



November 3, 2025

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

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Dear Minister Hajdu

RE: Urgent Implementation of the Student Loan Forgiveness Expansion for Pharmacists

On behalf of the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) and the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI), we are writing to urge the federal government to move forward as soon as possible with the implementation and announcement of the expansion of the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program to include pharmacists.

Pharmacists are essential to rural and remote communities where access to health services remains a serious challenge. Extending student loan forgiveness to pharmacists will help attract and retain these professionals in areas that have long struggled to recruit health care providers.

Pharmacy education is a significant investment. Tuition fees for pharmacy programs are comparable or higher to those in medicine, meaning new pharmacists graduate with similarly high levels of student debt. The expansion of loan forgiveness is therefore not only fair, but also critical to making rural and remote practice a realistic option for pharmacists at the start of their careers.

The government's recent *Caring for Canadians* report acknowledged that the rate of growth for pharmacists is the lowest among eight health professions examined—an alarming trend given the growing demands on the health care system. Implementing this program without further delay would send a strong signal that the federal government recognizes the importance of stabilizing and strengthening the pharmacist workforce across the country.

We continue to hear from pharmacists and students who are eager to serve in underserved regions but are waiting for clarity on when the program will take effect. Timely implementation and communication will ensure that these professionals can make informed career decisions and that communities in need can benefit as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. CPhA remains ready to work with your department to support the rollout and promotion of this initiative.

Sincerely

Glen Doucet
Chief Executive Officer
CPhA

Allison Lage
Vice President, Professional Affairs
CAPSI