



Police Pensioners Association of Ontario

Suite 363, 3-35 Stone Church Rd,
Ancaster ON
L9K1S4

October 2, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Trudeau

While watching CTV news recently their “Truth Tracker” stated the following.

“According to data from the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying Canada, Liberal MPs and government officials met with lobbyists from 27 different pharmaceutical companies a total of 866 times during Trudeau’s tenure”. Why would one pharmaceutical company need 33 meetings with the government over a 48-month period? There appears to be a concerted effort to stall or eliminate National PharmaCare. The rich and powerful must not dictate the terms of Canada’s National PharmaCare plan. This is not acceptable.

Companies like Purdue Pharma and McKesson have proven that they lack honesty and integrity. Many pharma companies pay Product Listing Agreements (PLA) to provincial health ministries in secret to ensure higher prices to private payers. This must stop now!

“Pharmaceuticals are so important to health and well-being that the United Nations and World Health Organizations have repeatedly declared that all nations should ensure universal and equitable access to them. To fulfil that obligation, every high-income country with a universal health care system provides universal coverage of medically necessary prescription drugs - every such country except Canada, that is”.

In provinces like Ontario, there are NO pricing regulations for the over 8,000 non-formulary drugs that are not covered and paid for by the provincial drug plan. Mark ups for these drugs range from 15-50% over an inflated cost. We demand a simple “One Price” policy for all Canadians. All Canadians must be treated in the same manner.

Canadians need a voice. Canadians must be heard. Lower drug costs were promised during the last election and that promise never materialized! Why Not? Did the 866 meetings with pharmaceutical companies work? This must come to an end now. As the Canadian population continues to age, the need for medications will increase. Canada must prepare now for this inevitable truth. We must ensure that all Canadians have access to their required medications. Over 1 million Canadians have no medications coverage and they must make tough decisions between food and medications, rent or medications, life expenses or medications. This is not acceptable and that is not the true Canadian way!

It is time for ALL Canadians to have the security and peace of mind that comes with a National PharmaCare plan. Bold actions are required now. Anyone attempting to block or deny our National PharmaCare plan should be removed from the negotiation table. Our members have clearly focused on this vital matter. We will hold the government of the day accountable to deliver a National PharmaCare plan that Canadians require for a healthy retirement.

Sincerely,

Paul Bailey
President

cc.

Andrew Scheer, Leader of the PC Party
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of NDP
Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party