



Spring 2021 issue

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NDP CONTINUES THE FIGHT FOR UNIVERSAL, PUBLIC PHARMACARE

Dear neighbours,

We know that the number of uninsured Canadians forced to skip their medications is growing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and as more people work on contract, are self-employed, or have jobs that just don't come with health benefits. And too many Canadians are already putting their health at risk every day because they don't have drug coverage and can't afford to pay out-of-pocket for their medications.

For decades, every major report on the Canadian health care system has recommended universal public pharmacare to deliver the same benefits we enjoy from Medicare – better healthcare, greater equality, lower costs.

I introduced Bill C-213, An Act to Enact the Canada Pharmacare Act, to make people's lives better and more affordable. Making prescription medication affordable for everyone would save lives and money.

Like other health care services, access to medication should be based on need, not on people's ability to pay.

Prime Minister Trudeau, Liberal, Conservative and Bloc Quebecois MPs acted in concert to defeat Bill C-213, the Canada Pharmacare Act. C-213 was defeated 295 to 32. It received unanimous support from the NDP Caucus and Green MPs. It also received support from 2 Independent MPs, 1 Conservative MP and 2 Liberal MPs.



Labour unions & NGOs, representing millions of Canadians, and over 100 municipalities, including the cities of Burnaby and New Westminster, had endorsed the Canada Pharmacare Act and were calling on the government of Canada to vote in favour of C-213. And with polls showing that Canadians overwhelmingly support pharmacare (88 percent support), this newfound opposition by Prime Minister Trudeau and his Liberal MPs remains even more baffling.

Instead of working for you and your family, Liberal and Conservative MPs are siding with big pharmaceutical and insurance companies. They're working for the wealthy.

By opposing a bill that would pave the way for Canadian Pharmacare, finally making universal, single-payer, comprehensive public pharmacare a reality, Justin Trudeau's Liberals broke their promise to voters and abandoned their commitment to helping those in financial and medical need. Prime Minister Trudeau has also broken his promises to Canadians on reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions and enacting electoral reform, undermining his credibility.

A warm thank you to the tens of thousands of constituents from New Westminster-Burnaby and Canadians from coast to coast to coast who pushed for pharmacare.

We will hold the Trudeau government accountable for rejecting C-213. We will keep fighting for public and universal Pharmacare for all Canadians.



MY OFFICE IS HERE TO HELP ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS & HELP YOU DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

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FEDERAL BUDGET 2021 IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO BE BOLD.

We need to take steps that will get Canadians through this pandemic safely and hopefully in good health.

Indigenous communities are among the most vulnerable in Canada. The COVID-19 crisis has amplified the urgency for the federal government to allocate additional resources for these communities.

We need to also lay the foundation for future reconstruction, so that the economic and financial impact that will affect so many Canadians and their families for a decade is truly taken care of by the

federal government in support of communities across the country.

It goes without saying that tackling the climate emergency facing our planet must be at the heart of Canada's economic recovery, where no one is left behind.

It is by having the courage to demand that the ultra rich pay their fair share of taxes that the federal government will generate the revenues needed to finance the aid and services that people who have suffered and are still suffering from the health and economic consequences of the pandemic rely on■

While Canadians struggle to make ends meet since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the wealthiest in our society continue to take advantage of the pandemic to further enrich themselves. This situation must stop.

I indicated to the Minister of Finance that immediate and urgent solutions must be put in place to help Canadians and I am ready to work with her on the federal budget 2021 to strengthen the assistance that Canadians urgently need.

There are simple and effective measures that will help us strengthen our social safety net and ensure that we address the growing economic inequalities in our country, including:

01. addressing without further delay access to paid sick leave to protect workers;
02. announcing permanent changes to the Employment Insurance program to include self-employed individuals such as artists, musicians, contractors or those in the entertainment industry;
03. waiving the reimbursement of the CERB/CRB for those who are struggling to make ends meet during this pandemic - low-income people and youth who are not being cared for;
04. placing a moratorium on the payment of student loans to improve the situation of students facing financial hardship as a result of Covid-19;
05. investing in a national housing strategy and in particular an indigenous housing strategy for and by indigenous people, with a firm commitment to tackling homelessness;

TIME HAS COME TO PUT PEOPLE'S HEALTH AT THE HEART OF OUR HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

The next fiscal year is an opportunity to lay the foundation for the creation of a Crown corporation that will allow us to manufacture vaccines here in Canada to meet national demand.

We must set national standards to ensure safety, comfort and high quality care for all long-term care residents, and to stop once and for all the politics of profit in caring for our loved ones at the expense of their health care.

We have the opportunity to strengthen our social safety net by implementing, among other things, a universal, public and comprehensible pharmacare program and a public dental plan■

Fighting for *you* every day.



06. implementing, as some countries have already done, a wealth tax on large fortunes;
07. implementing immediately an additional tax, as in the Second World War, on the excessive profits made during the crisis by the large multinationals, which continue to generate huge profits even today;
08. ending fossil fuel subsidies and making bold new investments to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs across Canada through home and building retrofits, clean transportation, clean and renewable energy;
09. putting in place a universal child care system that would enable women to enter the labour market more effectively and breathe new life into the economic recovery;
10. putting a stop to the fraudulent use of tax havens and making sure the web giants pay their fair share;
11. implementing measures, as in many countries, to prevent lucrative companies from taking advantage of emergency aid, such as the Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), to pay dividends and bonuses to their shareholders instead of preserving Canadian jobs■

PETER IN THE COMMUNITY



1 As a gesture of solidarity, Jennifer Whiteside, MLA (New Westminister), Aman Singh, MLA (Richmond - Queensborough), New Westminister City Councillor Chuck Puchmayr and myself shipped 10,000 Covid-19 protective masks to five First Nations communities throughout BC ■



2 NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and I marked the one-year mark of the #COVID-19 pandemic, and visited workers at Burnaby Hospital to thank them for all that they do. Frontline workers have courageously kept us safe throughout the pandemic. To all of you, thank you for your courage, compassion & strength!



3 I visited the Burnaby Fire Department, which will be significantly impacted by the TMX Pipeline. The fire department estimates that the cost of training & staffing firefighters to protect the community from fires within this proposed hydrocarbon facility is a staggering \$8 million per year! The residents of Burnaby should not have to bear the cost of this pipeline ■



4 Here I am at the old New Westminister Secondary School, wearing my high school varsity basketball jacket. I went for a tour of the new NWSS, which opened in January 2021. Phenomenal new school with state-of-the-art technology. Thank you to all those who made this happen! Go Hyacks!

Peter and Jagmeet Singh's NDP team have made a difference for you since the beginning of this pandemic.

- ✓ Fighting for more benefits for more workers, students and others to be able to pay their rent and support their families
- ✓ Fighting to help businesses stay open and for people to stay employed through the pandemic
- ✓ Fighting to save lives in continuing care facilities where people are most at risk

That's what New Democrat MPs do – we fight for you and to make sure you don't pay the price of the pandemic while billionaires get richer.

“ Let's help each other get through this pandemic and build a recovery that benefits everyone, not those at the top. ”



– Jagmeet Singh,
Leader of the New
Democratic Party of
Canada



TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT BILL C-274

Act now!

It's time to put an end to predatory lending NOW.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the poorest and most vulnerable while the rich get richer! Ottawa has provided \$750-billion in liquidity supports to Canada's banking system in response to the pandemic yet, banks do nothing for low income people!

People are using high-interest loans to buy food, pay rent, or meet their basic needs.

Predatory payday loans with interest rates of over 60% or even 500% with hidden fees are totally unacceptable.

The Trudeau government cannot continue to allow vulnerable & marginalized Canadians to be crushed financially by interest rates of 400% or 500%- making a small emergency loan a massive burden for many years!

But these loans are not well regulated by the federal government and instead of helping people the loans often catch Canadians in a vicious debt spiral with skyrocketing interest rates of up to 500 per cent (plus hidden fees) which only profit the lenders.

We are over a year now into the pandemic, people continue to struggle financially and it's clear that the federal government and the banking sector have failed low and moderate-income people. To make ends meet, without any other options, I am concerned that even more of them will have had to turn to high-interest rate lenders.

I tabled Private Member's Bill C-274, which would limit the interest rates private companies can charge on loans to vulnerable Canadians.

Alongside with ACORN Canada, which fights for fairer regulations on loans after a personal experience using these high- interest lending services, I've been calling on the Trudeau government to include Bill C-274 in the next federal Budget 2021 to stop this practice immediately.

Prime Minister Trudeau is standing by while the poorest and most vulnerable in our communities struggle to get through the pandemic while the rich are getting richer.

According to Statistics Canada, more than 3 million Canadians live below the poverty line, and with the Covid-19 pandemic, many families, small business people, and

vulnerable individuals have seen their financial situation deteriorate.

Join our movement and show your support by signing our e-petition.

Tell Prime Minister Trudeau to end predatory lending and to endorse Bill C-274: https://peterjulian.ca/ndp_calls_on_government_to_end_predatory_lending

Rather than protecting large banks and predatory lenders, the Trudeau government should immediately invest in the establishment of Cooperative or Non-profit Lending Circles to protect low-income and other vulnerable consumers from abusive lending practices and improve access to fair banking options.

Loans at 60% interest, that's enough!

It's time to put an end to predatory lending

SUPPORT BILL C-274

NDP Peter Julian

How are you doing? We want to hear from you. Tell us in a few words how the pandemic is affecting you.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

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PHONE _____

no postage required

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100%