



CANADIAN
PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION

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DU CANADA

November 8, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

Dear Prime Minister

The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) would like to extend to you and the Liberal Party of Canada our sincere congratulations on your re-election. We look forward to our continued collaboration with your government to help ensure that all Canadians have access to quality and sustainable health care.

As you begin to develop policy objectives for your cabinet over the next few years, we would urge you to make the security and safety of our drug supply a central piece of the Health Minister's mandate and those of other key federal departments.

Drug shortages, recalls and discontinuations are reaching a crisis point in Canada. There are currently close to 2000 drug shortages reported in the Drug Shortages Canada database, with over 200 new shortages reported over the course of the election period alone. U.S. plans to import Canadian medications will only add to the growing crisis of our drug supply, so too could the implementation of pharmacare if its effects are not carefully considered and prioritized.

A recent poll by Angus Reid has found that 40% of Canadian households have had difficulty obtaining prescribed medications because of supply issues. We are appealing for national leadership on this issue immediately in order to protect our already fragile supply and ensure that well-intentioned federal drug policy decisions do not lead to disastrous consequences. This complex issue demands international leadership and collaboration, innovative solutions and support for frontline health care providers who are struggling to manage supply disruptions.

Yours sincerely

Christine Hrudka, BSP, ICD.D
Chair

Glen Doucet
Chief Executive Officer