



Police Pensioners Association of Ontario

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July 9, 2019

Hon. Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier, Minister of Health
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

Dear Minister;

As I enjoyed the Canada Day long weekend I started to reflect on what has made Canada the great country it has become. The Rule of Law is key to any progressive society that shares common goals and issues. Providing people with health services and the security these services will always be there for them when needed is vital to peace of mind for Ontarians. During our meeting on November 30, 2018, you made it very clear that you were aware of the illegal activities by many Ontario pharmacists. You actually stated 'this how many pharmacists make their money'. It was made clear at this meeting that it was and still remains totally unacceptable to me and my PPAO members.

After watching the Fifth Estate episode "Kickbacks Caught on Tape" that aired this past January, I was expecting you or the Executive Officer to launch an investigation into such blatant illegal and dishonorable behavior displayed by the Ontario pharmacists conspiring to break provincial law with complete strangers. Obviously, pharmacists in Ontario learned nothing from the from Costco fines (\$7.2 million) imposed by the EO and the OCP. There is also silence from the Ontario College of Pharmacists on this matter. The inaction, for the past 6 years since rebates were banned, has bolstered pharmacists to openly break the law. I must note here that you and your party opposed the banning of rebates paid to pharmacies. Why? Why not enforce the law and reduce to prices of generic drugs? These savings can ensure the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) is fully funded and can expand the coverage of these life- saving medications.

I am in the process of discussion and organizing other retiree groups to participate in the awareness of this important issue. With over 1 million members you cannot ignore us any longer. We demand a full investigation into your ministry's inaction and inactions of the Ontario College of pharmacist. All groups will ensure that "pharmacy kickbacks" are discussed at general meetings and all communication to their members. The money the pharmacists are illegally taking out of the healthcare system hurts everyone, taxpayers that depend of the ODB, corporations that provide benefits to their employees and let us not forget everyone who must pay for their own medications.

Literally, over \$1 billion per year being paid pharmacists in illegal kickbacks. You and your government must take action now! Your inaction to date demonstrates that your government does not truly care about the health of Ontarians or that your government is protecting particular individuals or organizations. My group will ensure that the light of day is shone on this matter.

In closing, once again I am calling for a public inquiry into those pharmacists who participated in the illegal kickback rebates. The savings for the ODB alone will be over \$600 million per year.

Those savings could help families, especially families facing expenses for a variety of childhood illnesses in Ontario, all people in the province who depend on the ODB for their medications and Ontarians who pay out of pocket with what little cash they have.

Sincerely,

Paul Bailey
President
Police Pensioners Association of Ontario