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An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure: Infection Prevention and Control Canada launches virtual advocacy day

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OTTAWA, O.N. – Today members of Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) are launching their campaign, *An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure* with their annual federal advocacy day. This year’s advocacy day is being hosted virtually, with IPAC Canada members meeting with Members of Parliament to discuss infection, prevention and control priorities.

The meetings are focused on recommendations which address current needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also ensuring that Canada invests in a stronger and better prepared nationwide system of care. Closing gaps in these systems will allow Canada to proactively limit the impacts of future pandemics and decrease Canadians exposure to an array of illnesses.

“The saying goes that ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure’ and nearly a year into the outbreak of COVID-19 in Canada, we can see how that statement rings true today. In a number of ways, Canada was not fully prepared to respond to the severity of this public health crisis at the outset,” said Barbara Catt, President of IPAC Canada. “This is why we are calling on the Government of Canada to make concerted investments in our systems of care to build a healthier, stronger and better prepared Canada.”

During today’s meetings with Members of Parliament, IPAC Canada members will be discussing increasing federal health transfers to the provinces and territories with a dedicated stream of funding for infection, prevention and control, accelerating the delivery of the Safe Long-Term Care Fund announced in the most recent Fall Economic Statement, and investing in an integrated, national surveillance system to respond to all healthcare associated infections.

“Over the past year it has become clear that nobody can predict when an outbreak, epidemic or pandemic will occur. But we have also seen that in these circumstances, rapid response is critical,” continued Catt. “IPAC Canada members are ready to work with the federal government to ensure that Canada’s recovery from COVID-19 includes measures that make sure Canada is better prepared and more resilient in the future.”

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For further information and media inquiries please contact:

Brianna Workman, Public Affairs
Brianna@impactcanada.com
613-294-1263