

February 13, 2020

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
Government of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Morneau,

We are a diverse coalition of 150 national and provincial organizations representing health care providers, non-profit organizations, unions, workers, business, seniors and patients from coast to coast to coast. In November 2019, over 150 of our organizations signed a joint [Pharmacare Now Statement](#) calling on all parties to work together to implement universal, public pharmacare within this government's mandate. We are now calling on your government to make the financial commitments that are needed in this year's budget to make this program a reality.

In the federal budget for 2019, the government provided \$35 million over four years to establish a Canadian Drug Agency Transition Office. It also provided \$1 billion over two years (starting in 2022–23) to develop a national strategy for high-cost drugs for rare diseases, with up to \$500 million per year ongoing.

As laid out in the report of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, an additional \$3.5 billion is needed by 2022 to roll out the first stage of universal, public pharmacare. This stage would provide access to a national formulary of essential medicines by January 2022. Incremental increases in annual spending would subsequently be required to roll out a full, comprehensive formulary by January 2027.

The majority of Canadians voted for pharmacare in the 2019 election. We are counting on your government to fulfill its promise to Canadians by implementing the Advisory Council's recommendations. Universal, public pharmacare would improve the health of our population and would save Canadians billions of dollars every year. Canada can't afford not to adopt this program.

In this year's budget, we hope to see the necessary minimum commitment of \$3.5 billion in total for pharmacare between 2020 and 2022, as well as maintained funding for a rare diseases strategy. Anything less would put us behind schedule for implementing this essential new program.

We thank your government for its commitment to universal pharmacare. Only single-payer, public pharmacare will ensure everyone in Canada can access the medications they need.

Regards,

The Pharmacare Now Coalition

Cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health
The Honourable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors
The Honourable Matt Jeneroux, Conservative Party Health Critic
The Honourable Luc Thériault, Bloc Québécois Health Critic
The Honourable Don Davies, NDP Health Critic
Mr. Greg Malone, Green Party Health Critic

Encl: List of Signatories
Pharmacare Now Statement

List of Signatories

National Organizations:

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights / Action Canada pour la santé et les droits sexuels

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians / Alliance pour l'égalité des personnes aveugles du Canada

BloodWatch.org

Broadbent Institute / Institute Broadbent

Canada Without Poverty / Canada Sans Pauvreté

Canada's Building Trades Unions / Syndicats des métiers de la construction du Canada

Canadian AIDS Society / La Société canadienne du sida

Canadian Association for Retired Persons

Canadian Association of Community Health Centres / Association canadienne des centres de santé communautaire

Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians / Association Canadienne des Médecins d'Urgence

Canadian Association of Retired Teachers / Association des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités du Canada (ACER-CART)

Canadian Association of Social Workers / Association canadienne des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux

Canadian Association of University Teachers / Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives / Centre canadien de politiques alternatives

Canadian Doctors for Medicare / Médecins canadiens pour le régime public

Canadian Federation of Medical Students / Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes en médecine du Canada

Canadian Federation of Musicians / Fédération canadienne des musiciens

Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions / Fédération canadienne des syndicats d'infirmières et d'infirmiers

Canadian Federation of Students / Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants

Canadian Health Coalition / Coalition canadienne de la santé

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network / Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida

Canadian Labour Congress / Congrès du travail du Canada

Canadian Medical Association / Association Médicale Canadienne

Canadian Nurses Association / Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada

Canadian Nursing Students' Association / Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada

Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union / Le Syndicat canadien des employées et employés professionnels et de bureau

Canadians for Tax Fairness / Canadiens pour une fiscalité équitable

CATIE

Child Care Now (Canada's Child Care Advocacy Association) / Un Enfant, Une Place (Association canadienne pour la promotion des services de garde)

Children's Healthcare Canada

Citizens for Public Justice / Citoyens pour une politique juste

College of Family Physicians of Canada / Collège des médecins de famille du Canada

Community Food Centres Canada / Centres communautaires d'alimentation du Canada

Congress of Union Retirees of Canada / Association des syndicalistes à la retraite du Canada

Council of Canadians / Conseil des canadiens

Council of Canadians with Disabilities / Conseil des Canadiens avec déficiences

CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) / SCFP (Syndicat canadien de la fonction publique)

DisAbled Women's Network of Canada / Réseau d'action des femmes handicapées du Canada

Faces of Pharmacare / Visages de l'assurance-médicaments

Global Foundation For Social Harmony and Sustainable Development

Health Providers Against Poverty / Fournisseurs de Soins de Santé Contre la Pauvreté

Heart & Stroke / Cœur + AVC

Inter Pares

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD) / Coalition interagence sida et développement (CISD)

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Motion Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada (IATSE) / Alliance internationale des employés de scène, de théâtre et de cinéma des États-Unis, de ses Territoires et du Canada (AIEST)

Leadnow

Millennial Womxn in Policy

National Association of Federal Retirees /
Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

National Association of Women and the Law / Association nationale Femmes et Droit

National Council of Women of Canada / Conseil National des femmes du Canada

National Farmers Union / Union Nationale des Fermiers
National Organization of Retired Postal Workers / Organisation nationale des travailleuses et travailleurs retraités des postes
National Pensioners Federation / Fédération Nationale de Retraités
National Union of Public and General Employees / Syndicat national des employées et employés généraux et du secteur public
Pediatric Chairs of Canada
Public Service Alliance of Canada / Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada
Realize / Réalise
RTOERO (formerly 'Retired Teachers of Ontario / Enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'OntarioM)
SEIU Healthcare
Society of Rural Physicians of Canada/Société de la médecine rurale du Canada
T1International
Unifor
United Church of Canada / Église Unie du Canada
United Food and Commercial Workers / Travailleurs et travailleuses unis de l'alimentation et du commerce
United Steelworkers / Syndicat des Métallos
Upstream: Institute for a Healthy Society
Women's Shelters Canada / Hébergement femmes Canada

Provincial and Territorial Organizations:

L'Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux
AccessBC
AIDS Committee Newfoundland & Labrador
Alberta Community Council on HIV
Alberta Council on Aging
Alberta Federation of Union Retirees
Alberta Society for the Promotion of Sexual Health / Société pour la Promotion de la Santé Sexuelle - Alberta
Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
Alternatives North

ARCH Disability Law Centre
Association of BC College Pension Plan Retirees
BC Building Trades
BC College of Family Physicians
BC Federation of Labour
BC Federation of Retired Union Members
BC Government Retired Employees Association
BC Health Coalition
BC Nurses' Union
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
BC Rural Health Network
British Columbia Government and Services Employees' Union
British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
Canadian Association of Retired Persons - NL
Centrale des syndicats du Québec
Citizens With Disabilities - Ontario
Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida
Coalition solidarité santé
Confédération des syndicats nationaux
CUPE Ontario / SCFP Ontario
Disability Alliance BC
Fédération de la santé et des services sociaux (FSSS-CSN)
Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec
Fight for \$15 & Fairness / Lutte pour 15\$
Friends of Medicare (Alberta)
Health Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador
Health Sciences Association of Alberta
Hospital Employees' Union
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - BC Provincial Council
Living Wage for Families Campaign
MacKillop Centre for Social Justice
Manitoba Health Coalition / Coalition manitobaine de la santé

Manitoba Nurses Union
Médecins québécois pour le régime public
New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice / Front commun pour la justice sociale du Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Federation of Labour / Fédération des Travailleurs et Travailleuses du Nouveau-Brunswick
New Brunswick Nurses Union / Syndicat des infirmières et infirmiers du Nouveau-Brunswick
Newfoundland and Labrador Coalition of Seniors, Pensioners and Retirees Associations
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour
Newfoundland and Labrador Public Sector Pensioners' Association
Non-Academic Staff Association - Alberta / Association du Personnel Non-Académique - Alberta
Northern Territories Federation of Labour
Nova Scotia Federation of Labour
Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU) / Syndicat de la fonction publique de la Nouvelle-Écosse
Nova Scotia Health Coalition
Nova Scotia Nurses' Union
OHIP for All / OHIP por Tous
Ontario AIDS Network
Ontario Federation of Labour / Fédération du travail de l'Ontario
Ontario Nurses' Association
Pacific AIDS Network / Réseau Pacifique de SIDA
Parent Support Services Society of BC
PEI Coalition for a Poverty Eradication Strategy
PEI Federation of Labour
PEI Health Coalition
PEI Nurses' Union
Planned Parenthood - NL Sexual Health Centre
Public Service Alliance of Canada, BC / Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada, Colombie-Britannique
Québec Accessible
Quebec Association for the Defense of the Rights of Retired and Pre-Retired Persons / Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario / l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers autorisés de l'Ontario

Registered Nurses' Union Newfoundland & Labrador

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour

Saskatchewan Union of Nurses

Save Our Northern Seniors / Sauvez nos aînés du Nord

Sexual Health Nova Scotia

Sexual Health Options, Resources & Education Centre

Surrey Board of Trade

Table des regroupements provinciaux d'organismes communautaires et bénévoles

United Nurses of Alberta

Workers' Action Centre