

## **Liberal-NDP Confidence and Supply Agreement Led to Surge in Industry Lobbying**

Industry opponents of pharmacare have lobbied Health Canada more than 150 times in the nine months following the confidence and supply agreement (CASA) – a staggering three to four meetings with industry lobbyists per week, every week since the announcement of the deal. The Trudeau government committed to passing a Canada Pharmacare Act before the end of the year, in exchange for support from the NDP.

Despite repeated commitments to getting pharmacare done by the Trudeau government, Health Canada's progress on legislation since the confidence-and-supply agreement has been virtually nil. Pharmacare was excluded from the federal government's negotiations with the provinces and recent reports indicate that the Trudeau government intends to continue dragging its feet.

Health Canada, which would be tasked with drafting the Canada Pharmacare Act, has been a major target of lobbyists opposed to pharmacare. The insurance industry has led the lobbying charge, logging five times more meetings than usual with Health Canada in the post-confidence-and-supply agreement period. A major presence on the Hill already, Big Pharma increased its lobbying of Health Canada by three-and-a-half times relative to the pre-pandemic period.

Innovative Medicines Canada, a group representing the pharmaceutical industry, and leading drug manufacturers have lobbied the government on pharmacare and drug price regulation, according to lobbying records. Johnson & Johnson's lobbyists, for instance, said they would engage the Trudeau government on "issues relating to the potential implementation of National Pharmacare." Insurance industry reports likewise indicate that pharmacare is one of their issues they raised in meetings with ministers, MPs and top government officials.

Innovative Medicines Canada, GlaxoSmithKline, Hoffman-La Roche, and Johnson & Johnson were the pharmaceutical industry players who logged the most meetings with Minister Duclos and his officials. The industry lobby group and the three Big Pharma giants registered a combined 69 lobbying visits in the post-CASA period, an average of seven meetings every month for the last nine months.

Pharmaceutical and insurance industries have consistently opposed the adoption of a public, single-payer system of drug insurance, as called for by Liberal government's Advisory Committee on Implementing National Pharmacare in 2019.



## Industry Lobbying More Than Tripled After Pharmacare Legislation Promised

### Big Pharma lobbying of Health Canada:

- March 22, 2022, to January 4, 2023: 126 communication reports
- Yearly average (2015-2019): 40 communication reports
- Leading lobbyists: Innovative Medicines Canada, GlaxoSmithKline, Hoffman-La Roche, Johnson & Johnson, Merck
- **From March 2022 to January 2023, Big Pharma lobbyists met nearly 4 times more often with Health Canada than the 2015-2019 average.**

### Insurance industry lobbying of Health Canada:

- March 22, 2022, to January 4, 2023: 24 communication reports
- Yearly average (2015-2019): 6 communication reports
- Leading lobbyists: Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, Sun Life Financial, Canada Life Assurance Company
- **From March 2022 to January 2023, insurance industry lobbyists met with Health Canada nearly 5 times more than the 2015-2019 average.**

