



## PRIORITIZE PHARMACARE



### KEY MESSAGE



All Canadians should have access to the medications they need. A universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable national pharmacare program would cut costs and lead to a healthier population. It would also allow for better monitoring of medications and reduce the burden on other parts of the health care system.

### THE ISSUE

Canada is the only country in the world with universal health care that does not also provide universal drug coverage. Canadians consistently pay among the highest prices for prescription drugs. Ten per cent of Canadians do not have adequate coverage to meet their needs. One in four households in Canada can't afford to fill their prescriptions.

A universal, public pharmacare program would help Canadians better manage their health, lead to reduced medication costs and allow for better monitoring of the effectiveness and safety of medications. It would also reduce the burden on other parts of the health care system.

### THE CHALLENGES

#### Access

- Drug coverage should not depend on where you work or live.

#### Costs, But With Advantages

- Studies estimate that a coordinated, national drug plan would save between \$4 and \$11-billion annually.

#### Quality and Safety

- A universal, public plan could improve methods to monitor and evaluate drugs, and could support quality, evidence-based drug coverage. One in six hospitalizations could be avoided if prescription drugs were used more appropriately.

### Coverage

- A national formulary should be based on scientific evidence and best value for money, and must help Canadians uphold their health and wellbeing.

### THE QUESTIONS

- 1 How will your party implement a universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable pharmacare program?
- 2 What timeline does your party propose for the implementation of a universal, public pharmacare program?
- 3 How will your party ensure that federal and provincial governments work together effectively to implement universal, public pharmacare?
- 4 How will your party ensure a comprehensive, quality, evidence-based formulary, so that Canadian's can access the medications they need to maintain and improve their health?

### MORE INFORMATION

Canadian Health Coalition

<http://healthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Policy-Brief-NPDP.pdf>

Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare

[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/public-engagement/external-advisory-bodies/implementation-national-pharmacare.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/public-engagement/external-advisory-bodies/implementation-national-pharmacare.html)