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The Council of Canadians
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Did you know?
Pharmacare would save Canadians
approximately \$14 billion a year!

Pharmacare
is a prescription
for better
medicine



For more information contact us
at 1-800-387-7177, by email at
inquiries@canadians.org or visit
canadians.org/pharmacare



April 2017



Pharmacare can save us a lot of money.

In 2016, Canadians spent \$30 billion to fill more than 600 million prescriptions. That's more than four times what we spent on prescriptions 20 years ago. Drug prices are skyrocketing for Canadians and more people have to choose between getting the medications they need and paying for their rent or for food.

A publicly funded, universal drug coverage program – also known as pharmacare – would provide all Canadians with access to the prescription medicines they need. People would be healthier and many would no longer have the economic burden of paying for medications out-of-pocket. Canadian employers would also benefit by not having to include expensive drug plans in employees' benefit packages.

Pharmacare provides other benefits too:

We would save money. Pharmacare would save Canadians approximately \$14 billion a year by reducing administration costs and giving us stronger buying power to negotiate better prices for medications.

Everyone would be covered. Right now 10 per cent of Canadians – approximately 3.5 million people – don't have even basic drug coverage.

Companies would pay less. Data shows that Canadian companies spend about \$200 million per week on prescription drug costs incurred by employer drug plans. This amount is expected to rise as drug prices continue to skyrocket and our population ages.

Right now, Canada is the only country with a public health care plan not to include prescription drug coverage. It's time to change that.

The benefits for employers

Prescription drugs usually represent the highest cost in employer-provided benefit plans and are often a contentious bargaining issue.

Employers are finding it harder to cover the cost of employee drug benefits. More frequently these increased costs are being passed onto consumers. Increased costs for goods and services have a negative impact on our economy.



Medicare already provides Canadian employers with a competitive economic advantage. By not having to pay the cost for a full spectrum of private health benefits for employees, Canadian employers have more money for other things.

Pharmacare would increase that competitive advantage to an estimated \$5 per hour worked per employee.

Replacing private drug plans with a universal publicly-funded pharmacare program would save Canadian companies an estimated **\$8 billion annually**. That money could be reinvested in the company and in workers.

Every year the federal government fails to take action on pharmacare, billions of dollars are wasted and labour costs continue to rise. The gap between what we are paying for prescribed medications and what we would pay if we had a universal pharmacare program continues to widen.



TAKE ACTION!

Tell the federal government it's time for universal pharmacare. Detach this card and mail it back to the Council of Canadians. We will deliver signed copies to the Prime Minister and send a strong message that Canadians support universal pharmacare.

I call on the government to implement universal pharmacare to ensure all Canadians get the medications they need without financial barriers.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____

By providing your email you are consenting to be contacted by The Council of Canadians.