NEWS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 Months After IVF Promise, Fertility Specialists Say Patients Cannot Keep Waiting

Following Budget 2026, CFAS calls for a clear implementation timeline for the federal IVF program promised in April 2025

OTTAWA, November 5, 2026. Eighteen months after the federal government's April 2025 election commitment to support in vitro fertilization (IVF), the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) is calling for a clear timeline to turn that promise into accessible care. Budget 2026 has not identified a dedicated IVF program.

"We recognize that building a national program takes time, and we remain encouraged by the government's commitment," said Dr. Mohamed Bedaiwy, President of CFAS. "But fertility care is uniquely time-sensitive. For patients, an additional year can change their treatment options and chances of success. We are ready to bring Canada's fertility specialists to the table to help turn this promise into care."

The federal government's 2025 election platform proposed support of up to $20,000 for a standard IVF cycle. Infertility affects one in six people, while a single IVF cycle can cost $10,000 to $20,000. Public coverage differs significantly across provinces and territories, leaving many patients to shoulder the cost themselves. Canada's total fertility rate reached a record low of 1.25 children per woman in 2024, among the lowest in the world.

CFAS is calling for a clear implementation timeline and urgent collaboration with provinces and territories. Speed matters not only for people undergoing IVF but also for patients who need fertility preservation before medical treatment, including some cancer therapies. These are time-sensitive health decisions, not expenses families can always defer.

"Fertility care is health care, and Canadians deserve the opportunity to build a family," said Emily McIntosh, Executive Director of CFAS. "Governments do not have to start from scratch. CFAS brings together clinical expertise and evidence from Canada and around the world to help design programs that are effective, safe and accountable. National treatment outcome data are essential to understanding what works and protecting patients. We stand ready to work with governments to deliver care without further delay."

Behind these statistics are Canadians navigating deeply personal decisions about building a family. Patients with questions about fertility or treatment options can speak with their healthcare provider or contact CFAS. Those who wish to share their experiences, connect with others facing similar challenges or advocate for improved access can reach out to patient advocacy organizations such as Fertility Matters Canada. CFAS works with patients, clinicians, researchers and governments to advance fertility care through clinical expertise and international best practices.

About the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society

The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) is a national, multidisciplinary non-profit representing more than 900 reproductive specialists, scientists and allied professionals. CFAS advances fertility care through clinical evidence, research, professional guidance and international best practices. Learn more at cfas.ca.

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Media contact

Emily McIntosh, Executive Director, Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society

705-715-5018 · emily.mcintosh@cfas.ca