



**Infection Prevention and Control Canada
Pre-Budget Submission 2024**

Recommendations

1. Invest in ICP training and retention and IPAC to better support Canada's systems of care, minimize future healthcare costs, and improve pandemic preparedness.
2. Continue investing in Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) measures and research to ensure the pan-Canadian surveillance of AMR is supported.

Recommendation 1: Invest in Infection Control Professional (ICP) training and retention and IPAC to better support Canada's systems of care, minimize future healthcare costs, and improve pandemic preparedness.

IPAC Canada is concerned that provinces, territories, and health authorities are being constantly asked to do more with less. COVID-19 highlighted the truth, and underscored that we need to match the urgency we saw in the response to COVID-19 with the urgency needed to sufficiently and more effectively prepare for future pandemics. This is why IPAC Canada is advising the federal government to invest in training and retainment measures for ICPs and to commit to making our health systems safer.

Infection prevention and control is carried out by trained ICPs, who played a critical role during the pandemic, and who will do the same in preventing and mitigating future pandemics. While this role is under recognized by the public, organizations who successfully battled the COVID-19 pandemic were those who had established dedicated ICP resources. There are insufficient numbers of trained ICPs to meet the needs of the health care system; an issue that will only worsen under the current conditions which are discouraging these professionals from continuing in this important line of work. IPAC Canada is calling on the federal government to invest in education, training, and retainment measures for ICPs.

We also must continue making investments in pandemic preparedness and planning to ensure Canada has appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccine research and production. IPAC Canada advocates for the continuation and enhancement of investments in pandemic preparedness planning, specifically directed towards domestic personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccine research and production.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in the global supply chain, making it essential for Canada to bolster its domestic capabilities in manufacturing critical healthcare supplies.

By investing in domestic PPE production, Canada can ensure a steady and reliable supply of protective equipment for health care providers during pandemics and other public health emergencies. Moreover, focusing on vaccine research and production will not only enhance Canada's self-sufficiency in vaccine availability but also contribute to the development of cutting-edge medical technologies and biotechnologies, ultimately benefiting the nation's healthcare and scientific communities. Finally, national independence in both PPE supplies and vaccine availability will result in significantly decreased costs to access these crucial resources when there is a critical short supply.

Continued investments in pandemic preparedness planning will enable Canada to proactively respond to future health crises, reducing the reliance on foreign markets and ensuring the well-being of its citizens during times of emergency.

Recommendation 2: Continue investing in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) measures and research to ensure the pan-Canadian surveillance of AMR is supported.

IPAC Canada emphasizes the importance of ongoing investments in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) measures and research to support pan-Canadian surveillance efforts. Antimicrobial resistance is a growing global threat that undermines the effectiveness of antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents, making infections harder or impossible to treat and posing significant risks to public health.

By allocating resources to AMR surveillance, Canada can better understand the prevalence and patterns of antimicrobial resistance, allowing for evidence-based strategies to be implemented to effectively

combat this issue. Additionally, investments in research and development of new antimicrobial agents and alternative therapies will be crucial in the fight against drug-resistant pathogens.

Continued support for AMR measures and research aligns with Canada's commitment to safeguarding public health and reinforces the country's leadership in tackling global health challenges. By proactively addressing AMR, Canada can protect the effectiveness of essential medical interventions and promote a sustainable and resilient healthcare system for the future.

About IPAC Canada

Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) is a multidisciplinary, professional organization for those engaged in the prevention and control of infections across the continuum of care. IPAC Canada was incorporated in 1976 and is a registered non-profit organization. IPAC Canada has over 2000 members in Canada and across the globe. We coordinate communication between stakeholders, support and develop evidence-based infection prevention, control, and standards recommendations, and promote research and education for infection prevention and control professionals. Our goal is to prevent infections and as a result make healthcare safer in hospitals, long-term care, and the community.