



CANADIAN DOCTORS | MÉDECINS CANADIENS
FOR MEDICARE | POUR LE RÉGIME PUBLIC

December 3, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier | premier@ontario.ca
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health | Sylvia.Jones@ontario.ca

Re: Ontarians Deserve Pharmacare

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sylvia Jones,

Convened by Canadian Doctors for Medicare (CDM), we write to you today as current and former elected representatives from Ontario, who are also healthcare professionals.

We urge your government to act swiftly and sign Ontario onto the Government of Canada's Pharmacare Act to bring the benefits of national pharmacare to all Ontarians.

Across our province, countless Ontarians are forced to make impossible choices. Residents are not filling life-saving prescriptions, skipping doses, or foregoing other essentials like food and heating, just to pay for the medications they need. Our patchwork of drug plans is leaving too many behind.

The federal Pharmacare Act, which received royal assent on October 10, 2024, lays the groundwork for universal coverage of contraceptives and hypoglycemic medication. It has also initiated the development of a national formulary and builds on existing national programs for the bulk-purchasing of medication and evidence-based prescribing.

However, to realize these benefits in Ontario, the province must enter into a bilateral agreement with the federal government. In its absence, Ontarians will continue to be excluded from critical protections.

British Columbia, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, and Yukon have already signed pharmacare agreements and are moving forward with implementation. Meanwhile, Ontario has announced that it "remains prepared to work collaboratively" yet remains without an agreement. This delay comes at great cost to the health, well-being, and financial security of Ontarians.

Ontario has much to gain.

Fairness demands it: Access to necessary medications should not depend on one's job, income, or the generosity of an insurance plan. A fair and modern healthcare system must include equitable access to prescription drugs. Universal pharmacare helps reduce inequities in care and health outcomes.

Saving lives & boosting health: For people with diabetes, foregoing or rationing medication leads directly to costly and avoidable complications: hospitalizations, amputations, blindness, kidney failure, and more. For people needing contraception, access supports reproductive freedom and health.

Fiscal prudence: While initial costs cannot be ignored, a more efficient, coordinated drug system offers substantial long-term savings through lower administrative overhead, bulk purchasing, reduced duplication, better negotiating power, and fewer costly medical complications.

Labour mobility and resilience: Tying drug benefits to employment leaves workers vulnerable during job transitions, layoffs, or in precarious work. A public pharmacare model decouples essential coverage from employment status, strengthening social security and economic flexibility in a time of economic uncertainty for Ontario's economy.

Ensuring Ontario is not left behind: As an increasing number of provinces and territories sign bilateral agreements, Ontario residents' risk being left behind. Ontarians deserve, at the very least, the same access to life-saving medications as other Canadians.

A Call to Action

We call on Premier Ford and Minister Jones to commit to and immediately begin negotiating a bilateral pharmacare agreement with the federal government to ensure Ontarians gain access to essential diabetes and contraceptive medicines.

Everyday Ontario delays is another day an Ontarian is forced to choose between medication and other essentials. The opportunity before us is historic: to expand the core promise of universal healthcare, or be left behind.

We, the undersigned, stand ready to work with your government to shape implementation that is fair, sustainable, and responsive to Ontario's needs.

Respectfully,

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MPP, Don Valley East

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