

# CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION



Presentation to ACER-CART  
June 2nd, 2017

# CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION

The Canadian Health Coalition is a public advocacy organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Medicare.

Our membership is comprised of national organizations representing health care workers, seniors, churches, anti-poverty groups, women and trade unions, as well as affiliated coalitions in 9 provinces and 2 territories.



# AN UPDATE ON CHC CAMPAIGNS

1. Health Accord
2. A National Public Drug Plan
3. Paid Plasma

# WHAT IS A HEALTH ACCORD

- An agreement among the First Ministers on health care
- Includes: federal funding, national standards, new programming
- Opportunity to protect, strengthen and expand public health care

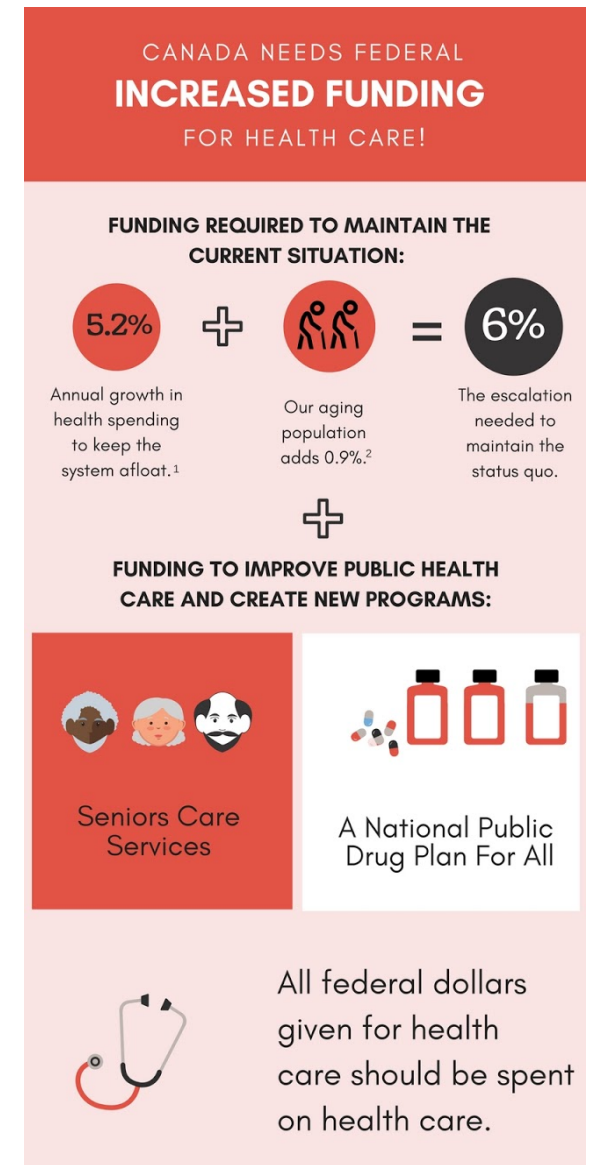


Photo credit: Christopher Katsarov/Canadian Press



# WHAT THE PROVINCES WANT

- 5.2 % CHT
- No strings attached
- One health accord



## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Financial Accountability Office (FAO). Economic and Social Outlook- Assessing Ontario's Medium-Term Prospect. Spring 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer. Fiscal Sustainability Report. February 2010.

HEALTHCOALITION.CA

# BILATERAL DEALS

- 9 provinces and 3 territories have now signed deals
- Additional money for mental health and home care
- All accepted a CHT tied to GDP – which leaves a \$33.6 billion gap in funding
- No new national programs – pharmacare or seniors
- There are no national standards
- No sharing of best practices
- No public input or consultation
- Strings attached?
- No text of the deals is available



## 'Not a great day': Federal health deal falls short of Quebec's needs, Gaétan Barrette says

Quebec accepts \$2.5 billion from Ottawa over 10 years, after months of wrangling

CBC News Posted: Mar 10, 2017 1:50 PM ET | Last Updated: Mar 10, 2017 6:24 PM ET



Quebec's Health Minister Gaétan Barrette said the new deal with Ottawa will lead to reduced health care services for the province's aging population. (CBC)

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11,679  
long-term  
care beds



155,665  
coronary bypass



455,628  
hip and knee  
replacement



20,902  
physicians



What does  
\$7.66 billion  
buy in  
**health  
care**  
in Alberta?



# HOW TO CAMPAIGN FROM HERE?

- Report coming out at the Council of the Federation
- Linking lower CHT to health care experiences and cuts
- Tracking quality issues like wait times

Health Council of Canada  
Conseil canadien de la santé



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# A NATIONAL PUBLIC DRUG PLAN





# A PRESCRIPTION FOR EQUITY: A National Public Drug Plan for All



[pharmacarenow.ca](http://pharmacarenow.ca)

# CURRENT PICTURE OF PRESCRIPTION ACCESSIBILITY

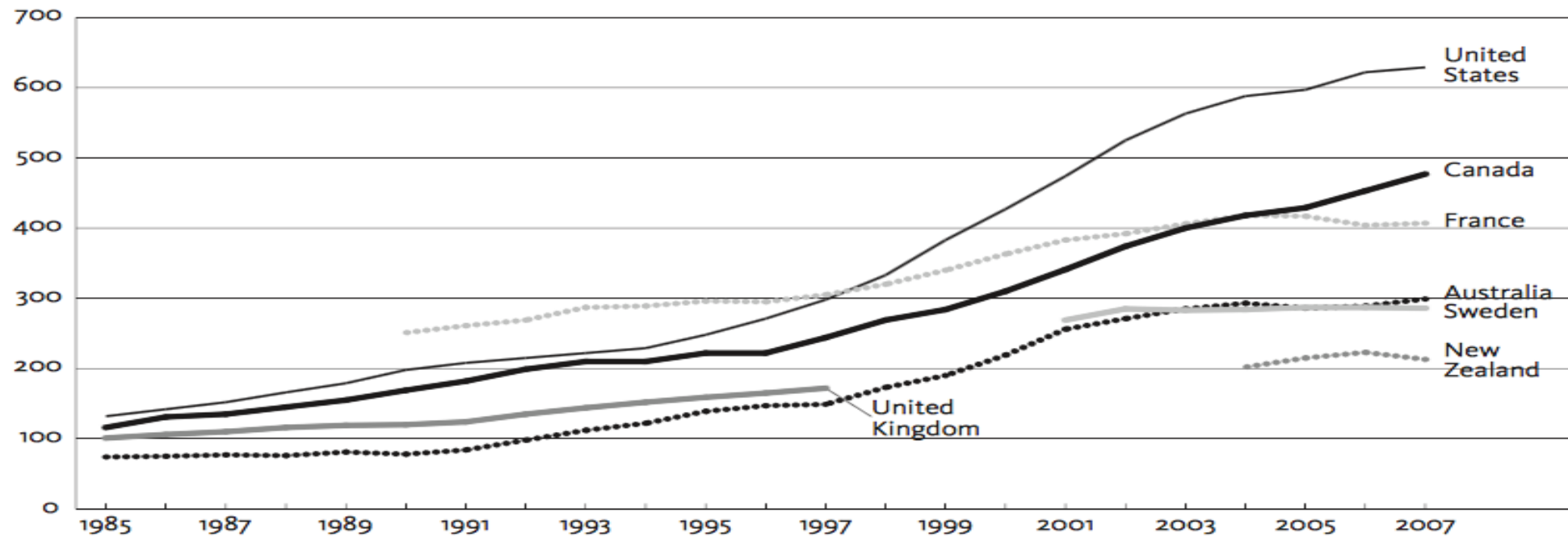
- 1 in 10 in any one year cannot afford to fill their prescription
- 23% of Canadians do not take their medication as prescribed
- Different drugs in different parts of the country access and coverage
- Prescribing safety
- Over prescribing especially seniors
- Threats from new trade deals (TPP and CETA)

**365%**

INCREASE IN PRIVATE  
HEALTH INSURANCE  
SPENDING FROM 1988-2009

# COST OF DRUGS IN CANADA

FIGURE 3.1 Total actual spending on prescription drugs per capita (US\$2000, PPP)



SOURCE OECD Health Data 2009

# SAFETY OF PRESCRIBING

- 3-4% of drugs approved will be withdrawn from the market because of safety issues
- Health Canada cannot force a recall for drugs deemed harmful
- Health Canada cannot force a company to revise labels to reflect new safety information
- 50% of Health Canada's funding for drug approval comes from pharmaceutical companies
- The Federal government has pledged to speed up approvals





# WHAT DOES A NATIONAL PUBLIC DRUG PLAN LOOK LIKE?

- Scotland, Wales, Ireland with no co-pays, no deductibles, covers everyone
- Equality across Canada where everyone can access the same drugs
- Costs of drugs decrease
- Safety of drugs increase
- Drug prescriptions decrease
- Employers contribute a small percentage of what they pay now
- Private insurers cover other services
- \$11 billion in savings



# ONTARIO PROPOSAL

	Number of drugs	Means tested	Ages covered	Cost to those covered by the plan	Date of implementation	Cost
ONDP	125 essential medicines to begin	No	All ages	Co-payments of up to \$6.11 per prescription	2020	\$475 million/year
OLP	4400 (full drug formulary)	No	24 and under	Free	January 2018	\$465 million/year

# FEDERAL PROPOSAL

- Changing comparator countries for pricing
- Addressing limitations of PMPRB and making regulatory changes to PMPRB
- Health Canada reducing barriers to bringing drugs to market
- Better rewarding "drug innovators"
- Streamlining Health Canada and CADTH reviews for faster market access
- Opening priority review policies to more drugs
- Creating a common national formulary maybe starting with essential medicines
- E-prescribing





# WHAT'S NEXT

- Library of Parliament study expected in Fall 2017
- Cross country tour (currently only Nova Scotia and Ontario)
- Report by the Council of the Federation, July 2017

# PAID PLASMA



# TAINTED BLOOD SCANDAL

- 30,000 + Canadians infected with HIV and/or Hepatitis C
- Canadians lost faith in the Canadian Red Cross for blood collection
- Justice Horvath Krever's Inquiry
- Canadian Blood Services (CBS) was created with the mandate to implement the Krever recommendations

# INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS/GOALS FOR 100% VOLUNTARY DONOR PLASMA

- World Health Organization
- European Blood Alliance
- Council of Europe
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- The International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations





# CANADIAN PLASMA RESOURCES

- Given an establishment license by Health Canada in 2013 to open clinics in Toronto and Hamilton
- The 2 Toronto clinics were around the corner from a homeless shelter and in close proximity to a voluntary blood donation clinic.
- The Hamilton clinic was close to a methadone clinic



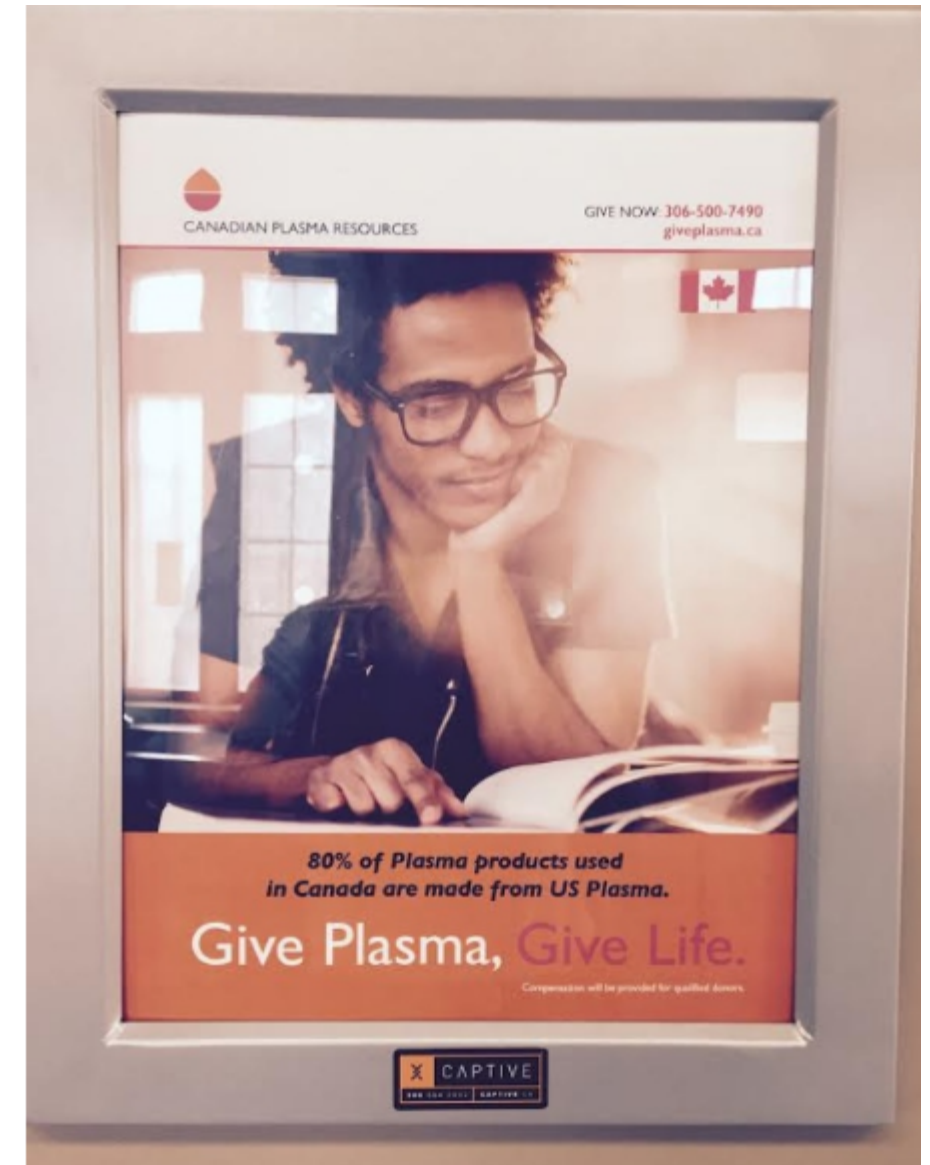
# CURRENT SITUATION



Blood money: Legislated out of Ontario, Canadian Plasma Resources courts controversy with Saskatoon clinic



Bags of blood plasma, which is the yellow fluid part of blood that remains, once white and red blood cells and platelets are removed. It is used in a variety of medical treatments, from helping people who have clotting disorders to certain cancer medications.




Activists bristle at the advertisements in university bathrooms that urge students to give plasma. (Bloodwatch)




# IS DONOR-PAID PLASMA SAFE?

“Since the issuance of the Krever Report...actions have since been taken to prevent such a tragedy from happening again. Technological advancements have made plasma products extremely safe. New measures, such as heat treatment, filtration and treatment with chemicals to inactivate viruses and other pathogens have been put into place...”

Letter from Health Canada and Jane Philpott to CHC, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

# UNKNOWN VIRUSES







 **REUTERS**


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**Life** | Fri Feb 19, 2016 9:41am EST Related: HEALTH

## Zika-hit Puerto Rico prepares to import all of its blood supplies

WASHINGTON | BY TONI CLARKE


     




People read information on Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases at the Department of Health in San Juan, January 27, 2016.  
REUTERS/ALVIN BAEZ

New guidelines barring the collection of blood in areas with outbreaks of the mosquito-borne Zika virus will be put to the test first in cash-strapped Puerto Rico, where health officials have two weeks to start importing the island's supply.

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# CBC INTERVIEW WITH U.S. PLASMA SCREENER

**ELLEN BERKOVITCH:** Can you tell me the name of the place you work?

**JOSHUA:** CSL Plasma.

**ELLEN BERKOVITCH:** What do you do?

**JOSHUA:** I actually prep the donors to go back and donate plasma.

**ELLEN BERKOVITCH:** How much do you know, when they tell you that they haven't had tats in the last year, they haven't had piercings, or they don't have HIV or hepatitis, how much do you know about them?

**JOSHUA:** Honestly, we don't know too much. We just make, you know, base it off judgments and what we see.



# CBS IS GOING TO OPEN MORE PLASMA CLINICS

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## Canadian Blood Services won't rule out paying plasma donors

National blood agency weighing options after Sask. operation starts compensating for donations

By Kelly Crowe, CBC News Posted: Apr 26, 2016 9:00 AM ET | Last Updated: Apr 26, 2016 9:39 AM ET



The debate over paying donors for plasma has flared up again because of a new operation in Saskatoon. (Getty Images)

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# PROBLEMS WITH PAID DONOR PLASMA

- Safety
- Security of supply
- Trade deals will mean we can't safeguard our Canadian supply
- Exploiting vulnerable communities
- Going against Canadian values without consulting Canadians





# SOLUTIONS

- Bloodwatch.org- add your organization's name, tweet photos
- Legislating bans in provinces and territories
- Put pressure on Minister Philpott and Prime Minister Trudeau to ban paid donor plasma collection in Canada
- Presentations to CBS' Board
- June 14<sup>th</sup> World Blood Donor Day- help us raise awareness

# ADDITIONAL CAMPAIGNS

- Court challenges: Cambie (Dr. Day) and Copeman Clinic
- Seniors care
- Trade agreements: NAFTA, CETA, TPP, Canada-China
- Medical tourism
- Building new health coalitions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba



*THANK YOU*

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