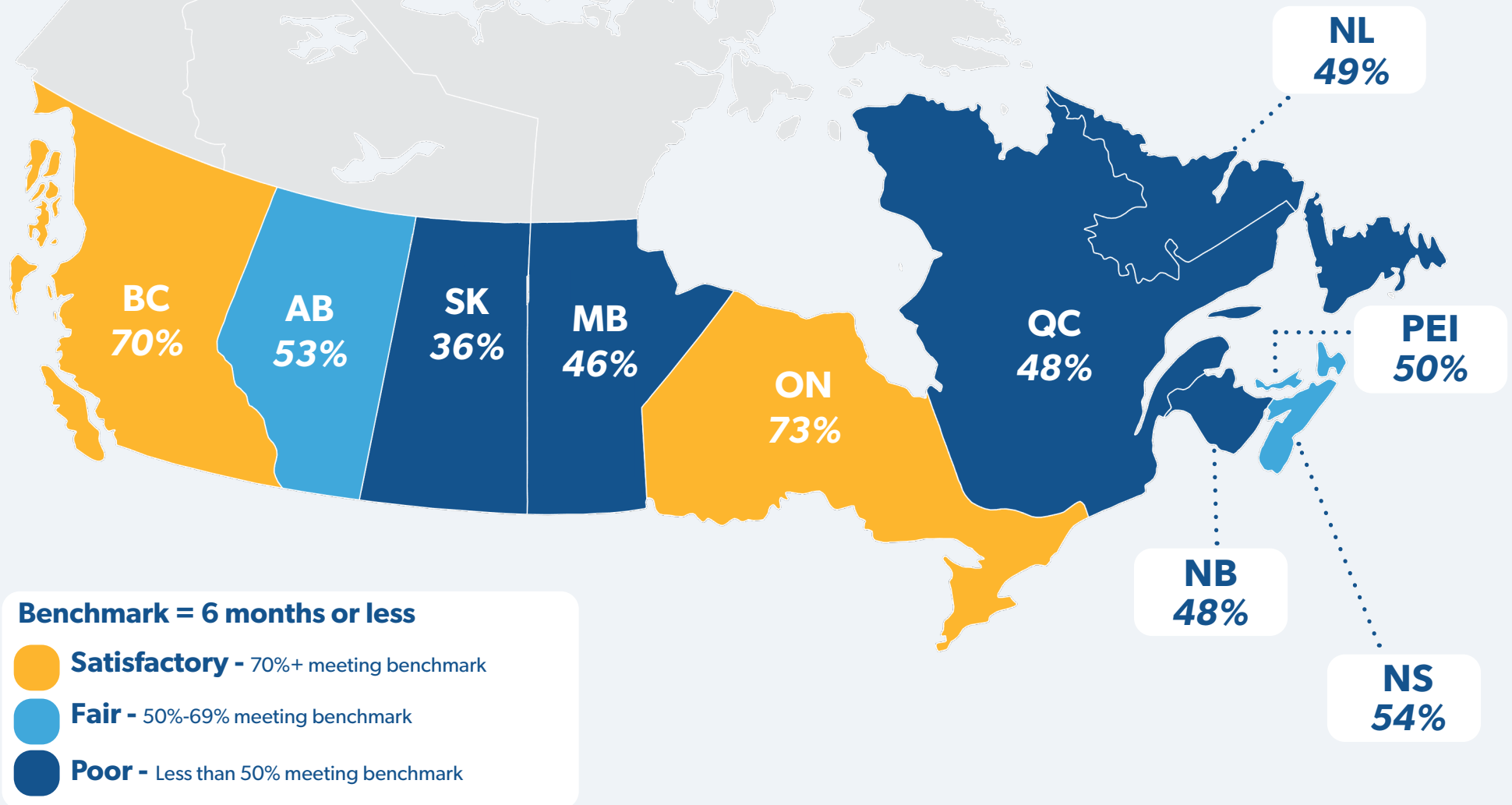


WHY CARE CAN'T WAIT

38% of Canadians waited longer than the benchmark for joint replacements.* Thousands of Canadians are living in pain. It's time for innovative solutions to end the wait.



In June 2021, the Arthritis Society released The Wait outlining solutions. As highlighted below, progress has been made but more work is urgently needed.

1.

Make Meaningful Investments in Models of Care



- **Single Entry Triage** - Investments in centralized electronic referral systems to triage patients for surgery to see a specialist in the shortest time.
- **Team-Based Models** - Several provinces have implemented or are piloting various team-based models of care ranging from Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) models, utilizing Physician Assistants for orthopedic surgery, and Surgical Patient Optimization Collaborative (SPOC).
- **Same-Day Surgeries** - More than 7300 day surgeries were performed in 2022/21, representing a four-fold increase from the previous year, showcasing how many provinces are looking at innovative ways to reduce length of stay, such as the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Program (ERAS).

2.

Surgery-Focused Data Initiatives



- Surgeons across British Columbia are calling for standardized data counts on procedures not booked for a more realistic picture of how many people are waiting for surgery.
- Saskatchewan and Manitoba are developing online interactive dashboards that list relevant surgeons and their estimated wait times.

3.

Support More Digital Technologies



- Provinces are expanding supports for virtual health visits, remote patient monitoring, clinical digital messaging, online treatment and educational resources.
- **Emovi Inc** has introduced a game-changing technology, the KneeKG system, a portable device allowing for dynamic knee motion assessments for patients with impaired movement functions, providing accurate, reliable and real-time data complementing x-rays and MRIs.

4.

Expand Access to Joint Health Management Programs



- The GLA:D program, provides education and exercise for individuals with hip and knee osteoarthritis and has been implemented across Canada with 333 sites in nine provinces.
- More than half of patients have reported a clinical meaningful change in their function and quality of life and approximately 70 per cent showed significant improvement in their function.

5.

Significant Targeted Investments Including Through the Canada Health Transfer



- The federal government proposed \$2 billion in March 2022 to continue to address immediate pressures including backlogs in surgeries and procedures.
- This will build on the \$4 billion in support provided in 2020-21 as provinces and territories work towards eliminating the backlogs in surgeries and procedures.