

### Problem statement:

The problem statement is the long wait times for patients to see a doctor, both in Canada and globally, which can exceed a month and potentially worsen medical issues, stemming from inefficient appointment scheduling processes that lead to wasted appointment slots.

### Innovation:

The innovation of SickHelp.ca lies in its potential to significantly reduce patient wait times for medical appointments by creating a centralized platform where clinics can list available slots and patients can proactively find and book appointments, or join waiting lists. This moves beyond traditional booking methods and leverages technology to optimize scheduling and connect patients with available care more efficiently, potentially addressing a widespread issue in healthcare systems globally.

## Impact:

By providing a centralized platform for clinics to list available appointments and patients to find them, it aims to improve access to healthcare, reduce appointment waste, and ultimately ensure patients receive timely medical attention for their concerns.

The platform's focus on data protection and clinic partnerships further strengthens its potential for widespread adoption and positive impact on healthcare systems.

# Scaling:

SickHelp.ca demonstrates high scalability potential. Its core model of a centralized appointment portal addressing long wait times is applicable globally, given similar healthcare challenges in many countries.

The low-fee structure and digital nature of the platform facilitate easy replication and expansion. Leveraging online marketing channels further supports reaching a broad user base.

### **Policies**

This innovation policy centers on improving access to healthcare by reducing patient wait times for doctor appointments. It leverages a digital portal (SickHelp.ca) to connect patients with available doctors, aiming for global replication. Key strategies include using online marketing and maintaining a low fee for sustainability. The policy emphasizes data privacy and building clinic partnerships to optimize appointment scheduling and minimize wasted slots, aligning with the principle of leaving no one behind in healthcare access.

#### Lessons:

The key lessons learned from SickHelp.ca's development are the importance of addressing long wait times for healthcare access and prioritizing patient privacy through secure technology. The platform's design emphasizes knowledge sharing and aims to empower both patients and clinics by providing a centralized resource and a waiting list feature. The feedback received highlighted the critical need for robust data protection measures, which will be implemented using secure socket layers and encryption.

