

Understanding the Canada Dental Benefit

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Disclosure



Neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interests that would create a conflict of interest or restrict my independent judgment with regard to the content of this presentation



Outline

- Background
 - Development of the Canada Dental Benefit
 - Details of the Canada Dental Benefit
 - Mapping a path forward
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THE  CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
HEALTH DENTISTRY



CAPHD is the national voice for dental public health in Canada that is dedicated to improving oral health and assuring oral health equity for Canadians



It is a non-profit organization of public health dentists and community oral health professionals from across Canada.

Canadian Oral Health Care System

- **Financed in private dollars**
 - Employment based insurance
 - Private insurance
 - Out-of-pocket payments
 - Minimal contributions from public programs
- **Predominantly delivered in private clinics**
 - Traditional dental office
 - Hospital clinics
 - Publicly operated community-based clinics
 - School-based clinics

Oral Health Care in Canada

- Principally financed and delivered via the private sector
- \$17 Billion spent on oral health care in 2019

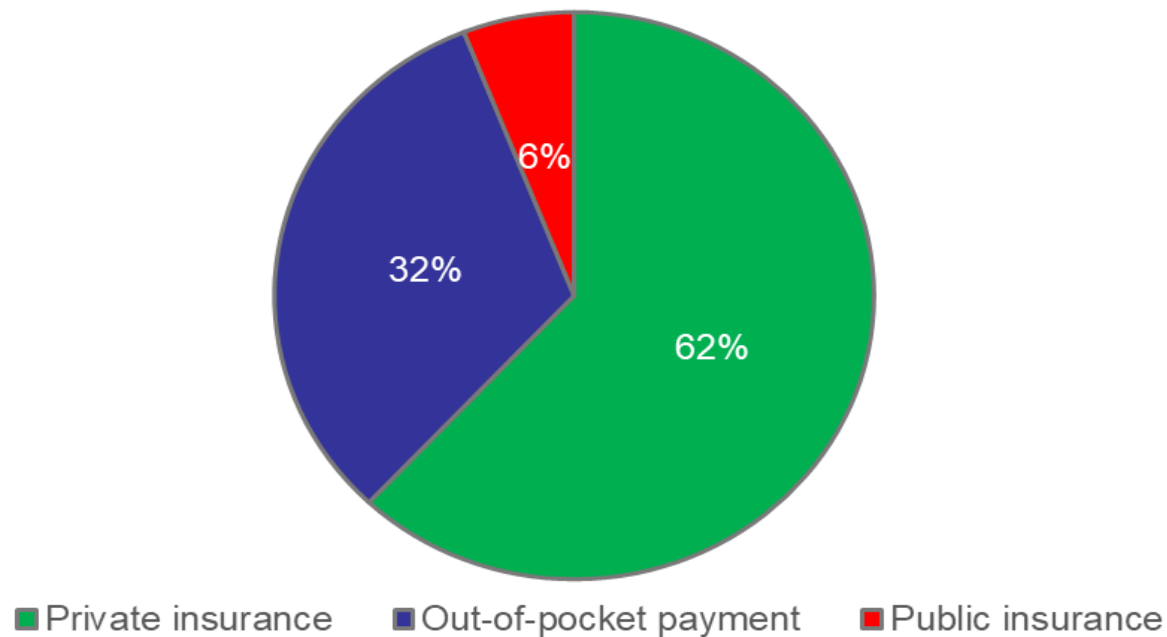
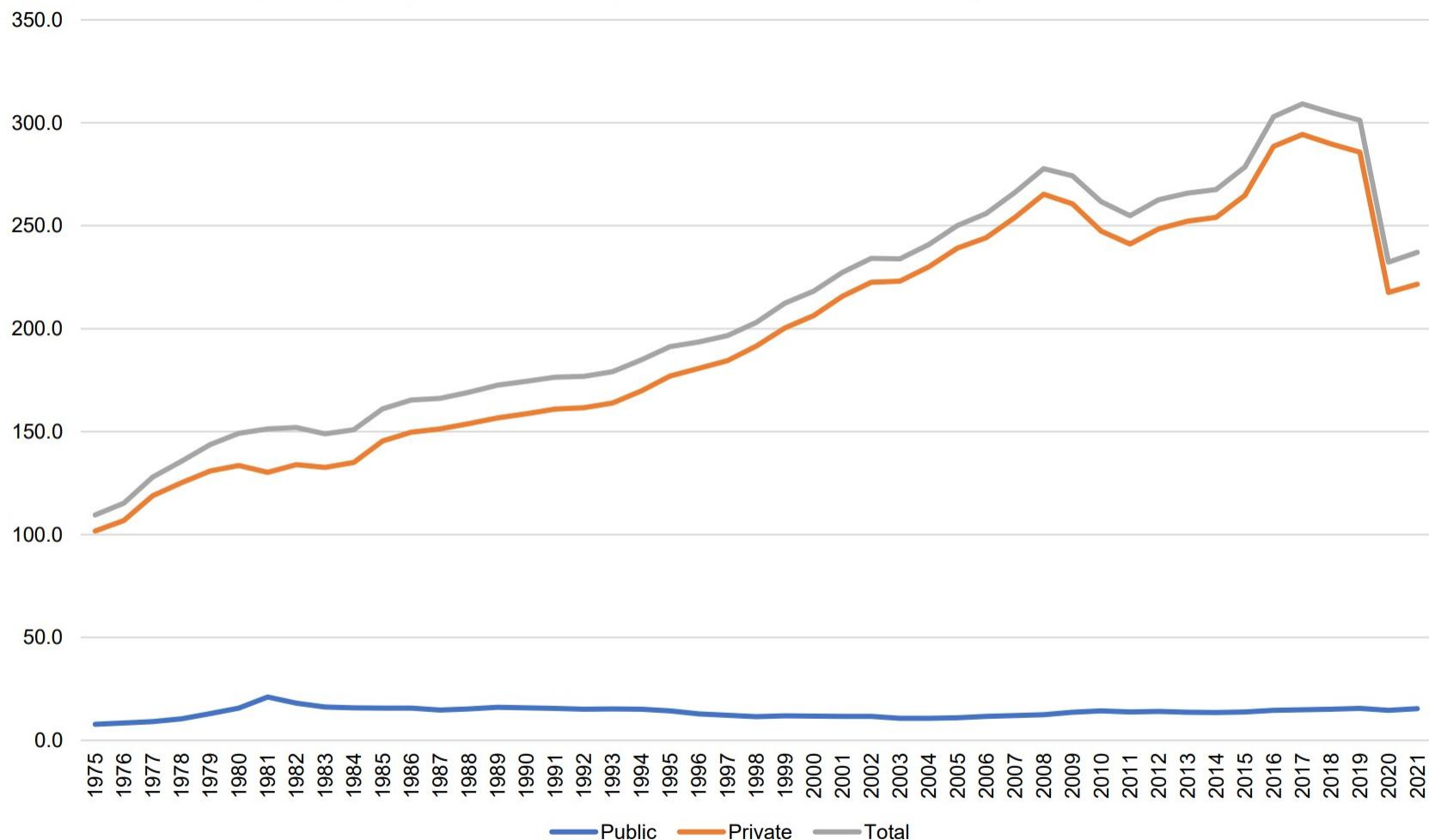


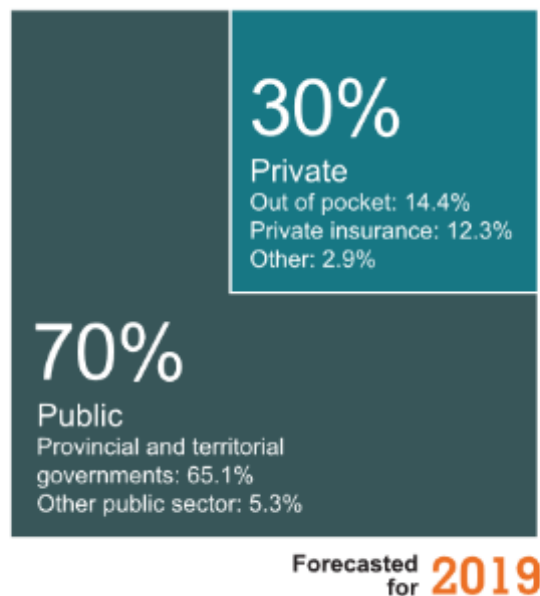
Figure 1. Total, private, public per capita dental care expenditures, Canada, 1975-2021 (constant dollars)



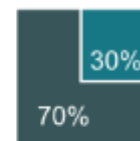
Source: National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

*2020 and 2021 estimates are forecasts

Who is paying for these services?



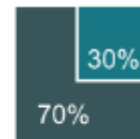
The public–private split has been fairly consistent since the early 2000s.



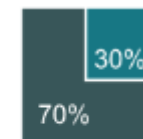
2000



2005



2010



2017

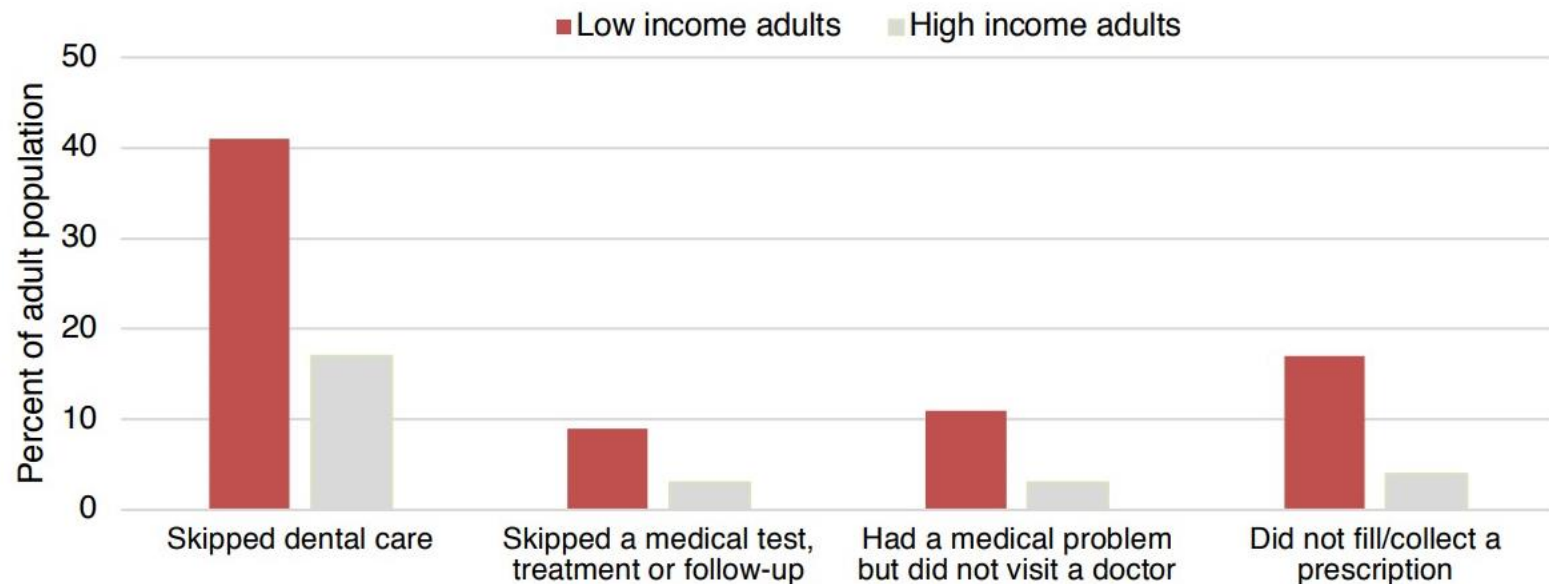
Source

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Access to Oral Health Care

1 in 5 Canadians report cost as a barrier

Figure 1. Cost-barriers to seeking health services in the past year among Canadians.¹¹





Access to Oral Health Care

- Cost
- Geographic location
- Human resources
- Health literacy
- Language, education, or cultural barriers
- Cultural safety

EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO SMILE. LET'S MAKE SURE EVERY CHILD CAN.

ONTARIO'S DENTISTS HAVE BEEN DOING THEIR PART. NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO DEEPEN ITS COMMITMENT TO THE HEALTHY SMILES ONTARIO PROGRAM SO EVERY CHILD GETS THE DENTAL CARE THEY NEED.

ONTARIO'S DENTISTS BELIEVE
IN THE POWER OF SMILES.

VISIT [ODA.CA/HEALTHYSMILES](https://oda.ca/healthysmiles)



2021 Federal Election

We call on all federal parties to commit to help fill the gap in access to dental care experienced by Canadians. When it comes to oral health care, Canada's fight against the pandemic has exposed the weaknesses in our universal healthcare system.

The next federal government should commit to investing at least \$1 billion to support public dental/oral health programs for the 20% of Canadians who cannot afford to pay and/or suffer in pain.



Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry
Association canadienne de la santé dentaire publique

ROADMAP TO UNIVERSAL

Dental Care

IN CANADA

SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

A roadmap to universal access to dental care in Canada

1

Encourage P/T governments to support dental services through federal funding and policy support

2

Encourage P/T governments to mandate payroll deductions to help fund the universal coverage of dental care

3

Strengthen the Government of Canada's role in dental care policy making

4

Partner with institutions to establish an evidence base for dental care

5

Include all oral health and health professionals for innovative solutions

6

Foster public and private partnerships to strengthen efforts

October 07, 2020



COST ESTIMATE OF A FEDERAL DENTAL CARE PROGRAM FOR UNINSURED CANADIANS



OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER
BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR PARLEMENTAIRE DU BUDGET

Cost Estimate of a Federal Dental Program

Targeting Canadians with a
total income below \$90,000



Approximately 6.5 million
Canadians would be eligible



One-time initial cost of \$3
billion, plus \$1.5 billion per
year through 2024-2025

Assumptions

Coverage similar to the NIHB program

There will be no cost sharing for individuals with an income under \$70,000

Co-payments required for those earning between \$70,000 and \$90,000

All income thresholds will be indexed to inflation

Existing provincial territorial dental program would remain

Yukon Territories

April 2021

- **Confidence and Supply Agreement** between the ruling Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus
 - Basis for which one party will provide confidence to a ruling minority government



Yukon Territories

April 2021

1. Making democracy work for people
2. Addressing climate change and protecting the environment
3. Creating jobs and building a sustainable economy
4. Improving services people count on
5. Making life more affordable



Yukon Territories

April 2021

4. Improving services people count on

A territorial-wide dental care plan shall be established

Scheduled to be launched in December 2022



Delivering for Canadians Now

A Confidence and Supply Agreement

1. A better health care system
2. Making life more affordable for people
3. Taking the climate crisis and creating good paying jobs
4. A better deal for workers
5. Reconciliation
6. A fairer tax system
7. Making democracy work for people



**Government
of Canada**

1. A Better Health Care System

- Launching a new dental care program for low-income Canadians
- For families with an income of less than \$90,000 annually, with no co-pays for anyone under \$70,000 annually in income
 - 2022 – Children under 12-year-old
 - 2023 – Children under 18-years-old, persons living with a disability, and seniors
 - 2025 – Full implementation

Timeline



ANNOUNCEMENT

MARCH 22, 2022



IMPLEMENTATION

DECEMBER 1, 2022



Federal Outreach

- National dental associations
 - P/T dental associations
 - P/T dental regulatory authorities
 - P/T governments
 - Academic institutions
 - Insurance providers
- 

Perceived Need



Federally administered program



Funding transferred to provinces



Increased reimbursement rates



Increased public delivery



Involvement of dental hygienists/dental therapists/denturists



Transparency and accountability



Data

Perceived Threats



Decreased private insurance coverage



Program mismanagement



Key populations missed



Sustainability



Decreased patient flow to academic units

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Initial Policy Options

Transferring of funds
to support existing
provincial programs

Develop a stand-
alone federally
administered
program

Appendix A. Master list of Provincial/Territorial public dental programs

Province/Territory	Program
1. British Columbia	Dental Benefits Program for Children in Foster Care and Youth Agreements
	Dental Supplements
	Healthy Kids
	Medical Services Plan
2. Alberta	Alberta Adult Health Benefit
	Alberta Child Health Benefit
	Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan
	Alberta Works Income Support
	Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped
	Cleft Palate Dental Indemnity Program
	Dental Assistance for Seniors Program
	Family Support for Children with Disabilities
3. Saskatchewan	Oral and Maxillofacial Devices and Services Program
	Family Health Benefits
	Medical Services Plan
	Supplementary Health Program
4. Manitoba	Health Services - Dental Program
	Medical Program - Cleft Lip and Palate Program
5. Ontario	Healthy Smiles Ontario
	Ontario Works
	Ontario Disability Support Program
6. Quebec	Chirurgie Buccale
	Service dentaire pour les enfants
	Protheses dentaire acrylique pour les PAE
	Services dentaire pour les prestataire de l'assistance
7. New Brunswick	Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision
	Insured Surgical Dental Services
	Health Services Dental Program
	Cancer-Related Osseo-Integrated Implants
8. Nova Scotia	Children In Care
	Employment Support and Income Assistance
	Services for Persons with Disabilities
	Children's Oral Health Program
	Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Program
	Dental Surgical (In-Hospital Program)

	Dental Surgical (In-Hospital Program)
	Maxillofacial Prosthodontic Program
	Mentally Challenged Program.
9. PEI	Provincial Dental Program
	Cleft Palate Orthodontic Program
	School Oral Health Preventive Program
	Long-term/Community Care Dental Care Program
10. NL	Adult Dental Program
	Dental Health Plan for Children
	Dental Health Plan Income Support
	Dental Health Low Income Youth
11. Territories	Insured Surgical Dental Services
	EHB for Cleft Lip and Palate (NT)
	In-Hospital Surgical Dental Services (NU NT YK)
	Indigent Health Benefits
	Metis Health Benefits (NT YK)
12. Federal	Seniors Extended Health Benefit (NU NT YK)
	Interim Federal Health Program
	Non-Insured Health Benefits
	Correctional Services Canada – Community Program
	Veteran Affairs Canada Dental Services Program

Timeline



ANNOUNCEMENT

MARCH 22, 2022



IMPLEMENTATION

DECEMBER 1, 2022

NDP Position

Income criteria

Populations covered

Launched by December
2022

*Federally administered
program*

An Interim Solution

The Canada Dental Benefit

- Launch date of December 1, 2022, retroactive coverage to October 1, 2022
- For children < 12
- Provide direct payments to individuals
- Applications through the Canada Revenue Agency

The Canada Dental Benefit

- \$650 would be provided for each eligible child if the family's adjusted net income is under \$70,000
- \$390 would be provided for each eligible child if the family's adjusted net income is between \$70,000 and \$79,999
- \$260 would be provided for each eligible child if the family's adjusted net income is between \$80,000 and \$89,999

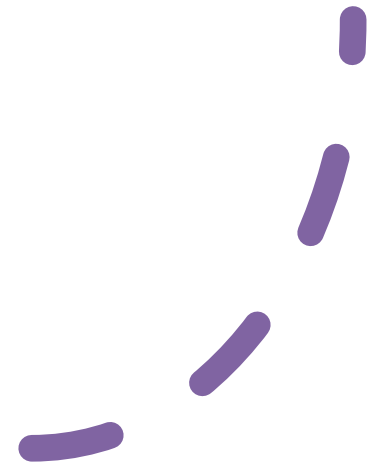
The Canada Dental Benefit

- Parents will need to attest:
 - Their child does not have access to private insurance
 - They will have out of pocket expenses for which they will use the benefit
 - They understand they will need to provide documentation to verify out of pocket expenses (receipts)



The Canada Dental Benefit

- Estimated reach – 500,000 million Canadian children
- Estimated cost - \$938 million





Ongoing Challenges

- What type of service will \$650 provide?
- How will this co-exist with existing programs?
- What happens to existing public programs?
- What happens to employment-based insurance?
- What about communities in less accessible areas of Canada?
- What about public delivery?
- What happens with a change in government?

7 Principles to Guide a National Dental Care program in Canada

1. Core basket of services
2. Fair remuneration
3. Public and private administration
4. Public and private delivery
5. Portability
6. Accessibility
7. Data, evaluation, reporting





Access to Oral Health Care

- Cost
- Geographic location
- Human resources
- Health literacy
- Language, education, or cultural barriers
- Cultural safety



Questions

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