

Dear Minister Hajdu,

My name is Helena Kirk and I am a 14-year-old cancer survivor. I have been advocating for the last 3 years to find pathways for more Canadian kids to survive cancer. I have presented a proposal to the past two Ministers of Health, Health Canada, CHIR and CPAC. I have lost many friends to cancer and I am worried about so many of my other friends that are still fighting. Last fall, I was relieved that the Liberal Party campaign [platform](#) included investing an additional \$30 million towards childhood cancer.

After the election, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's [Minister of Health Mandate Letter](#) to you reiterated this promise as a Federal priority and said he expected you to: *"Make new investments in pediatric cancer research and develop a long-term plan to ensure sustainable funding."*

"This funding is urgent because Canada has been falling further and further behind other developed nations in its treatment and care of pediatric oncology patients." Dr. James Whitlock, Chair of [C17](#), who represents the leading pediatric oncology clinicians and researchers in Canada.

Cancer is the #1 cause of death by disease of Canadian children. Over 150 childhood cancer families from across the country came to a consensus with this briefing document of how this funding can be used with maximum impact to ensure more Canadian children survive cancer.

Endorsing this briefing document is 40 pediatric and cancer organizations. This is an issue where urgent action is desperately needed and comes with widespread support and consensus. We are ready to make an impact, we just need the funding to start.

We understand that the current COVID-19 crisis has necessitated spending to June 2020 to at least [\\$152 billion to get Canadians through COVID-19](#). Childhood cancer is also an urgent crisis. Canadian children continue to be diagnosed with cancer every day and it remains the number one cause of death by disease among children. We are looking to our government to help ensure more Canadian children survive cancer with **less than 0.0002 of that cost**.

I am asking you, as the Minister of Health, to please prioritize the Federal Government's promise of \$30 million towards pediatric cancer research in the upcoming budget. Canadian children's lives are at stake and they can't wait any longer.

I would love to meet you through a video link to talk about this. My hope is that after the COVID crisis ends, we will also have reason to celebrate huge strides forward for Canadian cancer kids too.

You can reach me through her MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith's office or through my Mom Sarah & Dad John at sarahcalderwood@rogers.com and capjkkirk@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting and fighting for childhood cancer families in Canada.

Helena Kirk
Childhood Cancer Warrior & Advocate
(416) 757-5987