

# RADIOLOGY IN CANADA

The Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) is the national voice for radiologists in Canada, dedicated to imaging excellence and advocating for the highest standard of patient care across the country. Representing over 2,400 members who provide vital medical imaging for millions of patients across the country, the CAR is recognized leader in education, research and innovation in radiology. Our members are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of care and patient safety in Canada.

## CAR Priorities

As we move closer to the Federal Election the CAR is asking for support for the following priorities. The ultimate goal is to enhance the quality of care for patients, reduce healthcare expenditures and improved medical outcomes for Canadians.

### Close the gap on medical imaging equipment

1. \$1.1 billion over the next five years, as part of the federal transfer to the provinces, to ensure imaging equipment meets the quality standards that patients deserve, inclusive of our seniors and indigenous communities.

### Take a leadership role in the implementation of AI

2. \$10.5 million over three years to establish federal frameworks to regulate the implementation of AI tools in radiology and healthcare.

### Ensure the Appropriateness of Imaging Referrals

3. \$9 million over three years to fund projects to implement clinical decision support tools for imaging referrals.

## Saving lives of Canadian women

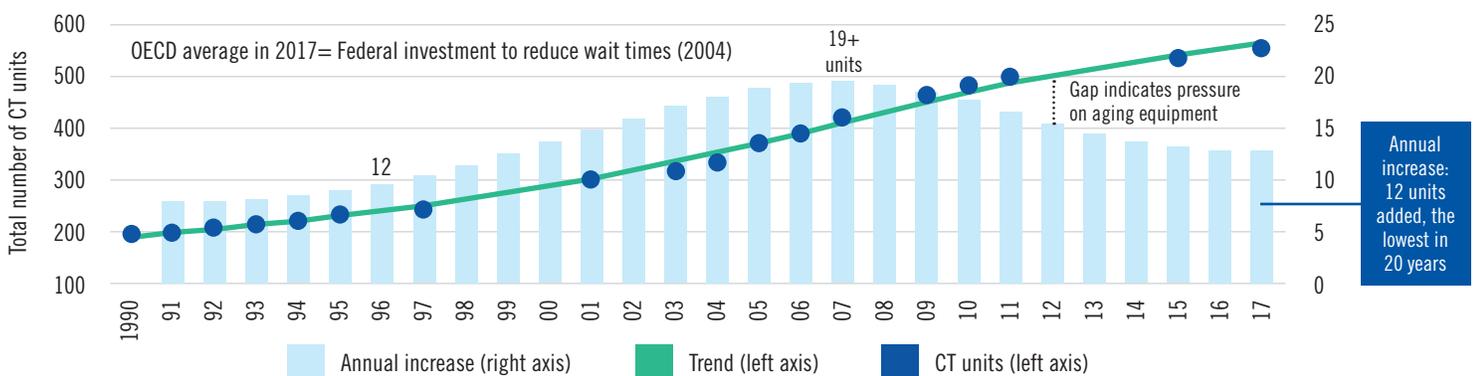
4. Revise the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Care Breast Imaging Guidelines, lowering the breast imaging screening age to 40 years old,

Imaging is vital to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions. Technological advancements such as telemedicine and AI in radiology can also help to care for underserved communities including our seniors and indigenous who otherwise would not have access to medical imaging and can help put Canada on the forefront of advanced medical research.

The CAR is urging the federal government and political parties to commit to make an investment in medical imaging equipment to ensure that Canada is able to meet the demand for medical imaging. With the growth of the aging population, demand is outpacing supply. This not only impedes access to quality patient care but also results in billion-dollar losses in productivity, which affect the overall economy (GDP).

## Stagnant Growth Trend in CT Units

CT Machines, total units and annual increase in units, 1990-2017 *Source: Conference Board, CADTH and CIHI*



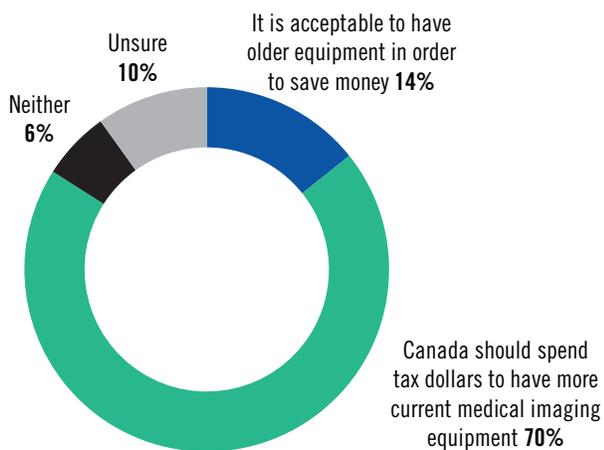
## Canadians Support a Investment in Radiology

A public opinion poll conducted by **Nanos Research** in 2018 demonstrates Canadians support a greater investment in radiology. The results revealed:

- a majority of Canadians have received a health care treatment that included a radiologist or have a family member who has received a healthcare treatment that included a radiologist.
- over two in three Canadians believe that Canada should spend tax dollars to have more current medical imaging equipment.
- 83% of Canadians would support research in the use of AI in radiology in Canada. A modest investment from the government in this type of research would improve patient outcomes and make medical imaging more accessible.

### Replacing Older Equipment

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, June 26th to 28th, 2018, n=1000, accurate 3.1 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.



Subgroups	Canada should spend tax dollars to have more current medical imaging equipment
Atlantic	72.8%
Quebec	72.1%
Ontario	69.7%
Prairies	68.9%
British Columbia	65.2%

## The Need for DI Equipment Now

Preliminary research from the **Conference Board of Canada** demonstrates that a greater investment in medical imaging equipment will improve quality care for patients, while helping government to realize significant cost-savings in healthcare.

In 2017 at current growth trends in the number of CT and MRI machines, imaging equipment will be significantly undersupplied to address increased demand for medical imaging diagnostics.

By 2040, CT and MRI machines will be undersupplied by 13% and 24%, respectively, relative to patient demand.

Many patients require medical imaging diagnostics at the outset of their experience with the medical system. Receiving diagnoses earlier reduces total wait times and can improve health outcomes. Patients waiting longer than recommended, who are forced to stop working, contribute less to their regional economies.

### Key Findings

1. In 2017 wait times cost the Canadian economy \$3.54bn in lost productivity, not including \$430 million in lost government revenues.
2. In 2017 Canadian imaging equipment is undersupplied.
3. Excessive wait times impact millions of Canadians.
4. Patients suffer financially because of wait times.
5. National wait times create billions in lost productivity.
6. CT and MRI services are needed by millions of Canadians, however, are constrained by health system limits.
7. Some Canadians are forced temporarily out of work while waiting for treatment.
8. Excessive wait times for CT and MRI diagnostics lead to 3.4 million lost working hours across 380,260 Canadians.

Source: Conference Board of Canada