

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9



As Minister of Health, I am pleased to join the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) in celebrating the month of March as National Social Work Month. This year's theme, "*Social Workers Speaking Up: Poverty Costs*," aims to promote greater public awareness of your field while commending its rich heritage. Your dedication and contributions to improving our healthcare system are a considerable part of that heritage.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of social work as one of the seven health professions. The Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient Centred Practice component of Health Canada's Health Human Resource (HHR) Strategies promotes collaboration among all seven of the health professions. Through our Government's annual \$20 million investment in HHR Strategies, we are working together with you and other health professionals to secure an optimal and stable health workforce and to support healthcare renewal.

Health Canada is also working to improving the health of Canadians through mental health and overall wellness promotion and chronic disease prevention. Social workers play a key role in providing quality health services and, in particular, in enhancing the services our Government provides to Canada's Aboriginal populations. I commend your diligent and hard work in promoting well-being and health in First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada.

In closing, I applaud all CASW members for your many and varied accomplishments, and invite all Canadians to join us this March in celebrating your valued contributions to society during National Social Work Month.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leona Aglukkaq".

Leona Aglukkaq  
Minister of Health / Ministre de la Santé  
Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada