

Minister of Finance



Room 312
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3
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DEC 19 2018

Our File: 2018-166

Mr. Steve McLellan
Chief Executive Officer
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
200 - 2221 Cornwall Street
REGINA SK S4P 2L1

Dear Mr. McLellan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the federal National Pharmacare initiative.

I can advise you that Pharmacare was not discussed at the recent meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Finance Ministers. However, I note that affordable access to medications is an area of great importance to our Government. Saskatchewan has one of the most comprehensive drug coverage plans in Canada. Residents have protection from high drug costs through a number of programs. As well, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency covers 100 per cent of the cost of approved cancer drugs for Saskatchewan residents.

Provinces and territories have made great progress in improving the affordability and accessibility of prescription drugs, including through cooperative initiatives such as the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance, which is resulting in over \$1.98 billion in annual savings for public drug plans.

Saskatchewan's position on Pharmacare is that provincial participation must be voluntary and that provinces must retain responsibility for the design and delivery of public drug coverage.

As the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare (ACINP) is an initiative of the federal government, I encourage you to share your views directly with the ACINP Secretariat. I note that you've already sent a copy of your letter to my colleague, the Honourable Jim Reiter, Minister of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donna Harpauer".

Donna Harpauer

cc: Honourable Jim Reiter, Minister of Health