## **Together for Better Health**

[Test] An update from KeepMyPlan.ca

To: Kyle Macdonald,

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## **keep**myplan.ca

Dear [First Name],

Pharmacies have played a critical role throughout the pandemic. From providing additional testing capacity to bolstering vaccination rollouts throughout the country, frontline pharmacists have been essential to the success we are now beginning to see in our fight against COVID-19.

For many Canadians, pharmacists are the face of health care. 95 per cent of Canadians live within 5 kilometers of a neighbourhood pharmacy, and pharmacists are the first and most frequent touchpoint most Canadians have with the health system. Their roles provide them with an immense understanding of the concerns of Canadians, particularly as it relates to access to life-saving prescription drugs needed to maintain a positive quality of life.

Like all Canadians, pharmacists believe it is essential that everyone has access to the medications they need. This is why pharmacies share Keep My Plan's concern about the relatively unknown but serious risks relating to the federal government's national pharmacare proposal.

Research undertaken by Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada demonstrates that while 82 per cent of those surveyed support a national pharmacare plan, 70 per cent of these supporters are opposed to a program that would replace their existing drug plan. In fact, 80 per cent of those surveyed with existing coverage continued to be satisfied with their existing benefits. These findings make it clear that rather than overhaul a system that currently ensures 26 million Canadians have access to the medications they need, the federal government can best achieve universal access to prescription drugs by building on this system and focusing their resources on those who need it the most - Canadians who currently do not have coverage or those whose coverage is not sufficient.

We encourage you to click here to learn more about Neighbourhood Pharmacies' findings and their proposed recommendations to develop a more equitable approach to national pharmacare that ensures all Canadians have access to prescription drug while allowing individuals to continue to benefit from their existing employer-provided health plans.

Sincerely,

Keep My Plan