BACKGROUND

The Blueprint for Pharmacy is a long-term, multi-stakeholder strategy designed to catalyze, coordinate and facilitate changes to align pharmacy practice with the health care needs of Canadians. It was formed in response to developments that took place within the Canadian health care system in the early 2000s, which led to both opportunities and challenges for the profession of pharmacy.

Reports and analyses from that time, including the 2002 Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada (Romanow Report), pointed to deficiencies within the health care system around access, delivery, costs and drug safety. The Romanow Report included recommendations to increase health care efficiencies through technology, medication management, interprofessional collaboration, as well as increased scopes of practice for pharmacists and other primary care providers. In 2003 the First Ministers’ Accord on Health Care Renewal addressed many of these recommendations and committed funding to improve the accessibility, quality and sustainability of the health care system.

In the years following the First Ministers’ Accord, a number of reforms were implemented at the national and provincial levels around primary health care, catastrophic drug coverage and information technology, among others. At the same time that pharmacists were being presented with opportunities for expanded scopes of practice, they faced a number of challenges that created considerable anxiety around pharmacists’ livelihood and the future of the profession. These included opposition to expanded scope from other health care providers, provincial cuts to generic drug pricing, the elimination/reduction of generic rebates, strains on pharmacy workflow and human resources, as well as uncertainty surrounding reimbursement for new pharmacy services.

2005

Pharmacists’ Expanded Scope of Practice in Canada

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CREATION OF THE BLUEPRINT FOR PHARMACY

The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) initiated the Blueprint for Pharmacy in 2005 as a strategy to manage and accelerate change within the profession. Its aim was to unite the pharmacy sector, define a vision and clear plan of action for the future of pharmacy, and help pharmacists and pharmacy technicians meet expanded scope opportunities with the right knowledge, skills, confidence and support. It began with a number of consultations to determine the needs, long-term vision and goals for the profession. This included a think tank of 26 pharmacy stakeholders in December 2005 and a stakeholder consensus workshop of 85 individuals from 46 organizations in June 2006.

In 2007 the Blueprint for Pharmacy Task Force was formed, chaired by Dr. David Hill. The Task Force led further consultations with pharmacy stakeholders across Canada to develop a Vision for Pharmacy, including a Blueprint Town Hall summit that was attended by over 160 delegates. The consultation process resulted in consensus and endorsement from national and provincial pharmacy organizations, regulatory authorities, faculties, major chains and hundreds of pharmacy professionals from across Canada for the Vision for Pharmacy: Optimizing drug therapy outcomes for Canadians through patient-centred care. Moreover, 77 of these organizations formally signed a commitment to act on this Vision.
Between 2006 and 2010, CPhA received over $2.3 million in funding from Health Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Pfizer Canada and others to support a major pharmacy human resources research project, patient care skills development (ADAPT), and the expansion and promotion of the Blueprint for Pharmacy initiative.

To realize the Vision, strategic action is needed in five key areas:

- **Pharmacy human resources**
- **Education and continuing professional development**
- **Information and communication technology**
- **Financial viability and sustainability**
- **Legislation, regulation and liability**

**LEADING CHANGE THROUGH ACTION**

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**ADAPT**
The 36 recommendations from the Moving Forward: Pharmacy Human Resources for the Future report acted as catalysts for future Blueprint for Pharmacy documents that offered guidance to policy makers, employers and frontline pharmacists in navigating and achieving practice change. These documents consist of the Vision for Pharmacy (2008), Implementation Plan (2009) and Our Way Forward (2013). Each of these publications identified barriers to practice change and prescribed actions and priorities to achieve the Vision for Pharmacy through the following five strategic areas: 1) pharmacy human resources; 2) education and continuing professional development; 3) information and communication technology; 4) financial viability and sustainability; 5) legislation, regulation and liability.

GOVERNANCE AND KEY PROJECTS

In December 2009, CPhA became the secretariat for the Blueprint National Coordinating Office, which was mandated to coordinate and facilitate Blueprint priorities through project management, communications and knowledge transfer. A Blueprint for Pharmacy Steering Committee was also formed, chaired by Dr. Dennis Gorecki, to provide leadership to the National Coordinating Office and to champion, facilitate and promote the Vision for Pharmacy. With the help of a Fundraising Committee, the Steering Committee and the CPhA National Coordinating Office raised over $1 million to support research, engagement and knowledge transfer within the five strategic areas of practice change identified by the Blueprint Task Force in the Implementation Plan of 2009.

Projects that received direct support and funding include the Needs Assessment of Specialization in Pharmacy in Canada, Enhancing Experiential Education in Hospitals and Primary Care, Connect and CARE: Engaging Patients, ADAPT Certificate Program (lab values component), Practice-based Research Network in Quebec, Canadian Pharmacy Services Framework, National Public Relations

2010

Pharmacists’ Expanded Scope of Practice in Canada

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- ✓ Implemented in jurisdiction
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- X Not implemented
These projects have helped to realize many of the recommended actions within the Implementation Plan, and they represent only a handful of influential initiatives that have been carried out within Canada since the creation of the Blueprint for Pharmacy and the unification of the profession around a common vision for the future.

2010 Provincial Government-Funded Pharmacy Services

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<tr>
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A NEW ERA OF PHARMACY PRACTICE CHANGE

We are now entering a new era of pharmacy practice change in Canada. Expanded scope of practice has occurred across all provinces, and pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have achieved many successes in advancing their roles, providing new services and receiving remuneration for these services. Yet there is still much more work to be done to ensure that all pharmacists and regulated pharmacy technicians in Canada are working to their full capacity to protect the safety and integrity of the medication system and to provide quality medication management, health promotion and disease prevention services.

In this new phase of practice advancement, and with a new governance model that includes representation from all provincial pharmacist associations and the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada, CPhA acknowledges the need to reconnect and re-examine priorities for the pharmacy profession that will take it into 2020 and beyond. This will be accomplished through revitalized engagement and thought-leadership processes that will allow CPhA, its member and stakeholder organizations to continue to lead practice advancement initiatives that fall within their mandates. While this means that the Blueprint for Pharmacy Steering Committee and National Coordinating Office are now officially dissolved, former members of the Steering Committee have been working with CPhA through a Blueprint Transition Advisory Committee to determine next steps for engagement and see that ongoing Blueprint initiatives are managed and supported until their completion.
It is the end of a decade for pharmacy practice change in Canada. It is clear that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have risen to the challenge and confronted the obstacles and opportunities presented to them. CPhA is very proud to have led the Blueprint for Pharmacy since 2005 and to share and celebrate the Blueprint’s achievements with the many stakeholders who made it all possible.

CPhA would like to thank Dr. Dennis Gorecki and Dr. David Hill for their years of dedication to the Blueprint initiative. It was through their outstanding leadership that the numerous Blueprint milestones were achieved. CPhA also extends its appreciation to all past and current members of the Blueprint Steering Committee, Blueprint Task Force, Fundraising Committee and working groups for their passion and commitment to the initiative, as well as to the generous sponsors who have donated to the Blueprint over the years. Finally, thanks must be offered to all pharmacy stakeholders in Canada and internationally who have endorsed the Blueprint for Pharmacy, committed to the Vision for Pharmacy and supported the belief that with the pursuit of excellence in pharmacy practice and patient-centred care, the profession of pharmacy can attain optimal drug therapy outcomes and advance the health and well-being of Canadians.

**The Blueprint for Pharmacy has changed the debate, changed the agenda and changed how we work together.**

### 2015

**Pharmacists’ Expanded Scope of Practice in Canada**

(September 1, 2015)

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**THANK YOU**

**BLUEPRINT FOR PHARMACY STEERING COMMITTEE:**

**Past chairs:**
Dr. Dennis Gorecki (2009-2014)
Dr. David Hill (2014-2015)

**Member organizations (2015):**
Alberta Pharmacists’ Association
Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada
Association québécoise des pharmaciens propriétaires
Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns
Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians
Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy
Canadian Pharmacists Association (Secretariat for the National Coordinating Office)
Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association
Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada
Ontario Pharmacists Association
Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada
Pharmacists’ Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
BLUEPRINT FOR PHARMACY PROJECT AND NATIONAL COORDINATING OFFICE SPONSORS:

CORPORATE
• Astra Zeneca
• Eli Lilly
• Health Canada
• Johnson & Johnson
• LifeScan
• Pfizer
• Shoppers Drug Mart
• Walmart Canada

NATIONAL
• Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada
• Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians
• Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs
• Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy
• Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy
• Canadian Pharmacists Association
• Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
• Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada
• Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada

PROVINCIAL
• Alberta Pharmacists’ Association
• Association des pharmaciens des établissements de santé du Québec
• Association québécoise des pharmaciens propriétaires
• British Columbia Pharmacy Association
• New Brunswick Pharmacists’ Association
• Ontario Pharmacists Association
• Pharmacists’ Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
• Pharmacists Manitoba
• Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia
• Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan
• Prince Edward Island Pharmacists Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BLUEPRINT FOR PHARMACY CONTACT:

Canadian Pharmacists Association
1785 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3Y6
blueprint@pharmacists.ca
www.blueprintforpharmacy.ca