



University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

Montreal September 15, 2018

Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare Secretariat
Brooke Claxton Building
70 Colombine Driveway
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Re: Universal Pharmacare Plan

Dear Deputy Executive Director, Engagement at the Secretariat for the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare,

Canada is the only country with a universal health care system that does not cover prescription drugs.

I am writing on behalf of the University Women's Club of Montreal, an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), to ask that you to implement a Universal Pharmacare plan.

In the 1960's, when Medicare was implemented, the intent was to add Universal Pharmacare as the next phase. Canada has continually procrastinated, studying the issue over the decades. Since April 2016, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health has been studying a national Pharmacare program. Many organizations and individuals have appeared before the committee with the facts and figures to support Pharmacare. The July 2016 Angus Reid poll shows that 91% of Canadians support the implementation of a universal drug plan. Canadians need and want Universal Pharmacare.

Today one in 10 Canadians cannot afford to pay for their prescriptions. The current patchwork systems of public and private insurance plans across the country are not equitable, nor are they sustainable. In fact, it leaves more than 3.6 million Canadians without any drug coverage at all and places the costs for prescription medication in Canada as second highest among any OECD country. This complex and needlessly expensive system will collapse if nothing is done.

Please commit your party to support a single Canada-wide Universal Pharmacare program to cover all medically necessary/essential drugs. Please ensure that it is funded to cover all costs, so that there are no user fees or co-payments, which discourage use of essential medicines by those who cannot afford them and compromise the integrity of our universal Medicare system.

Universal Pharmacare program will not only improve people's health, it will also generate several billion dollars in public and private savings. This is a long-overdue and affordable step that will help Canada catch up with other developed countries. Canadians should not have to choose between a life-saving prescription and feeding their families. Will you support Universal Pharmacare?

We await your response.

Yours sincerely,

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“Social interaction, social responsibility and growth of women in all areas of life.”

About Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization representing over 8,000 women in every province in Canada. Since the founding in 1919, CFUW has sought to improve the status of women and girls, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace.