

Speech for Dr. Colin Carrie  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health to  
The Canadian Association of Interns and Residents  
for Resident Wellbeing Day  
Ottawa Hospital (General Campus)  
May 19, 2010

Bonjour tout le monde,

Je suis ravi d'être ici de la part de la Ministre de la Santé, l'honorable Leona Aglukkaq, qui ne pouvait pas nous rejoindre aujourd'hui.

[I'm pleased to be here today on behalf of the Minister of Health, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, who could not be with us today.]

I'm very pleased to have been given the opportunity to take part in Resident Wellbeing Day at the Ottawa Hospital.

I very much enjoyed the chance to do the rounds with you this morning. I'm sure anyone who had a taste of what goes on in your world could see why it's especially important to set aside some time to focus on personal wellness.

I also understand how the demands of your job can sometimes make it a challenge for you to maintain balance in your lives. But that balance is key to performing at your optimum levels.

I can certainly appreciate the positive effect that feeling in good health can mean for your patients. Throughout my 20-year-career as a chiropractor, I was fortunate enough to work with a number of multidisciplinary teams that included at least one chiropractor, physician, psychologist, and physiotherapist.

Offering a variety of treatment options can reassure patients that they are receiving the best possible healthcare.

When I saw the benefits of the cooperative approach I used to treat my patients, I decided that I wanted to make a greater commitment to improving Canada's healthcare system. That was my *raison-d'être* for having entered politics in the first place. I believed that representing the people in my community would put me in a better position to get things done.

As a chiropractor, my main priorities were to improve patient care and to explore new approaches to healthcare delivery. To this day, these are still my priorities. And I am pleased to say that they are also shared by this government.

One of Health Canada's priorities is health human resources and it invests in projects that address health human-resource challenges. This government invests \$38 million every year in its Health Human Resources Strategy and its Internationally Educated Health Professionals Initiative.

Over \$6 million dollars have been invested in more than 20 projects that address quality of work life, workplace wellness, and injury-prevention. This has resulted in tools and programs for health care organizations to improve working conditions and, in turn, to attract and retain health care professionals.

Health Canada has supported the creation of the Quality Worklife–Quality Healthcare Collaborative. This network consists of 12 national, professional associations that work together to improve the health care work environment.

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada has also received Health Canada funding for its ground-breaking Future of Medical Education in Canada project. It is meant to ensure that medical students continue to receive the best education possible in the face of society’s ever-changing health care needs.

Health Canada is continuing to support this project with additional funding that will help the Association expand its review to include postgraduate medical education.

I understand that the CAIR has made a significant contribution to both of these projects.

I am pleased to inform you that our government is providing funding of \$6.9 million, over four years, to the University of Manitoba to introduce 15 additional residency seats in family medicine. This will support the delivery of medical services in remote and rural areas of Manitoba, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories.

Having more medical residency positions will help strengthen our government’s efforts to explore new approaches to delivering treatment, reducing patient wait times and, in turn, improving patient health care.

Improving healthcare also means supporting our physicians to achieve health and well-being. That’s why events like CAIR’s Resident Wellbeing Day are important.

By virtue of the work you do, you have demonstrated your commitment to helping the people in your communities improve and maintain their health.

But, you also need a little downtime in your lives. After all, how can you keep giving the best care to your patients if you don’t stop to re-charge once in a while?

You’re probably getting hungry, so I’ll close by wishing you... bon appétit!

Merci.