

NEWS RELEASE

Canadian physicians improve the way they deliver care: National study reports on innovative models across the country

March 5, 2004 (OTTAWA) – A new study by Task Force Two illustrates some of the many ways Canada's physicians, provincial governments and other health professionals are changing the way they work to better serve Canadians. The study “Assessing New Models for the Delivery of Medical Services” explores more than 100 different models developed in all regions of the country in response to the tremendous pressures on the health care system brought about by many factors, including shortages of physicians in certain disciplines and regions of the country. The innovative models respond to the pressures by addressing a range of issues surrounding training, recruitment and retention, remuneration and an increasing desire among physicians for a balanced personal and professional life. A summary of the report is available on the Task Force Two Web site at www.physicianhr.ca.

“These models of care are remarkably innovative and as diverse as our country,” explains Dr. Hugh Scully, Co-Chair for Task Force Two. “The report suggests many valuable best practices that can form an important part of the options for a long term human resource strategy for physicians in Canada.”

Exploring and validating models of care is part of the work being undertaken by Task Force Two. By looking ahead at emerging ways of delivering health services, Task Force Two can better understand the potential impact of these models on the capacity of physicians to meet the growing needs of Canadians in the future. Ultimately, the goal of Task Force Two is to develop options for a long-term human resource strategy for physicians in Canada aimed at ensuring patients have timely access to qualified physicians in Canada.

Task Force Two is currently in Phase II of its three-phase project. Broad consultations are now underway with provincial governments, physicians, medical associations and other stakeholders throughout Canada to validate the inventory of health care models. Once the consultations are complete, an evaluation framework will be developed and models of care will then be assessed based on this framework.

Task Force Two: A Physician Human Resource Strategy for Canada is a three-phase, \$4.8 million project. The work is made possible in part through the financial support of the Government of Canada coupled with the time and energy offered by physicians, representatives from provincial and territorial governments, healthcare organizations, and other concerned individuals in the health community.

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A backgrounder is also available on the www.physicianhr.ca Web site to profile examples of new models in each region of the country. For additional information, please contact:

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