



## Ministerial Statement

### The University of Ottawa Heart Institute – 40th Anniversary (May 11th, 2016)

It gives me great pleasure to extend my congratulations to you as you mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute at this year's Founder's Breakfast. The Heart Institute's commitment to improving cardiovascular health in Canada as well as its contribution to research in this area is outstanding.

As you know, heart disease and stroke affects approximately 1.6 million Canadians and continues to be a leading cause of death in this country. The life-saving research being undertaken at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute is critical to our effort to improve the heart health of Canadians.

Your researchers are using innovative methods to better understand, treat and prevent heart disease. Not only is the Institute helping to address the risk factors for cardiovascular disease by providing clinical care, but they are also investigating ways to save lives of those living with irregular heart rhythms, investigating why people living with HIV are at greater risk for heart attacks, and conducting studies to understand the biology of obesity, to name a few research initiatives.

In addition, the Heart Institute has also been integral in raising awareness of heart disease in women through specifically targeted research and the recently launched Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre. I am also happy to say that the Public Health Agency of Canada has provided \$1.6 million to implement The Ottawa Model in Respiratory and Diabetes Education Clinics. Thanks to the Heart Institute, this program enhanced the capacity of health care professionals to provide smoking cessation services across Ontario, British Columbia and New Brunswick.

These are just some examples of the promising work being undertaken at the Heart Institute – work that saves lives and brings hope to patients and their families. The Government of Canada is proud to support you.

In closing, thank you to all members of the Heart Institute for your commitment to Canadians and the long-term health of this country.

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Health