



## Snapshot

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Oral health is an integral part of overall health, and *all Canadians* should have access to the oral health care they need.

As the government considers implementation of a federally funded dental care program, the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) has released a policy roadmap with specific recommendations to deliver a program that is *sustainable, effective, and accessible* to all Canadians, while **minimizing disruptions** for many Canadians who already have dental coverage.

A federally funded program should be designed to:

- ✓ Maintain primary **delivery through Canada's existing network of dental offices** and ensure any administrative procedures **do not impact or delay the provision of care** to patients.
- ✓ Continue to **preserve and promote employer-provided dental coverage**. Public coverage should remain a payer of last resort.
- ✓ Take a **patient-centered, holistic approach** that prioritizes preventative care, acknowledges the interconnection between oral health and general well-being, and that **covers the full cost of treatment** provided to patients.
- ✓ Include a **dedicated strategy to address human resource challenges** in the oral health sector to prevent increased wait times and ensure Canadians can access the care they need when they need it.

Every day, we see firsthand the impact that poor oral health can have on a person's overall health. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a difference in the lives of millions of Canadians. It is imperative that the federal government **continue to consult and collaborate with Canada's dentists**, and all relevant stakeholders, on the design of a long-term program that will provide the highest quality care to those who need it most. Read the CDA's policy paper [here](#).

### *Key facts about Canadian dental care:*

- *95% of dental care in Canada is funded through the private sector, with more than 50% of Canadians receiving coverage through employer-provided benefits.*
- *A 2022 survey found 1 in 5 Canadians without benefits avoided going to a dentist due to cost.*
- *Polls have found that most Canadians feel they would not be able to afford oral health care without benefits.*

<sup>[1]</sup> Abacus Data. Canadian Dental Association. CDA Q3 Survey Detailed Results. October 2022.