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## **News Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

## **MEDEC welcomes the Wynne Government's formation of the Ontario Health Innovation Council (OHIC)**

**15 Ontario leaders in the health innovation community to be appointed to OHIC, including two MEDEC Board members**

Toronto (November 19, 2013) – MEDEC, the national association representing Canada's Medical Technology Companies, congratulates the Government of Ontario on today's announcement creating the Ontario Health Innovation Council (OHIC).

“With the announcement of this council, the Wynne Government has recognized that medical technology companies are key partners in delivering better patient care, while creating new jobs and contributing to a more sustainable healthcare system,” said Brian Lewis, President and CEO of MEDEC. “Working together with all of our partners in the health care system, we can accomplish tremendous improvements in the lives of Ontarians from both a health care and an economic development perspective.”

As an initiative led by the Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Hon. Reza Moridi, Minister of Research and Innovation, OHIC will include pending appointments of two MEDEC members on its advisory board – Peter Robertson, Vice-President and General Manager of GE Healthcare Canada (Chair of MEDEC) and Neil Fraser, CEO of Medtronic of Canada (MEDEC board member).

“We believe that this is a huge step in the right direction as the recommendations coming out of this group will ultimately aim to improve care for Ontario patients and at the same time grow the economy,” said Peter Robertson. “This is an incredible opportunity for us to work together with clinical partners, academia and Government to provide a framework on how the system can better adopt innovative solutions.”

Neil Fraser added that “When we embrace innovation as collaborative partners we increase the likelihood that Ontarians can gain more timely access to the best medical technologies available. The true promise of innovation lies in simultaneously increasing the quality of patient care while lowering the total cost of each patient's journey through the healthcare system. We are pleased the government is taking the leadership necessary to make progress in health innovation for the benefit of all Ontarians.”

## **About OHIC**

OHIC's mandate is "to consider how Ontario can: 1) Facilitate technological innovations that promote health and well-being; improve access to health and health services; and deliver effective, efficient, quality care. 2) Strategically find ways to use the purchasing power of the province and broader public sector to accelerate the growth of the health technology sector; and 3) Expand the adoption of innovative new technologies more broadly across the health care sector (e.g., including hospitals, but also in-home and long-term care settings)."

From the 2013 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review document (Fall Economic Statement):

"The government is establishing the Ontario Health Innovation Council (OHIC) to bring together experts in the health care, research, business and not-for-profit sector along with patient groups to identify opportunities for practical, evidence-based strategies that will further enhance the quality of health care at a lower cost to the system while growing Ontario's economy through the cultivation of highly skilled jobs. OHIC will pursue initiatives that would put Ontario on a path to becoming a world leader in health care advancements and create a dynamic business environment that raises Ontario's capacity for innovation and commercialization."

## **About MEDEC**

MEDEC is the national association representing the medical technology industry in Canada. Our members are committed to providing safe and innovative medical technologies that enhance the quality of patient care, improve patient access to health care, and help enable the sustainability of our publically-funded health care system.

The medical technology industry in Canada employs over 35,000 Canadians in approximately 1,500 facilities, and has sales of over \$7 billion per annum. We are committed to supporting the growth of a strong and vibrant medical technology industry that contributes to Canada's innovation economy.

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