

Prioritizing Dermatology

A Call to Action for Canada's Future

Dermatology is a critical specialty that directly impacts health and public safety. It is a medical specialty that deals with a wide array of acute and chronic skin conditions, many of which can be life-altering or life-threatening, such as melanoma. Dermatologists manage over 3,000 diseases in both children and adults, using a blend of cognitive and surgical skills with an 80% diagnostic accuracy, significantly improving patients' lives through expert and compassionate care.¹

However, with a critical shortage of dermatologists leading to long wait times and delayed care, federal election priorities must include strengthening this specialty.

By investing in dermatology, we ensure timely, life-saving care for all Canadians, improving outcomes and reducing health care costs.

¹ McCusker S, Dawn G. Personal diagnostic accuracy ratings reflect clinical acumen. *Clin Exp Dermatol*. Epub2020 Feb 5; 45(5):596-598. doi: 10.1111/ced.14165



The Canadian Dermatology Association's 5 Solutions



Educate the Public on the Importance of Dermatological Care

Raising awareness about skin health and dermatologists' vital role can lead to earlier diagnoses and better health outcomes. Educating Canadians empowers informed decisions and encourages policy support for skin health.



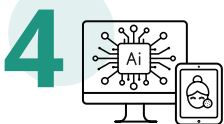
Support Team-Based and Interdisciplinary Collaboration Models

Dermatologists often work with specialists to manage skin conditions tied to systemic health issues. Collaboration with other health care professionals ensures better diagnosis and treatment plans, reduces delays in critical conditions like skin cancer, and improves patient outcomes.



Fund Innovative Investments for Specialty Care

The 2023 federal investment of \$45.3 million in team-based care should extend to specialties like dermatology. Innovations in technology and training can streamline patient care, reduce costs, and enhance the overall health care system.



Invest in Technology and Training

Teledermatology, AI, and digital photography can improve care, especially in rural areas. Extending support for innovation in dermatology, along with investments in technology and training, will increase diagnostic accuracy and reduce costs while enhancing patient care.



Increase the Number of Trained Dermatologists in Canada

Expanding medical school capacity and creating more residency positions will help address the dermatologist shortage. Incentives for teaching, attracting international professionals, and targeted programs for rural areas will also improve access to care and meet growing demand.

By investing in dermatology, we can ensure that all Canadians have access to timely, life-saving care.