



## Government put \$300 million into healthy living and chronic disease

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KEVIN NEWMAN: Now a "Global National" exclusive. The federal government is about to announce it's pumping a significant amount of money into prevention and treatment of chronic diseases, including **cancer**. The announcement tomorrow comes after six years of talking and negotiating. Hannah Boudreau has the details for you tonight. Hannah?

HANNAH BOUDREAU (Reporter): Kevin, tomorrow the government will announce it will invest \$300 million over five years for what it's calling an integrated strategy for healthy living and chronic disease. Now it's a multifaceted approach, and it's to keep Canadians healthy. But one of the main focuses will be on cancer, which is one of the leading killers in Canada. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, over the next 30 years, 6 million Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer, costing the health care system \$176 billion dollars. So the Liberals are investing \$59.5 million to create the government's first strategy on cancer control in an effort to curb rising cancer rates. But this \$59.5 million is a far cry from the \$260 million that the Canadian Cancer Society and other groups say is needed to implement an effective cancer strategy. A strategy it says might make a significant reduction in cancer rates. On the cancer society's website, it claims a \$260 million strategy may prevent over 1.2 million Canadians from developing cancer over the next 30 years, and save more than \$39 billion in direct health care costs. The opposition says anything less than \$260 million simply won't cut it.

STEVE FLETCHER (Conservative MP): It means that more people will die from cancer. It means that there will be a lot more suffering in Canada than there needs to be.

BOUDREAU: And he also says it's cancer groups, and not the government, who should lead the fight against the disease. As we said, this is an integrated policy, so here's what else the government is spending money on. \$56 million will be spent on a healthy living strategy, \$34.5 on chronic disease prevention, and \$36.5 million for enhanced surveillance for chronic disease. Then the rest of the \$172.9 million will be divided up among a cardiovascular action plan, mental health information, and strategies for both diabetes and cancer. So, Kevin, they've set aside the cash, but we still won't know exactly how that money will be spent for at least another year because the government still has to study exactly how they want to spend it. So why the big rush to make the announcement tomorrow? Well it just so happens that cancer experts from around the world will be in Vancouver this weekend for the first international cancer control congress. Kevin?

NEWMAN: All right. Suddenly, it makes sense. Thanks very much. Appreciate it, Hannah.