



Canadian Health Services Research **Foundation**
Fondation canadienne de la recherche sur les services de santé

Backgrounder

An Action Plan to Sustain Primary Healthcare Renewal

Canada's primary healthcare system is undergoing major reform — and it's happening without enough policy-relevant research to guide meaningful change. A new study by Grant Russell et al. says quality primary care is being compromised because the country lacks sufficient research capacity. *Mapping the future of primary healthcare research in Canada* calls on governments as well as universities, professional organizations and research funders to take action.

The study recommends creating a co-ordinating body to advance Canada's primary healthcare research agenda. Through its leadership and advocacy, it would develop a nationwide primary care research strategy and secure the necessary funding to implement it. This body would also link the work of researchers with the needs of policy makers and establish a research information system for translating existing research evidence. A second recommendation would see a new strategic funding program created to award operating and team grants, establish research chairs, and support the careers of clinical researchers and research scientists.

Commissioned by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF), *Mapping the future of primary healthcare research in Canada* assesses the country's primary care research capacity and suggests strategies for sustaining it following the end of the Primary Health Care Transition Fund. That six-year fund wound down last year, despite what the study finds are widespread deficiencies in the co-ordination and sustainability of primary care research.

Mapping the future of primary healthcare research in Canada is the product of a two-year study by investigators at the C.T. Lamont Primary Health Care Research Centre in Ottawa. It is based on interviews and roundtable meetings with researchers, policy makers and funders, and a review of the relevant literature.

To view the full report (available this summer) please go to the Priority Research Themes page at www.chsrf.ca and follow the link to Primary Healthcare.