



Email Submission to
The Hon. Ernie L. Steeves
Minister of Finance
President of Treasury Board
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Submitted by Diabetes Canada
February 28, 2019

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There are approximately 96,000 people, or 12.5 per cent of the population, living in New Brunswick with diabetes and those numbers are predicted to rise to 126,000 (15.7 per cent) by 2029. When you include the rate of prediabetes in this province, 1 in 3 people are already living with either diabetes or prediabetes. Treating diabetes and its complications currently costs the N.B. health-care system \$100 million in direct costs and estimated to rise to \$127 million by 2029 if more is not done to address the diabetes epidemic.

Diabetes is a complicated and challenging disease that puts people at high risk of serious and costly complications, including heart attack, stroke, vision loss, kidney disease and amputation. People with diabetes are over three times more likely to be hospitalized with cardiovascular disease, 12 times more likely to be hospitalized with end-stage renal disease and almost 20 times more likely to be hospitalized for a non-traumatic lower limb amputation.

To help mitigate the alarming impact of diabetes on families, employers, health-care and the economy, Diabetes Canada recommends the following actions to the Government:

1. Renew the provincial Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy

During the 2018 election campaign, advocates for diabetes were pleased to hear representatives from the party who formed government were dedicated to renewing the provincial diabetes strategy. The Minister of Health has also confirmed this desire.

Diabetes Canada is requesting the government of New Brunswick demonstrate its commitment to address the diabetes epidemic in this province with an immediate renewal of the *Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy for New Brunswick*. To begin this work, we are requesting a provincial announcement dedicated to the strategy renewal, as well as immediate efforts to establish a new Diabetes Task Group to help advise the ministry on next steps and elements of the new 4-year strategy. While we assume that core funding of existing programs continues, we believe only a small extra investment is necessary in the 2019/20 budget to get things back on track. This modest budget would be to reconvene the Diabetes Task Group, who would be tasked with advising on the next strategy.

2. Support [Diabetes 360°](#): A nation-wide strategy to prevent and manage diabetes.

Diabetes Canada has proposed Diabetes 360° - a measurable, outcome-focused national strategy for the prevention and management of diabetes. It is based on the successful 90-90-90 model implemented globally to combat HIV/AIDS and is the product of collaboration among 129 stakeholders including representation from nine provincial governments.

This recommendation was submitted to the federal government, proposing a seven-year national partnership be established with a total strategic investment of \$150 million. The partnership would collaborate with provinces and territories, civil society and private sector to prioritize and implement programs to achieve the Diabetes 360° targets.

Diabetes Canada is asking the government of New Brunswick to extend its endorsement of the Diabetes 360° strategy framework to the Government of Canada's current Minister of Health, as well as consider how a renewed provincial diabetes strategy can work within this national framework.