

A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

A call to support Bill C-213 for a universal, comprehensive and public pharmacare program for all

We, the undersigned Citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

WHEREAS, one-in-five Canadians – close to 7.5 million people – either has no prescription drug coverage at all, inadequate insurance to cover their medication needs or effectively has no coverage due to high deductibles and co-payments to cover their costs;

WHEREAS, over 2 million Canadians fail to take their medication as prescribed because they can't afford the cost; a recent report from the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions estimated that this tragic situation results in hundreds of preventable deaths in Canada every year;

WHEREAS, Canadians consistently pay among the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs due to our current patchwork of more than 100 public and 100,000 private insurance plans; prescription drugs represent the second largest category of spending in Canadian health care, surpassing spending on physician services – only hospitals cost more;

WHEREAS, universal public drug coverage has been recommended by national commissions, federal committees, and advisory councils dating as far back as the 1940s; most recently, the Hoskins Advisory Council concluded that we could extend comprehensive prescription drug coverage to every Canadian, while saving \$5 billion per year once fully implemented;

WHEREAS, the Hoskins report was clear that implementing pharmacare will require sustained federal leadership, along with “long-term, adequate, secure and flexible” funding. In particular, the report calls for the federal government to cover any added costs the provinces and territories incur from the implementation of pharmacare;

WHEREAS, according to the Hoskins report, pharmacare would reduce overall spending on prescription drugs in Canada by \$5 billion per year; Businesses and employees would see their prescription drug costs reduced by \$16.6 billion annually, while families will see their out of pocket drug costs reduced by \$6.4 billion;

WHEREAS, to establish universal pharmacare across Canada, Parliament must pass enabling legislation and the federal government must negotiate transfers with the provinces and territories.

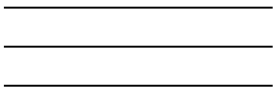
WHEREAS, like the *Canadian Health Act*, Bill C-213 lays out the conditions and criteria that provinces and territories must meet in order to receive federal funding under the program and includes things like tying federal funding to the core principles of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility.

THEREFORE, your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to support Bill C-213, *An Act to Enact the Canada Pharmacare Act*, legislation that would create a universal, comprehensive and public pharmacare program for all Canadians and follows the recommendations set out by the Hoskins Advisory Council.

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Please return (postage paid) to: Peter Julian, M.P. for New Westminster-Burnaby
 (*Disponible en français*) Suite 203, Wellington Building, House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

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Peter Julian, MP (New Westminster-Burnaby)

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