



November 26, 2018

Hon. Minister Harpauer
Ministry of Finance
Room 312, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Hon. Minister Harpauer,

The purpose of this letter is to strongly encourage the addition of National Pharmacare as a discussion item for the Finance Ministers meeting scheduled for December.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) believes that the federal government's consideration towards a new, broad scope Pharmacare program would cause much greater damage than benefits for Canadians.

Relevant to the Ministry of Finance are the following concerns:

- A full-scale Pharmacare program would require significant funding and substantial tax increases by the federal government. For Saskatchewan, this results in less capacity to develop tax regimes that serve the province's needs.
- The current combinations of private and publicly funded pharma programs currently serve 95% of the population. These programs are cost effective and focused, whereas a national Pharma plan will be costly and broad-based. A federal plan that fills the gaps to serve the remaining 5%, or for people who have unique and exceptional needs, makes sense financially and politically.
- Changes in federal action on this issue would mean dramatic change to current provincial services. Residents with existing plans that serve their needs would face concern & uncertainty.
- The provincial government is likely to bear some costs for the federal government to implement a nationwide Pharma program.

For these reasons, the SCC seeks your support to continue existing Pharma programs and advocate against a National Pharmacare program, as it is currently envisioned.



The SCC believes that a modest, “fill the gaps” concept is the best way to serve the needs of Canadians without levying significant and unnecessary new taxes.

Additionally, I enclose a briefing paper from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Yours Truly,

Steve McLellan
CEO

CC: Minister Jim Reiter, Ministry of Health
Deputy Minister Rupen Pandya, Ministry of Finance
Dr. Trevin Stratton, Chief Economist, Canadian Chamber of Commerce