

Have you joined ACER-CART's letter-writing campaign in support of National Pharmacare?

A National Pharmacare Program has repeatedly been an ACER-CART priority since 2016. One in ten Canadians cannot afford their prescriptions, and this is especially true for Seniors on a fixed income.

The introduction of Bill C-64: *An Act of Respecting Pharmacare* on February 29, 2024, brought a glimmer of hope. The Bill is based on the five principles in the Canada Health Act – public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility, plus it follows the recommendation from *The Implementation of National Pharmacare* as presented by Dr. Eric Hoskin's Advisory Council.

The Act sets out to guide efforts to improve the accessibility and affordability of prescription drugs and related products for all Canadians.

Bill C-64 currently provides first dollar coverage of contraception and diabetes products but also proposes that in the future, additional medications will be similarly covered. This legislation provides the groundwork for the development of a national formulary of essential prescription drugs and the development of a national bulk purchasing strategy.

A sincere thank you to those who have participated in the ACER-CART "Share your Voice" campaign. But in the words of ACER-CART president Bill Berryman, "Now is not the time to be complacent!" Members are encouraged to continue voicing their concerns. The letter-writing tool New Mode allows us to submit more than once.

- Prepared by the ACER-CART Executive