

November 28, 2002
For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien today issued the following statement welcoming the final report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada:

"I am very pleased to receive Commissioner Romanow's report on the Future of Health Care in Canada. I applaud Mr. Romanow for his hard work and his dedication in the successful completion of this historic undertaking.

When I appointed Mr. Romanow in April 2001, it was to lead a public dialogue with Canadians and recommend ways to renew and modernize medicare. I would like to thank these thousands of Canadians who informed the Commission's work and who affirmed their attachment to our most cherished social program.

The Romanow Report and other recent studies will provide a strong foundation for a long term plan of action based on responsible spending for change. We are prepared to work closely with our partners, the provinces and territories. Every Premier has assured me of their full co-operation in achieving a plan for health care reform. And they can be assured in return of our full co-operation.

We have a responsibility to the citizens of Canada who have made their expectations clear. We must work quickly and cooperatively on a plan to ensure the sustainability of our national health care system, for all Canadians, now and in the future."

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