

BULLETIN

Let's make our voices heard on Pharmacare

July 4, 2018

The federal Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare has opened up public consultations on a national Pharmacare plan, with the launch of an [online portal](#). HSA's Political Action Committee would like to invite HSA members to join the conversation by registering for the online discussion and emailing advisory council members at: pharmacare-assurancemedicaments@canada.ca. [Fill out the online survey launched by the advisory council.](#)

HSA has long been a strong voice in the call for accessible, quality public health care. This year, a convention resolution was passed calling on HSA to work with the labour movement and our community allies to urge the federal and provincial governments to establish a “comprehensive and universal national Pharmacare program.”

Following the launch of the advisory council's public consultations, Burnaby Hospital pharmacist Jing-Yi Ng and social worker Easter Tocol – members of HSA's Constituency Liaison program – participated in a Pharmacare roundtable on July 12 with federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, Vancouver-Kingsway MP Don Davies, and New Westminster-Burnaby MP Peter Julian. Participants discussed strategies for implementing an accessible, publicly-administered national Pharmacare plan.

Throughout the summer, HSA has collaborated with the Canadian Labour Congress to promote the [Plan for Everyone campaign](#), which brings together health care experts and community advocates to mobilize Canadians in support of a national Pharmacare plan.

Why we need a universal Pharmacare plan

Access to prescriptions is an essential component of quality health care delivery. Yet 3.5 million people in Canada can't afford medically-necessary prescription drugs. In fact, Canada is the only developed country whose universal healthcare system excludes prescription drug coverage.

When resources are pulled to bulk purchase prescriptions through a single-payer system, massive savings are realized. It's estimated that a universal Pharmacare program would save Canadians \$4.2 billion every year.

HSA members know first hand that health care treatment is compromised when patients face financial barriers to accessing prescriptions. As Canada considers adopting a Pharmacare plan, the voices of health care professionals matter. Join fellow HSA members in calling for a universal, accessible, single-payer, and publicly-administered Pharmacare plan because all people across Canada deserve equal access to quality health care. [Write to your local Member of Parliament](#), [sign the online petition](#) and [fill out the advisory council's online survey before September 28](#).

For more information about universal Pharmacare in Canada, read HSA's Pharmacare coverage in *The Report* magazine: ["A plan for everyone: the case for universal Pharmacare"](#) or visit: www.aplanforeveryone.ca.



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