

Working to improve home care

Home care and community services are becoming an integral part of Canada's health care system. Home care and community services improve seniors' quality of life by preventing or delaying hospitalization, encouraging social integration, adjusting to changing health-care needs and providing support for caregivers.

Working with its partners, the Liberal government is committed to helping Canadians respond to the expanding needs for home care and community care.

Following a recommendation by the National Forum on Health, the government created the Health Transition Fund. The purpose of this fund is to pilot, evaluate and generate evidence on new ways of organizing the delivery of health services in four priority areas: home care, pharmacare, primary care reform, integrated service delivery. The fund provides \$30 million for national initiatives and \$120 million for provincially and territorially-sponsored projects, based on population size.

In July, the Liberal government announced that the fund would provide funding for two pilot projects for home care; \$2.9 million will be allocated over

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Julian Reed

two years for these projects.

First, a Cost-Effectiveness of Home Care Services in Canada project will examine the cost-effectiveness of home care as an alternative to acute care offered in hospitals and care in long-term care facilities.

Second, the First Nations and Inuit Home Care project will evaluate, in five pilot sites, certain aspects of a home-care program in First Nations and Inuit communities.

Such innovative projects are essential for modernizing Canada's health care system. The Liberal government wants Canada to have a modern and flexible system that gives our seniors access to the care they need to live in their communities with dignity and independence.

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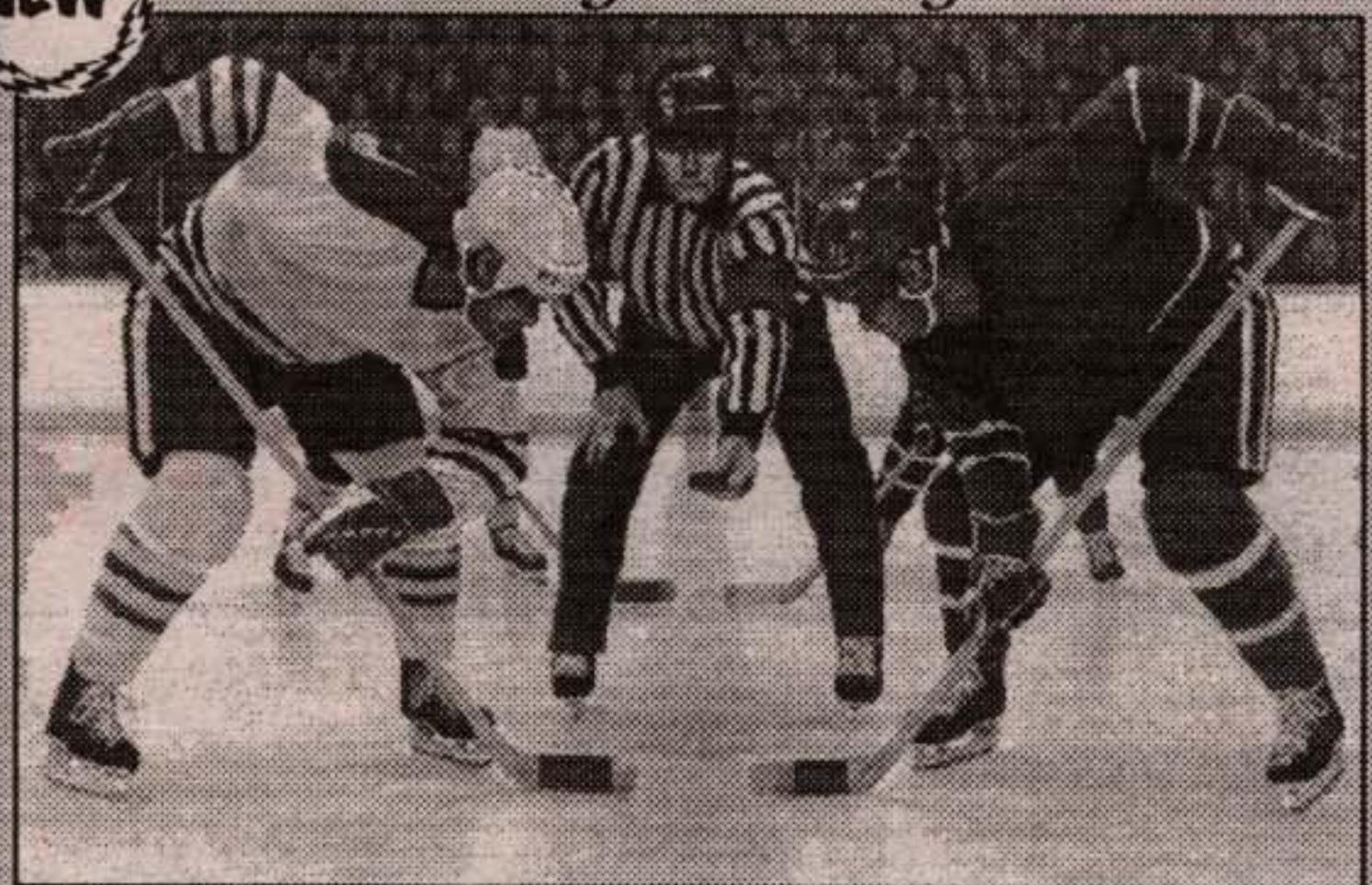


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