



January 30, 2023

Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Hon. Dominic LeBlanc  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

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Dear Prime Minister, Minister Duclos & Minister LeBlanc,

As you prepare for the upcoming First Ministers' Meeting on Health Care, the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA), Canada's largest pharmacy association and the national voice of the profession, urges the federal government to ensure that any increases to the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) to provinces/territories include investment in community-based care such as the expansion of health care services through pharmacy.

Health care is often associated with hospitals and acute care settings, and while funding for these settings is critical, CPhA sees a significant unmet need in community-based care. In fact, today, most care is provided in community settings. For example, nearly half of Canadians are currently managing a chronic disease, like diabetes or hypertension and rely on community health providers for their care. Likewise, public health services, preventative and sexual and reproductive care are almost entirely provided in community settings.

According to a [recent survey](#) conducted by Abacus Data, 94% of Canadians agree that governments need to expand and fund community-based care, like health services available through pharmacies. A further 90% of Canadians think pharmacists can help address gaps in care caused by the current shortage of health-care providers. Specifically, when it comes to the health services that pharmacists could provide, Canadians see a larger role when it comes to vaccinations (61%), prescribing for common ailments/conditions (53%), testing and lab services (47%), and 48% of women see a larger role in contraception prescribing.

Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to reduce the strain on our primary and acute care settings, redirecting people who would otherwise present at emergency rooms or doctors' offices. For example, more than 11,000 Islanders from Prince Edward Island visited their community pharmacist to access care for common ailments or renew eligible prescriptions over the first three months since the launch of the Pharmacy Plus PEI program. In Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, new pharmacy walk-in clinics dedicated to providing primary care services are quickly demonstrating their value to patients and to provincial health care systems.

Appropriate funding is a key part of ensuring that these expanded services are both sustainable and utilized by the public. Over the past year we have seen more and more provincial governments acknowledge the value of pharmacists and the way they can help take some pressure of other areas of the health-care system. In some provinces this includes funding for Paxlovid prescribing, funding for



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prescription renewal/extending, common ailments funding, smoking cessation, hormonal contraception, and UTIs.

As the Government of Canada continues to work with its provincial and territorial partners to increase health care funding through the Canada Health Transfer, CPhA strongly recommends ensuring portions of the increase are available to be invested into community-based care, including pharmacy.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Glen Doucet  
Chief Executive Officer