



Briefing Note – Health Innovation in Ontario

Background

- For a number of years (over a three-year period from roughly 2010-2013) MEDEC advocated to the Ontario Government to find a way to support better adoption of innovative medical technologies in Ontario in an effort to:
 - Enabling better patient outcomes,
 - Helping to provide access for patients to important procedures or diagnosis, and/or
 - Saving the healthcare system money
 - Create good jobs and grown the economy and medical technology industry in Ontario
- In November 2013, the government took steps to appoint the Ontario Health Innovation Council (OHIC), which was comprised of health system and business leaders.
- The mandate of OHIC was to provide a report to the government with tangible recommendations that would achieve the following three strategic goals:
 - 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).
- On December 19th, 2014, OHIC publicly released their report, *The Catalyst: Towards a Health Innovation Strategy*, to the government. The report contained six key recommendations:
 - 1. Establish an Office of the Chief Health Innovation Strategist**
 - 2. Appoint Innovation Brokers to Connect Innovators with Resources**
 - 3. Invest in Made-in-Ontario Technologies**
 - 4. Accelerate the Shift to Strategic, Value-Based Procurement**
 - 5. Create Incentives and Remove Barriers to Innovation**
 - 6. Optimize the Pathways to Adoption and Diffusion of Innovation**
- In May of 2015 – over a year and half from when OHIC was appointed – the government announced that it would be adopting all six of the recommendations of the Ontario Health Innovation Council
- In September of 2016, Bill Charnetski was hired as the first ever Chief Health Innovation Strategist in Ontario, and the responsibilities of that office includes implementing the remaining 5 recommendations of the Ontario Health Innovation Council.
- ***While progress has been made, this has occurred over an 8-year period. We continue to miss opportunities due to the lack of timeliness in addressing the challenges within our system that slow down the adoption of innovative medical technologies in Ontario***

Current Status

- To date, the following recommendations of the Ontario Health Innovation Council have been fully implemented:
 1. Establish an Office of the Chief Health Innovation Strategist
 2. Appoint Innovation Brokers to Connect Innovators with Resources
 3. Invest in Made-in-Ontario Technologies
- The remaining recommendations are still in the process of being implemented. They are:
 4. Accelerate the Shift to Strategic, Value-Based Procurement
 5. Create Incentives and Remove Barriers to Innovation
 6. Optimize the Pathways to Adoption and Diffusion of Innovation
- MEDEC is supportive of the Ontario Health Innovation Council recommendations.
 - Our association represents 20,000 Ontarians working in our member companies and we believe that OHIC's very innovative and practical recommendations are critical steps in order to transform patient care in Ontario, while improving the efficiency of our healthcare system and growing the province's economy.

MEDEC Position(s)

- 1. The Ontario government should maintain the role of the Ontario Chief Health Innovation Officer and accelerate the implementation of the Ontario Health Innovation Council recommendations.**
 - It is critical that the recommendations of the Ontario Health Innovation Council continue to get implemented in Ontario
 - To date, taxpayers have invested time and resources into the establishment and building of the Office of the Chief Health Innovation Strategist (OCHIS). MEDEC supports the continued role and support for the OCHIS and their office.
- 2. The Ontario government should set up a regular dialogue with MEDEC and the Medical Technology Industry, with a goal to work together to find innovative solutions that provide better patients outcomes, save money in the health care system, and grow jobs and the economy in Ontario.**
 - With a new, fresh government in Ontario – there are significant opportunities for the medical technology industry and the Ontario government to work together for the betterment of patients and the economy.
 - The Ontario government and MEDEC should establish an advisory/engagement mechanism for industry to work with the Minister of Health's office, the Minister of Government and Consumer Services office, the Minister of Economic Develops office and the Premier's office
 - MEDEC and our members should be engaged directly with the government on utilizing medical technology to help end Hallway Medicine in Ontario