



**Canada Health Infoway**

# O Canada

Alan Lau

Head of Strategy & Delivery, Digital Health Interoperability

Canada Health Infoway

# Canada Health Infoway

---



**Canada Health Infoway is an independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the federal government (i.e., Health Canada).**

We work with our partners to make health care more digital by ensuring that everyone is able to access health information and services online.



Two (2) cornerstone programs:

1. Digital Health Interoperability
2. PrescribIT<sup>®</sup> (Canada's e-prescription service)

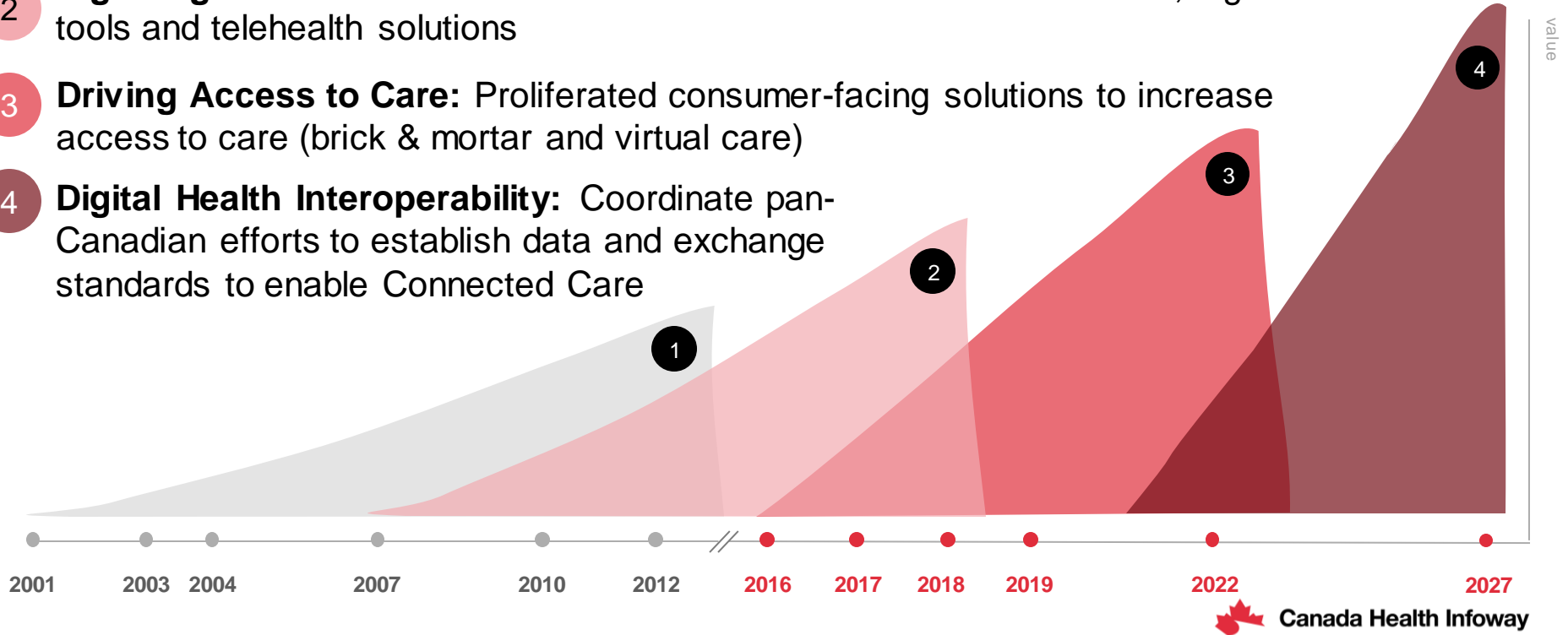
# Infoway's Journey in Driving Pan-Canadian Interoperability

1 **Building the Infrastructure:** Established the foundational infrastructure for digital health

2 **Digitizing of Health Records:** Provisioned electronic medical records, digital health tools and telehealth solutions

3 **Driving Access to Care:** Proliferated consumer-facing solutions to increase access to care (brick & mortar and virtual care)

4 **Digital Health Interoperability:** Coordinate pan-Canadian efforts to establish data and exchange standards to enable Connected Care



# The Canadian Health System At A Glance

**38,500,000**

population  
in Canada



**82%**  
Urban

**\$344B**

health expending  
expected in 2023



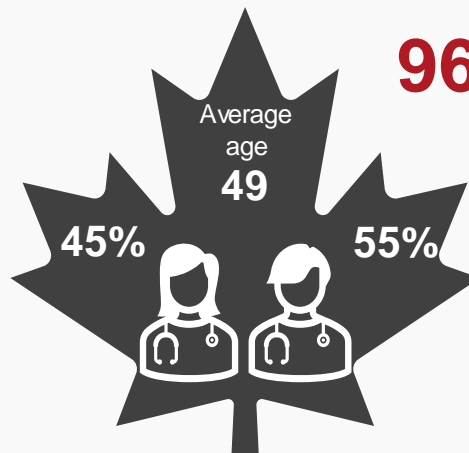
**12.1%**  
GDP

**96,020** physicians  
in Canada

Average  
age  
**49**

45%

55%



**247** MDs per 100,000  
population

**92%** Urban

**72%**

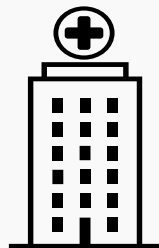
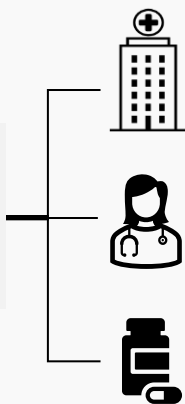
Fee for service

**28%**

Alternative  
payments

**50%**

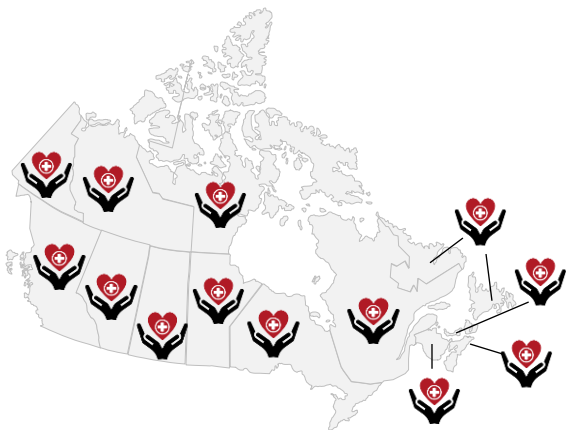
total health  
expenditure



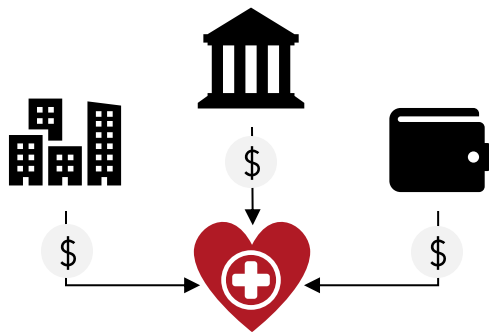
**2.5**

beds per 1,000  
population

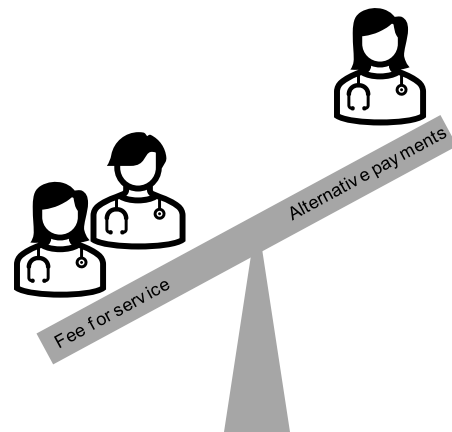
# The Canadian Health System



Decentralized, universal, publicly funded health system called “Canadian Medicare”

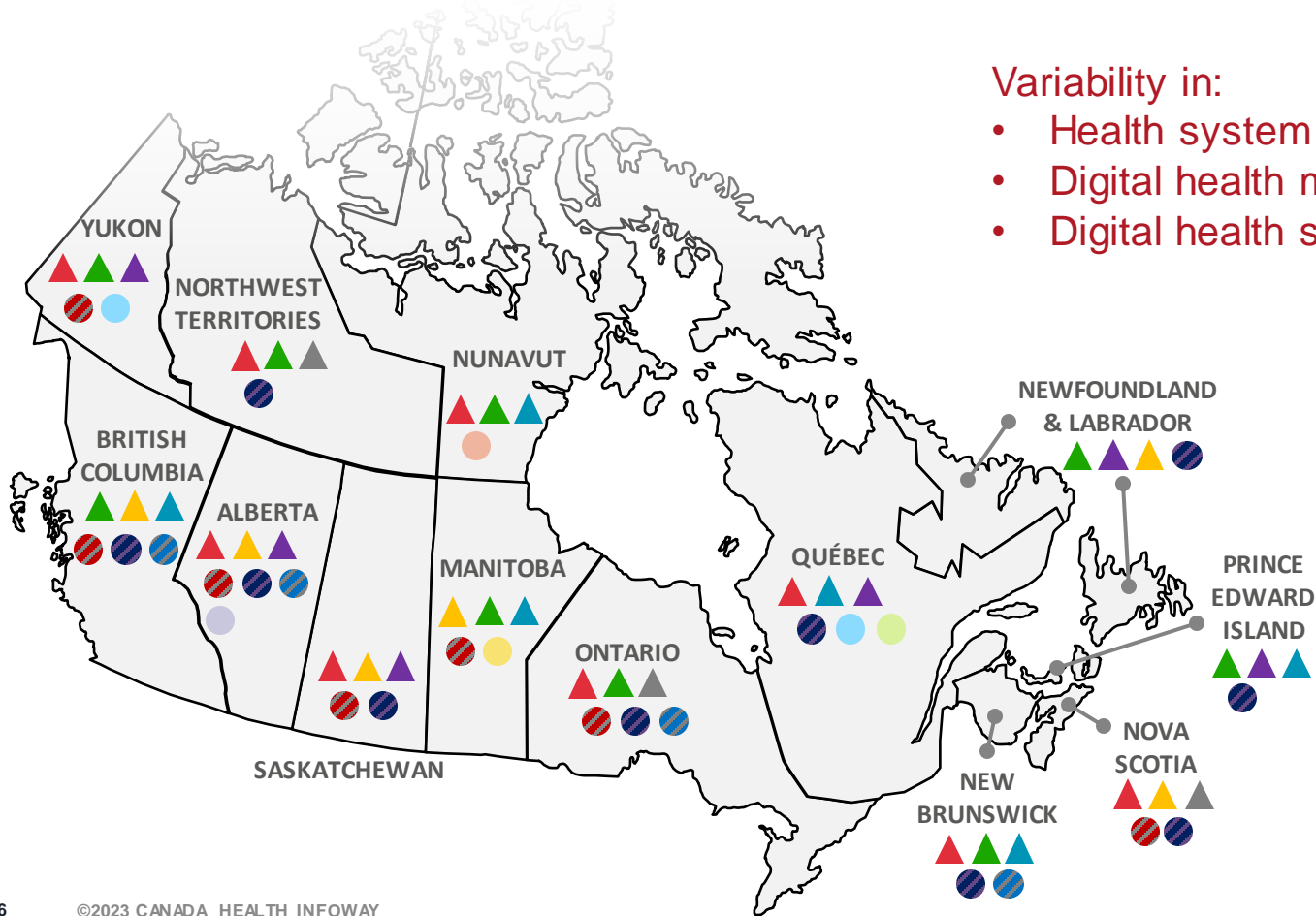


Multi-payers: public funding, private insurance, out-of-pocket, and others



Majority of physicians are self-employed and incorporated

# Digital Health Landscape Across Canada



## Variability in:

- Health system priorities
- Digital health maturity
- Digital health solutions

## Common elements include:

- Large EHR vendors
- Need for information sharing across geographies

# The Need For Interoperability In Canada

## Connected Care to Enable a Healthier Canada



Download now  
to learn more.



- In May 2023, Canada Health Infoway, in collaboration with jurisdictional partners published the Shared Pan-Canadian Interoperability Roadmap
- The Interoperability Roadmap **aligns, supports and complements provincial and territorial roadmaps** by providing common, pan-Canadian data, technical and policy standards

# Shared Pan-Canadian Interoperability Roadmap





# Immediate Priorities (Top-Down)

---



## 1. Primary Care Data Portability

Initiative will initially focus on developing a primary care data set for interoperable health information exchange



## 2. Patient Summary

Pan-Canadian Patient Summary (PS-CA) will allow care solutions to contribute pertinent health information into clinical repositories to improve health outcomes and reduce administrative burden for clinicians



## 3. Patient Access to Electronic Health Data

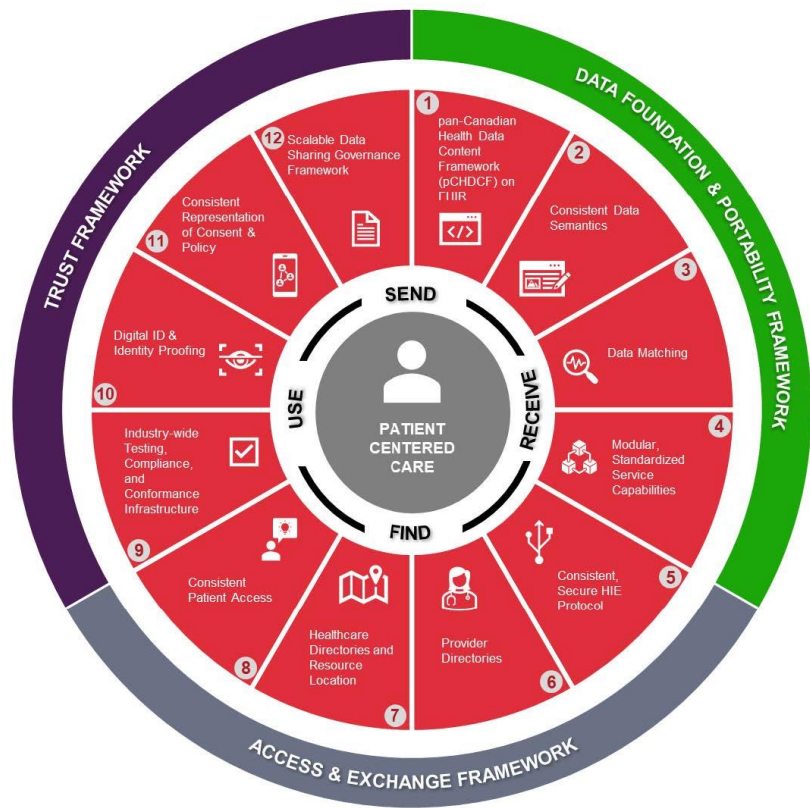
This Patient Access initiative will work towards enriching the information available to patients, aspiring to enable access to a full longitudinal health record



## 4. e-Referral & e-Consult

Establishing a pan-Canadian specification will streamline referrals (patients being referred to specialists) and consults (physicians consulting specialists for their expertise) between interoperable systems

# Foundational Capabilities (Bottom-Up)



The building blocks were identified and grounded in 3 core frameworks that support the entire array of top-down functionalities desired:

1. Data Foundation and Portability Framework
2. Access and Exchange Framework (Data and Service)
3. Trust Framework

# Establishing a Pan-Canadian Trust Framework

---



Principles



Governance  
Approach



Common  
Agreement



Standards of  
Practice



Technical  
Framework



Conformance  
Criteria



# Call to Action: International Collaboration





**Canada Health Infoway**

# Thank you!

Alan Lau

[alau@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:alau@infoway-inforoute.ca)

M: 416-616-6124

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[infoway-inforoute.ca](http://infoway-inforoute.ca)

**VISIT OUR SURVEY WEBSITE**  
[insights.infoway-inforoute.ca/](http://insights.infoway-inforoute.ca/)

**LET'S CONNECT ON LINKEDIN**  
[linkedin.com/company/canada-health-infoway/](https://linkedin.com/company/canada-health-infoway/)

**LET'S CONNECT ON TWITTER**  
[@infoway](https://twitter.com/infoway)