

CANADIAN
NURSES
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Re: Health spending rises at lowest rate in 15 years: study, October 31, 2012

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) is asking governments to look beyond the health-care system when reviewing health spending.

Although, as John Wright points out, improving productivity, reducing overhead or controlling compensation — instead of simply cutting across the board — is an important step in the right direction, more can be done. CNA's National Expert Commission found that governments could avoid the ripple effect of tightening budgets by incorporating a health lens at the front end of policy-making.

CNA hopes governments will examine and assess the impact all policies, laws and public programs may have on Canadians' health. By integrating health into all policy decisions, we are addressing health spending in a more positive, forward-thinking way. What long-term costs could have been controlled or avoided if a health assessment had been done when compulsory physical education was dropped from our schools, or when mental health institutions were closed without providing community support services?

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