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Canada Needs Federal Leadership to Accelerate
Health Innovation and Improve System Performance

Ottawa, ON, (Tuesday, December 2, 2014) – Thirty-nine national health-care organizations that
comprise the Health Action Lobby (HEAL) issued a consensus statement today calling for the
federal government to embrace the Canadian Way of addressing national health issues through
compassion, consensus, and collaboration.

The Consensus Statement entitled Accelerating Innovation and Improving Health System
Performance is intended to prompt all federal parties to articulate their own positions on health
care for Canadians in advance of the election in 2015. A recent Nanos survey confirmed that
Canadians scored health care as a top priority for all political parties in the next federal election
as 7.6 on a 10 point scale.

“To secure the future of the health system, HEAL believes that federal leadership is essential –
both in areas where it has a clear responsibility, and where it can lead collaboration, innovation
and improved system performance along with the provinces and territories”, said Mr. Glenn
Brimacombe, HEAL Co-Chair. “We believe the HEAL approach reflects the Canadian Way, one
that is deeply rooted in compassion, consensus and collaboration.”

The statement identifies a number of ways in which the federal government can play a
leadership role in improving the health and health care of Canadians by accelerating the pace of
innovation, improving overall accountability and transparency in system performance, and
raising the level of collaboration with the provinces and territories, and providers. The
statement focuses on six issues:

1. Improved collaboration between the federal government and the provinces and
territories.
2. A vision statement for the federal government in health and health care.
3. A performance framework to guide improvements and innovation in health systems and
health care delivery.
4. Options for a financially stable health system.
5. The need for strategic, federal investments related to Canada’s aging population, access to prescription drugs, and the spread of on-the-ground health innovations.

The Consensus Statement also identifies a combination of time-limited strategic funds to spur system improvements including a National Health Innovation Fund and a Community-Based Health Infrastructure Fund.

“Since health care is a top priority for Canadians, and has been very important for the past two decades, HEAL is calling on all federal political parties to clarify their positions on how they would improve the health of Canadians and the care they receive,” said Dr. Karen Cohen, HEAL Co-Chair. According to a recent Nanos survey, 90 percent of respondents said the leadership role the federal government plays in health is important or somewhat important.

HEAL looks forward to working with all levels of government to achieve results for Canadians.

The Consensus Statement is available at www.healthactionlobby.ca.

The complete Nanos survey results can be accessed at www.healthactionlobby.ca or at www.nanosresearch.com.

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HEAL is a coalition of 39 national health and consumer associations and organizations dedicated to protecting and strengthening Canada’s health system. Created in 1991, and representing more than 650,000 providers and consumer of health care, the major focus of HEAL’s activities has been on the federal role in health and health care.

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HEAL Members

Canadian Psychiatric Association
Canadian Psychological Association
Alzheimer Society of Canada
The Arthritis Society
Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
Canadian AIDS Society
Canadian Association of Community Health Centres
Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
Canadian Association of Midwives
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Association of Optometrists
Canadian Association of Radiologists
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Chiropractic Association
Canadian College of Health Leaders
Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association
Canadian Dental Association
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
Canadian Dermatology Association
Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association

Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Mental Health Association
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Canadian Ophthalmological Society
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Canadian Pharmacists Association
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