



## Media Release

# Medical Organizations Call for Physicians' Voices

## *Push is on to ensure strong response and informed decisions for the future*

April 16, 2007, Ottawa, ON -- Today, Canada's three leading national medical organizations launched the final phase of the 2007 National Physician Survey (NPS) – an important initiative to help identify issues facing doctors across the country as well as trends and priorities for improving our health care system for the people of Canada.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), and The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) are collaborating on the NPS – the largest survey of Canada's 73,000 current and future doctors. Today's launch of the final phase calls on all physicians who have not yet completed the survey to do so when they receive the questionnaire in the mail in the coming days.

“Since the initial survey launch in January, this is a final reminder to all practising physicians – whether in direct patient care or a related medical field - to add their voices and perspectives to this important survey,” explained Dr. Louise Samson, RCPSC president. “We want as broad a representation as possible so we can get an accurate sense of where the medical profession is today on health care issues, and where it's going.”

The NPS 2007 will provide an in-depth look at how physicians are currently working collaboratively and the impediments they face in providing care to their patients, e.g. wait times and anticipated practice changes. The results will also provide a glimpse into the future of medicine in Canada by describing the factors that are shaping the future educational and career intentions of medical students and residents.

The three organizations conducted the first NPS in 2004 and generated responses from 22,000 physicians, over 2,700 medical students, and 600 second-year medical residents. To date, 15,000 physicians have responded to the 2007 NPS.

“We hope to achieve even higher response rates this year,” added CMA president Dr. Colin McMillan. “We know that more respondents will help ensure that the decisions taken by governments, educators and regulators are more informed and more in tune with the current realities of medicine in Canada.”

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The survey organizers are sending out final reminders by mail and are using e-mail, Websites and advertising to encourage participation. “We’ve been fortunate to have dozens of medical organizations across Canada helping us promote the survey and we are grateful for their support,” explained CFPC president Dr. Tom Bailey. “We’re relying on them one last time to build awareness of this final reminder among their members and make the 2007 results the best ever.”

Highlights of the NPS 2007 will be released to the public and key stakeholders in a series of public announcements beginning in November of 2007. The NPS also maintains a website at [nationalphysiciansurvey.ca](http://nationalphysiciansurvey.ca), where the 2004 results can be accessed today and where the 2007 results will be posted.

The NPS is made possible through financial contributions of the CMA, the CFPC, the RCPSC, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Health Canada.

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