



Sample letters to the editor on pharmacare

Here are two sample letters to the editor that you can submit to your local newspaper. Each newspaper has its own requirements for letters, including a maximum word limit. Feel free to adapt the sample text to fit your paper's requirements and emphasize the issues that matter most to you and your community.

SHORT LETTER TO THE EDITOR (124 words)

Canada has the unique distinction of being the only country with universal public health care that doesn't include prescription drug coverage. And as drug costs rise higher and higher, this missing piece of medicare becomes more and more of a problem.

No other policy change and program can have the same kind of positive impact on the well-being of Canadians while saving \$14 billion or more annually than universal pharmacare.

The Council of Canadians has released a new report showing how universal pharmacare would save businesses money and improve the Canada's economic competitiveness. Replacing private drug plans with a universal pharmacare program would save Canadian companies an estimated \$8 billion annually.

It's time for workers and companies to come together and demand national pharmacare.

LONG LETTER TO THE EDITOR (224 words)

In 2005, there were 20 drugs on the Canadian market with an annual average cost of \$10,000 or more, representing approximately five per cent of private drug plan costs. By 2015, the number of high-cost drugs ballooned to 124, representing nearly one-quarter of private costs. There were only two drugs exceeding \$50,000 on the Canadian market in 2005, but by 2015 the number of drugs over this threshold had grown to 20.

The solution to these runaway costs is clear: pharmacare. By adopting a universal pharmacare program with the buying power to negotiate reasonable prices for the medications Canadians need, we create a system that benefits everyone.

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Universal pharmacare would give Canada a significant competitive advantage over the U.S. Canadian employers would gain a \$1 an hour competitive advantage as inefficient private plans would become redundant, on top of the \$4 an hour competitive cost advantage Canadian businesses already have with public health care. This would mean a significant gain for the Canadian economy in the short and long term.

It's time for workers and companies to come together and demand national pharmacare.