

# National Neurological Strategy for Canada

NHCC believes it is vital that a National Neurological Strategy for Canada be developed to tackle the knowledge gaps and needs of the millions of Canadians living with neurological disease, illness or injury.

<p><b>Strengthening Government of Canada leadership of neurological health</b></p>	<p><b>Investing in and improving accessibility to early diagnosis, comprehensive treatment and care</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting human rights-based laws, policies and programs for people living with neurological conditions;</li> <li>• Ensuring budgets are proportionate with the human and other resources needed;</li> <li>• Reinforcing multi-sectoral linkages for coordinated action involving all stakeholders, including people living with neurological conditions and caregivers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating equitable access and delivery of health and social care services across the life course including transitioning from one stage of life to the next;</li> <li>• Making essential medicines accessible and affordable equitably across the country, including drugs for rare disorders;</li> <li>• Ensuring caregivers have supportive programs and financial assistance;</li> <li>• Supporting palliative care planning and programming.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Investing in capacity building of neurological health care workforce</b></p>	<p><b>Reducing stigmatization and discrimination</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing in training, support, retention and capacity-building of a non-specialist neurological health care workforce;</li> <li>• Investing in digital education and online learning programs to accelerate workforce training to enhance equitable access to care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving public attitudes and protecting the rights of people with neurological conditions by raising awareness and promoting a better understanding of neurological conditions;</li> <li>• Empowering individuals from all cultures to identify their health needs, participate in the planning and delivery of services and play an active role in maintaining their own health and well-being;</li> <li>• Promoting neurological development and health across the life course.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strengthening health information systems</b></p>	<p><b>Fostering strategic approaches to research into neurological conditions</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building national capacity to collect, monitor and report on population and health care system data related to neurological conditions;</li> <li>• Supporting development of electronic medical records with appropriate access for individuals living with neurological conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the attention given to neurological conditions in national and global research agendas, including access to clinical trials for treatments for rare disorders;</li> <li>• Encouraging the use of innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence and precision medicine to consolidate currently fragmented research approaches and identify new treatment options;</li> <li>• Supporting the Canadian Brain Research Strategy Network on a long-term basis.</li> </ul>

(Adapted from a proposed global multi-sectoral approach by ONEurology.)