

# Obesity's Impact on Canada's Economy and Workforce

The cost of inaction in treating obesity in Canada has surpassed **\$27 billion** – 20% higher than previous estimates.<sup>i</sup>

## OBESITY IS DRIVEN BY POWERFUL UNDERLYING BIOLOGY, NOT BY CHOICE.<sup>ii</sup>



**1 in 3** Canadians live with obesity, approximately<sup>iii</sup>



**200** weight-related health conditions associated with obesity<sup>ii</sup>



**54%** have faced stigma from coworkers<sup>iv</sup>



**64%** have experienced weight bias from a healthcare professional<sup>iv</sup>

## DIRECT COSTS TO CANADA'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM<sup>i</sup>

**\$5.9 billion** incremental annual cost to Canada's healthcare system



**\$572** annual medical costs per person with obesity



**19M** more physician visits among other care and support needs



**10,000+** seniors entering long-term care due to obesity-related diseases

## INDIRECT ECONOMIC COSTS<sup>i</sup>

Workplace productivity costs surpassed **\$21 billion**, and are associated with:



**\$6.8B**

### Presenteeism

Higher health-related presenteeism associated with obesity



**\$3.8B**

### Reduced Personal Income

People with obesity earn less than those with healthy weight



**\$268M**

### Disability

Higher pension cost associated with obesity-related disability



**\$2.0B**

### Obesity-Attributed Early Mortality

Premature deaths occurs annually



**\$8.2B**

### Reduced Workforce Participation

Lost income due to reduced work force participation

**Total Cost \$682M**

Absenteeism

**\$219M**

Injuries

**\$463M**

Chronic Conditions

## GENDER DISPARITIES<sup>i</sup>

Obesity has a greater impact on women's salaries and their ability to work – exacerbating other economic gender disparities.



Women with obesity earned **4%** less annually than healthy-weight women



Obesity reduces women's employment rates by **5.3%**, compared to only **0.3%** for men

## URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED



Investing in effective obesity treatment and prevention strategies is not only the right thing to do for Canadians living with the disease, but crucial for the economic well-being of Canada.

<sup>i</sup> Modeling the Cost of Inaction in Treating Obesity in Canada. Obesity Canada. 2024. <sup>ii</sup> Understanding obesity. Obesity Canada. Available at: <https://obesitycanada.ca/understanding-obesity/>. Accessed August 1, 2024. <sup>iii</sup> An overview of weight and height measurements on World Obesity Day. Stats Canada. 2024. <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/o/en/plus/5742-overview-weight-and-height-measurements-world-obesity-day>. Accessed October 15, 2024. <sup>iv</sup> Weight Bias Reporting. Obesity Canada. Available at <https://obesitycanada.ca/resources/report-weight-bias/>. Accessed August 1, 2024.

