



## Time for Federal Government to Live Up to its Commitment to Expand Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program – says EHPC

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**OTTAWA, February 2024** – In a world where the provision of timely health care services to Canadians extends well beyond hospitals, physicians and nurses, the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC) – a coalition of over 100,000 regulated health care professionals – calls on the federal government to live up to its commitment to expand the list of eligible occupations under the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program.

In [Budget 2022](#), the federal government made a commitment to expand the list of eligible occupations under the program.

“The time is overdue for the federal government to do the right thing and recognize the role and value of other health care professions that play an integral role in the provision of timely health services and the overall wellbeing of Canadians”, said François Couillard, EHPC Chair.

The breadth of our services, which include psychological, vision, dental, pharmaceutical, cognitive, speech, hearing and physical rehabilitation care can help reduce unnecessary hospitalization, dependency on pain medications, premature entry into long-term care facilities, and improve health outcomes.

EHPC members provide tremendous healthcare value to the people of Canada, particularly in rural and remote areas of the country where primary care access is a significant issue. Our students are the future of essential extended healthcare professions and thus, should be eligible for the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program. We call on the federal government to fulfill their commitment and invest in the future of extended healthcare access in rural and remote regions.

EHPC looks forward to working with the federal government to improve the lives of all Canadians.

- 30 -

### About EHPC

#### About the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC)

EHPC aims to improve the health and welfare of all Canadians; promote excellence and innovation in health research and practice and promote the advancement, development, dissemination and application of knowledge that advances health, social services and well-being for Canadians.

Our membership includes:

- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association of Optometrists



- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Canadian Dental Association
- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Psychological Association
- Denturists Association of Canada
- Dietitians of Canada
- Speech-Language & Audiology Canada

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