

**Most (84%) Canadians 'Concerned' that over One in Ten Don't Have a Family Doctor, Time it Takes to Get an Appointment with Family Doctor (51%) or Specialist (84%)**  
*Almost All Canadians Believe Training more Doctors (98%), Improving Coordination and Access Between Doctors Diagnostic Tests (95%), and Increasing Use of Health Teams Key to Improving Access to Family Doctors and Specialists*

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**Ipsos Reid**

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## **Majority (84%) of Canadians ‘Concerned’ that over One in Ten Don’t Have a Family Doctor, Time it Takes to Get an Appointment with Family Doctor (51%) or Specialist (84%)**

*Almost All Canadians Believe Training more Doctors (98%), Improving Coordination and Access Between Doctors Diagnostic Tests (95%), and Increasing Use of Family-Health Teams Key to Improving Access to Family Doctors and Specialists*

**Toronto, ON** – Most Canadians (84%) are ‘concerned’ (52% very/31% somewhat) about the ‘fact that more than one in ten Canadians do not have a family doctor’, according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association. In fact, according to the poll, roughly 17% of Canadians don’t have a family doctor. But among the 82% that do, a majority (51%) are ‘concerned’ (21% strongly/30% somewhat) about ‘the length of time it takes to get an appointment with their family doctor’.

Canadians appear to be troubled about a number of other aspects relating to the healthcare system, particularly those dealing with wait times for specialists, including ‘the length of time it takes to see a specialist doctor upon referral from a family doctor’ (84% -- 51% very/33% somewhat), and ‘the amount of time it takes to get treatment following a consultation with a specialist’ (83% -- 47% very/36% somewhat).

Thinking about various concepts or activities which could serve to improve access to family doctors and specialists in Canada, Canadians believe a number of possible solutions could be useful. First and foremost, almost all (98%) Canadians believe that ‘training more family



doctors' would be 'useful' (80% very/18% somewhat) in improving access to family doctors and specialists, while almost as many (96%) believe that 'improving coordination between family doctors and other specialists' would be 'useful' (66% very/31% somewhat) in improving access. An equal proportion (96%) is of the opinion that 'improving access of family doctors to advanced diagnostic tests for their patients, such as MRIs or CT scans, would be 'useful' (67% very/29% somewhat).

Most (95%) believe that 'increasing the use of teams of family doctors and other health care providers working together' would be 'useful' (58% strongly/37% somewhat) in increasing access for patients, while nine in ten (91%) think that something as simple as 'improving the scheduling of medical appointments' would be 'useful' (52% very/49% somewhat).

Finally, nine in ten (89%) suggest that 'establishing and managing lists of patients who are looking for a family doctor' would be 'useful' (51% very/38% somewhat) in increasing patient access to family doctors.

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between November 17<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association. For this survey, a national sample of 1,021 adults from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20 of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in Canada been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.*



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