

MEDEC applauds Ontario's appointment of province's first-ever Chief Health Innovation Strategist

Appointment paves way for improved patient care and growth in Ontario's medical technology sector

Toronto, September 10, 2015 – MEDEC, the national association representing Canada's Medical Technology Companies, commends the appointment of William Charnetski as Ontario's first-ever Chief Health Innovation Strategist.

"Today's announcement highlights the Wynne government's commitment to enabling that Ontario's patients have access to innovative medical technologies, while at the same time growing the province's world-renowned medical technology sector" said Brian Lewis, President and CEO of MEDEC. "MEDEC and our members congratulate Mr. Charnetski for being appointed to this exciting role and we look forward to working collaboratively to support him towards our shared goals of increasing innovation and contributing to the sustainability of Ontario's healthcare system."

The creation of an Office of the Chief Health Innovation Strategist was the first of six transformative recommendations put forth by the Ontario Health Innovation Council (OHIC) in their December 2014 report, [The Catalyst: Towards an Ontario Health Innovation Strategy](#) which addressed the challenges facing health innovators such as health system fragmentation, procurement and lack of appropriate incentives for early adopters of innovations. Today's announcement is a crucial steppingstone that paves the way to the enactment of Ontario's 2015 Budget commitments to implement all of the recommendations put forward in the OHIC report.

"MEDEC thanks Ministers Hoskins for driving this critical initiative forward and we continue to strongly support the government's commitment to implement the OHIC recommendations" added Brian Lewis. "This is a very positive advancement towards improving patient care and growing Ontario's economy."

About MEDEC

MEDEC is the national association representing the medical technology industry in Canada. Our members are committed to providing safe and innovative medical technologies that enhance the quality of patient care, improve patient access to health care, and help enable the sustainability of our publicly-funded health care system. The medical technology industry in Canada employs over 35,000 Canadians in approximately 1,500 facilities, and has sales of over \$7 billion per annum. We are committed to supporting the growth of a strong and vibrant medical technology industry that contributes to Canada's innovation economy.

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