



MEDEC

CANADA'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES
LES SOCIÉTÉS CANADIENNES DE TECHNOLOGIES MÉDICALES

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February 6, 2015

Hon. Charles Sousa Minister of Finance
Frost Building South
7th Floor, 7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario
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Re: MEDEC 2015 Pre-Budget Submission

Dear Minister Sousa,

MEDEC is the national association representing the Canadian medical technology industry. Our member companies employ well over 20,000 Ontarians in communities across the province and are committed to supporting the Government's efforts to ensure a sustainable and prosperous provincial economy.

A thriving economy and a sustainable, high quality health care system go hand in hand. At MEDEC, we exist at the intersection of these two imperatives. Our members create technologies that save patients' lives, improve the quality of patient outcomes, reduce costs in the health care system, and create thousands of high paying jobs.

The timely adoption of medical innovation and technology is essential to enhancing patient care, improving patient access to health care, enabling health care sustainability, while at the same time driving jobs and economic growth in Ontario.

We would like to congratulate the Ontario Government on the formation of the Ontario Health Innovation Council in 2013, and the ongoing focus to work more closely with MEDEC and leaders in the medical technology sector in Ontario to enhance the way we examine, develop and implement transformative improvements across the health care sector. In addition, we are very supportive of the recent recommendations¹ released by the Ontario Health Innovation Council and believe that these will catalyze the changes that are needed to ensure the long-term success of the medical technology sector and, at the same time, will help ensure the quality and sustainability of the Ontario health care system.

¹ www.ohic.ca

To that end we propose the following:

- 1. That the Ontario Government adopts and implements all of the recommendations of the Ontario Health Innovation Council (OHIC).**
- 2. That the Ontario Government continue the work of Ontario Medical Technology Working Group (see description below) and utilize the expertise of the group, and this unique collaborate approach between the medical technology industry, other stakeholders, and cross-governmental Ministries – to assist with the implementation of OHIC’s recommendations.**

What is Ontario Health Innovation Council (OHIC) and what are its recommendations?

The Ontario Health Innovation Council is an advisory body established by the Ontario government in November 2013. The council was created to accelerate the adoption of new technologies in our health care system and support the growth and competitiveness of Ontario’s health technology sector.

The council recently completed its report (released on December 19, 2014 – see attached document) which identifies opportunities for evidence-based innovation and strategies in health care to:

- Facilitate technological innovations that promote health and well-being, improve access to health and health services, deliver effective, efficient, quality care
- Strategically use the purchasing power of the province and broader public sector to accelerate the growth of the health technology sector
- Expand the adoption of innovative new technologies more broadly across the health care sector (e.g., including in hospitals, but also in home- and long-term care settings).

The initiative was led by the Ministry of Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and supported by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services.

MEDEC fully supports the work of OHIC and the recommendations in the OHIC report and would like to, once again, congratulate the Wynne Government on your vision and commitment to leveraging innovative medical technologies to make patient lives better, save money in the health care system long-term, and grow the Ontario economy (see attached media releases).

What is the Ontario Medical Technology Working Group?

The Ontario Medical Technology Working Group was created through the Ontario Open For Business process, and brings together the medical technology industry, MEDEC, the Health Technology Exchange (HTX – created by the Ontario government) and the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care, Finance, Economic Development, and Research & Innovation – to meet on a regular basis and work together to improve both health care and economic development in Ontario, by focusing on opportunities in the medical technology sector.

The Ontario Medical Technology Working Group focused the majority of its efforts over the last year and half developing and submitting a report to the Ontario Health Innovation Council. The report is entitled *Health Innovation in Ontario* (see attachment) and was very well received by OHIC. In fact, we were very pleased to see that OHIC's recommendations incorporated virtually all of the recommendations of the Ontario Medical Technology Working Group.

MEDEC, working in collaboration with government officials across key Ministries, has been encouraging a different way of thinking about how to achieve better value and cost savings through a variety of options such as accelerating the adoption of innovative medical technology to improve access, quality, and health system sustainability.

Through the Ontario Medical Technology Working Group we have taken significant first steps to ensure that the medical technology industry is at the table and working in partnership with the government on key initiatives such as strategic/innovative procurement strategies in health care.

MEDEC would like to see the continuation of this highly valuable collaboration, shifting the Group's objectives to work together to help the Ontario Government optimally implement the recommendations of the Ontario Health Innovation Council and also potentially support other priority initiatives that support the sustainability of the health system and economic growth.

Conclusion

The current Wynne Government has been one of the most collaborative, innovative governments in relation to its work with the medical technology industry. We are highly encouraged by the steps that the government has taken to date to work to better understand the challenges faced in Ontario when adopting new medical innovations, and the clear commitment to take Ontario from one of the slowest global adopters of medical innovations in OECD countries, to one of the best, fastest and brightest jurisdictions.

There remains a great deal of work to be done, and we would like to like express our commitment to continual collaboration through the positive relationship between the Ontario Government and the medical technology industry.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me directly at blewis@medec.org, (416) 641-2750.

Sincerely,



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About MEDEC: *The medical device and technology industry in Canada is comprised of multinational enterprises (MNEs), small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and local Canadian companies. It is estimated that there are more than 1,000 medical device and technology companies in Canada; the vast majority are small, local, Canadian-owned companies employing over 35,000 people in more than 1,500 corporate facilities with sales of over \$7 billion per annum.*

Attachments:

- MEDEC OHIC Economic Update Ontario FINAL
- MEDEC OHIC Announcement November 19 FINAL
- MEDEC Ontario Budget 2014
- MEDEC OHIC News Release
- OHIC Report News Release
- Ontario Health Innovation Council Report
- Statement on the Report from the Ontario Health Innovation Council Hon Reza Moridi
- MedTech Working Group Report to OHIC FINAL