



BRIDGING THE GAP

Sustaining Excellence and Innovation in Prostate Cancer Care in Canada

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canada has achieved one of the most comprehensive and high-performing prostate cancer care systems globally, with strong infrastructure for early detection, access to advanced diagnostics, and a wide range of treatment options. National and provincial frameworks ensure equitable service delivery, and research innovation continues to drive improvements in outcomes. However, challenges remain in addressing regional variations, improving survivorship quality of life, and enhancing culturally sensitive care for Indigenous and underserved populations.

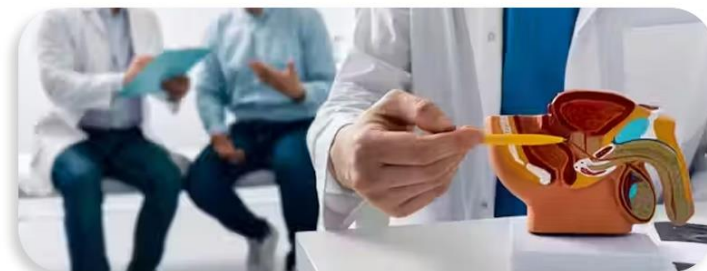
This policy brief examines Canada's **Level 5 – Advanced** prostate cancer maturity and outlines strategies to maintain excellence while addressing remaining disparities.

INTRODUCTION

Leveraging a Mature System to Close Remaining Gaps

Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among Canadian men, yet survival rates are among the highest worldwide thanks to early detection, robust treatment pathways, and comprehensive survivorship programs. The Canadian healthcare system, through both federal leadership and provincial implementation, has invested heavily in cancer control plans, resulting in well-coordinated services.

With a **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity rating, Canada's challenge is no longer foundational development but continuous improvement—focusing on health equity, integration of precision medicine, and long-term survivorship outcomes.



Canada Ranks at Level 5 – Advanced Prostate Cancer Maturity Framework



PROSTATE CANCER IN CANADA

Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	Risk-based screening and informed decision-making for PSA testing are integrated into primary care, with rapid access to diagnostics when indicated.	High public awareness and strong primary care network.	Continue refining risk stratification tools, and expand targeted outreach to underserved and rural communities.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Widely available in public healthcare; genomic testing supports personalized treatment decisions.	Integration of precision oncology into standard care.	Enhance real-time data sharing across provinces to optimize biomarker-driven treatment pathways.
Treatment Access	Comprehensive access to surgery, radiotherapy (including advanced modalities like SBRT), systemic therapies, and clinical trials across provinces.	Universal healthcare coverage with strong cancer center networks.	Reduce interprovincial wait-time variability and ensure access parity for remote and northern populations.
Clinical Guidelines	Nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines through the Canadian Urological Association and Cancer Care organizations.	High adherence rates among providers.	Update guidelines to integrate emerging treatments faster and improve patient engagement in care planning.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Well-developed palliative care and survivorship programs embedded in cancer centers.	Multidisciplinary care models ensure continuity from diagnosis to survivorship.	Strengthen psychosocial and rehabilitation services, with specific programs for Indigenous and culturally diverse communities.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Canada's prostate cancer system is a model of advanced maturity, demonstrating high survival rates, equitable access, and strong integration of research and clinical practice. The key to sustaining this success lies in closing gaps for underserved groups, ensuring innovation adoption is uniform nationwide, and enhancing survivorship quality of life.



KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1 Equity in Access:** Address regional disparities in wait times and service availability, particularly for rural and northern communities.
- 2 Precision Medicine Expansion:** Ensure timely adoption of new biomarkers and targeted therapies across all provinces.
- 3 Strengthen Survivorship Programs:** Expand long-term psychosocial, sexual health, and rehabilitation services.
- 4 Enhance Indigenous Health Strategies:** Collaborate with Indigenous leaders to provide culturally safe care & improve screening participation.
- 5 Data-Driven Improvement:** Use pan-Canadian cancer registries to track outcomes and guide continuous quality improvement.

CONCLUSION

With **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity, Canada is in a position to lead global best practices in prostate cancer care. While survival rates are excellent, the challenge now is to ensure equity and sustainability—making certain that every Canadian man benefits from the same high standard of care regardless of geography, income, or background. By focusing on targeted outreach, uniform innovation adoption, and holistic survivorship support, Canada can continue to push the boundaries of excellence in prostate cancer outcomes and patient experience.