Canadian Orthopaedic Association Statement on Budget 2026 *Masters of our Destiny*

The Canadian Orthopaedic Association (COA) welcomes several measures announced in Budget 2026 that recognize the importance of strengthening community-based health care, supporting caregivers and investing in the health and well-being of Canadians.

In particular, COA is encouraged by the federal government's commitment to the new Productivity Mega Deduction, which will allow physician-owned practices and clinics to more quickly recover the cost of eligible investments in equipment, technology and other business assets. By supporting investment in community-based care settings, this measure has the potential to improve patient access while helping reduce pressure on hospitals and emergency departments.

While this measure is framed as a tax initiative, its importance extends far beyond taxation. Community-based care relies on ongoing investment in clinics, technology, staffing and other resources that support fracture management, musculoskeletal assessment, post-operative follow-up and coordinated rehabilitation. Supporting investment in these settings strengthens health system capacity.

The COA also welcomes the federal government's decision to make the Canada Caregiver Credit fully refundable. Family caregivers play an essential role in supporting many Canadians living with musculoskeletal conditions, from children with complex orthopaedic needs to older adults recovering from fractures and individuals undergoing joint replacement surgery. Recognizing and supporting caregivers helps improve patient outcomes and sustain the broader continuum of care.

COA further applauds investments in Indigenous health, women's health research and initiatives that recognize the close relationship between housing, social supports and health outcomes.

Significant challenges remain, as Canada continues to face growing demand for musculoskeletal care, lengthy waits for orthopaedic assessment and surgery, workforce shortages in many regions and ongoing constraints on operating room capacity. While targeted investments can help improve care delivery, they must be accompanied by sustainable, long-term health funding and coordinated strategies that expand system capacity.

The COA looks forward to working with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to ensure Canadians have timely access to high-quality musculoskeletal and surgical care.

R. Litchfield
President
Canadian Orthopaedic Association

O. Cheng
Advocacy Council Chair
Canadian Orthopaedic Association