



April 1, 2022

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, minister of health
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6
jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca

Re: Supplementary to the federal pre-budget consultation

Dear Minister Duclos,

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is Ontario's voice for the profession of nursing, including 48,500 registered nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing students. On Feb. 25, 2022 RNAO submitted our [2022 federal pre-budget recommendations](#) in which we address the nation's health in eight areas, covering the environmental and social determinants of health, nursing, health care and fiscal capacity.

As a supplement to our recommendation to invest in a long-term mental health recovery plan for Canadians as we emerge from this tragic COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to consider the need for a robust national grief strategy. RNAO recommends funding to support the national grief strategy proposed by the [Canadian Grief Alliance](#). This strategy calls for expanded grief services, pandemic-related grief research and a public awareness campaign related to grief and healthy coping.

The end of the COVID-19 pandemic will bring great joy but also immense grief for the many Canadians who have lost loved ones. Consistent with the concerns of the Canadian Grief Alliance, RNAO believes COVID-19-related grief, left unattended, will have profound effects on Canadians. Grief services must be included in any post-pandemic mental health strategy. We urge you to provide the funding to support such services.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Grinspun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Doris Grinspun, RN, MSN, PhD,
LLD(hon), Dr(hc), FAAN, FCAN, O.ONT
Chief Executive Officer

Cc:

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, deputy prime minister and minister of finance, Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca
Jamie Kippen, chief of staff, jamie.kippen@hc-sc.gc.ca