

Response to Government of Nova Scotia's Decision to Not Cover Insulin Pumps

December 15, 2011 – It is unfortunate for the thousands of people with diabetes in the province who require insulin pumps and their families that the government has decided not to extend public funding for an insulin pump program. Studies have shown that people living with type 1 diabetes that use insulin pump therapy experience fewer complications and live longer, healthier lives. In fact, a better managed blood glucose regimen has been proven to reduce the number of heart, kidney and liver-related diabetes complications.

The Canadian Diabetes Association and JDRF recognize the value of fiscal responsibility when it comes to prudent health management; however, by investing in insulin pump therapy in the short-term, we can take steps to lessen or prevent diabetes complications from developing later in life also resulting in healthcare savings in the long-term. Findings from the Canadian Diabetes Association's recent report, *The Economic Benefit of Public Funding for Insulin Pumps in Nova Scotia*, shows an investment into a publicly funded insulin pump program could improve health outcomes for Nova Scotians with diabetes and save the province up to \$1.4 million by 2032. By remaining one of the only three provinces not committed to an insulin pump program, the government is making a decision that will impede its ability to deliver better health outcomes to the many Nova Scotians who currently cannot afford a pump.

We strongly urge the government of Nova Scotia to reconsider a strategic investment into an insulin pump program in the province, so that all Nova Scotians have equal opportunity to live long and healthy lives.

About the Canadian Diabetes Association

Across the country, the Canadian Diabetes Association is leading the fight against diabetes by helping people with diabetes live healthy lives while we work to find a cure. Our community-based network of supporters help us provide education and services to people living with diabetes, advocate for our cause, break ground towards a cure and translate research into practical applications. Please visit diabetes.ca, join us on [facebook.com/CanadianDiabetesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianDiabetesAssociation), follow us on Twitter @DiabetesAssoc, or call 1-800-BANTING (226-8464).

About JDRF Canada

JDRF is the leading global organization focused on T1D research. Driven by passionate, grassroots volunteers connected to children, adolescents, and adults with this disease, JDRF is the largest charitable supporter of T1D research. The goal of JDRF is to improve the lives of every person affected by T1D by accelerating progress on the most promising opportunities for curing, better treating, and preventing T1D. JDRF collaborates with a wide spectrum of partners who share this goal.

Since its founding in 1970, JDRF has internationally awarded more than \$1.5 billion to T1D research. More than 80 per cent of JDRF's expenditures directly support research and research-related education. Past JDRF research efforts have helped to significantly improve the care of people with this disease, and have expanded the critical scientific

understanding of T1D. JDRF will not rest until T1D is fully conquered. For more information, please visit www.jdrf.ca

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