

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) commissioned EKOS Research Associates to conduct a study to examine Canadians' views on the federal government's role in health care. The study involved a nationally-representative telephone survey of 1,044 Canadians 18 years of age and older. The margin of error for a sample of 1,044 is +/- 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The survey was conducted from August 3-9, 2012. Key findings from the study include:

- Health care is seen as the most important priority for the Government of Canada.
- Canadians express more confidence in their provincial government than in the federal government to protect and strengthen health care (50 per cent vs. 33 per cent, respectively).
- The plurality of Canadians (44 per cent) feel the federal government has been paying less attention to health care over the past year, and only one in five (21 per cent) feel the federal government has been paying more attention.
- However, when asked if they feel the federal government *should* pay more attention to health care in the future, a clear majority of Canadians (87 per cent) feel it should.
- A clear majority of Canadians (85 per cent) also feel the federal government should play a leading role in protecting and strengthening the health care system.
- When asked whether the federal government or the provincial/territorial governments under the Council of the Federation is most responsible for improving the health care system across Canada, a slight majority select the provincial and territorial governments (53 per cent).
- When asked who *should be* most responsible, the lean is to the federal government (50 per cent)
- When asked if the federal government has an important role to play in the health care system in term of safeguarding national standards and enforcing the *Canada Health Act* OR if the federal government has a fairly limited role in the health care system as it primarily funds the system while the provinces deliver health care services, Canadians lean to the idea that the federal government has an important role to play in the health care system (60 per cent).