian Medical Education Statistics  
CAPER Annual Census of Post-MD Trainees