

On March 27, 2014, the Paramedic Association of Canada presented to the Liberal Party of Canada sponsored round table discussion on the future of health care in Canada. The discussion was lead by Liberal Leader Mr. Justin Trudeau, M.P., Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and the Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry, P.C., M.P., Federal Liberal Health Critic. Pierre Poirier, Executive Director for PAC, participated in this discussion along with representatives for several other health disciplines, including physicians, pharmacists, public health and nursing.

One area that we highlighted was the importance of the transition in health care from an almost exclusive focus on acute care to a more holistic approach inclusive of health promotion and injury prevention. The recent inclusion of community paramedicine is an important example of providing the 'right' health care service to Canadians when and where required.

The discussions included such topics as:

- What is your assessment of our current levels of federal funding for healthcare, as well as the manner in which funding is allocated? Should funding be linked to outcomes? If so, how would that be implemented?
- Does healthcare in this country cover all areas of care it should? If not, what should be covered and why? What role, if any, does the federal government have in expanding healthcare coverage in Canada?
- It is often said that federal leadership is needed in healthcare. What are the concrete steps the federal government can do to exercise leadership? How can this leadership have an impact on healthcare quality, appreciation, accessibility, outcomes, spending, etc.?
- What tools does the federal government have at its disposal to enhance accountability and transparency in healthcare systems across Canada? Would provinces and territories resist any measures to improve accountability and if so, how can the federal government play a role in ensuring improvement?
- It has been 10 years since the last national deal on healthcare in Canada. What aspects of that deal would you consider a success, and which failed? Do we need a new pan-Canadian deal on healthcare to help ensure the system provides the high-quality, accessible, timely care Canadians expect?