

9 IN 10 CANADIANS SUPPORT UNIVERSAL PHARMACARE

IMPORTANCE OF PHARMACARE

- In 2020, 8.5 million Canadians could not fill a prescription or had to ration their medications to extend their supply ¹
- 1 in 5 Canadians (17%) do not have <u>any</u> prescription medication coverage²
- Canada is the only high-income country with universal healthcare that does not include outpatient medication coverage³
- Only 38% of private plans cover 100% of medication cost, leaving families to pick up the tab⁴

BENEFITS OF A SINGLE-PAYER APPROACH

- Economies of scale: a single-payer system can use its bargaining power to negotiate better prices and reduce costs of medications
 - Our per capita drug spending is the fourth highest in the world because prices are negotiated by multiple payers⁵
 - Australia reduced their spending on Hepatitis C medications by 80% by negotiating as a single-payer, saving them AUS \$6 billion over 5 years⁶
 - The Australian single-payer system is one of the main reasons why their prices for brand-name drugs are 29% lower than in Canada⁷
- Administrative efficiency: health care providers can spend more time providing care and less time figuring out which insurance companies will cover what
 - A single-payer system streamlines the process and avoids unnecessary delays in care
- Fair for all: many Canadians already face barriers to accessing health care, including newcomers, those with limited literacy skills, and unhoused people
 - Having guaranteed access to their medications with no strings attached will improve access and health outcomes





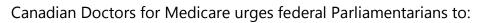
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PITFALLS OF A FILL-THE-GAPS APPROACH

- Adds to the already complex patchwork of drug coverage in Canada, increasing administrative costs and reducing efficiency
- Easier to erode over time through neglect
 - Ex. If the program is based on income and isn't tied to inflation, the number of eligible Canadians would decrease over time despite increasing cost of living
 - Ex. If workers are laid off, they lose their drug coverage

OUR PRESCRIPTION FOR PHARMACARE

Pharmacare must be universal, comprehensive, accessible, portable, and public



- 1) Commit to supporting the passage of a Pharmacare Act by the end of 2023
- 2) Commit to creating a preliminary national formulary for all essential medications before the end of 2025
- 3) Guarantee that national pharmacare will include universal, first-dollar coverage without copays

¹https://angusreid.org/pharmacare-2020/

²https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221102/dq221102a-eng.htm

³<u>https://data.oecd.org/healthres/pharmaceutical-spending.htm</u>

⁴<u>https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/public-engagement/external-advisory-</u>

bodies/implementation-national-pharmacare/final-report.html#6.1

⁵<u>https://data.oecd.org/healthres/pharmaceutical-spending.htm</u>

⁶https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1813728

⁷https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/services/annual-reports/annual-report-2021.html#a6