



**Neighbourhood  
Pharmacy**  
Association of Canada

Association canadienne  
**des pharmacies  
de quartier**

**Office of the Chief Executive Officer**

1205-3230 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M4N 3P6  
T: 416.226.9100  
F: 416.226.9185  
[info@neighbourhoodpharmacies.ca](mailto:info@neighbourhoodpharmacies.ca)  
[neighbourhoodpharmacies.ca](http://neighbourhoodpharmacies.ca)

October 14, 2025

The Honourable **Marjorie Michel**, Federal Minister of Health  
The Honourable **Uzoma Asagwara**, Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, Manitoba  
The Honourable **Jeremy Cockrill**, Minister of Health, Saskatchewan  
The Honourable **John Dornan**, Minister of Health, New Brunswick  
The Honourable **Christian Dubé**, Minister of Health and Social Services, Québec  
The Honourable **Krista Lynn Howell**, Minister of Health, Newfoundland and Labrador  
The Honourable **Sylvia Jones**, Minister of Health, Ontario  
The Honourable **Adriana LaGrange**, Minister of Health, Alberta  
The Honourable **John Main**, Minister of Health, Nunavut  
The Honourable **Mark McLane**, Minister of Health and Wellness, Prince Edward Island  
The Honourable **Tracy-Anne McPhee**, Minister of Health and Social Services, Yukon  
The Honourable **Josie Osborne**, Minister of Health, British Columbia  
The Honourable **Lesa Semmler**, Minister of Health and Social Services, Northwest Territories  
The Honourable **Michelle Thompson**, Minister of Health and Wellness, Nova Scotia

Dear Ministers,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada (Neighbourhood Pharmacies). As the national voice representing Canada's leading pharmacy organizations including chain, independently owned, and specialty pharmacies, Neighbourhood Pharmacies is committed to working with all government partners to ensure Canadians have timely and equitable access to the care they need, when and where they need it. Pharmacies are uniquely positioned to help address Canada's healthcare challenges—acting as the most accessible healthcare hubs in communities, easing pressure on hospitals, and supporting an estimated 6.5 million Canadians without a family doctor. As small businesses, pharmacies contribute billions to Canada's GDP, support local economies, and create nearly 189,000 jobs in urban and rural communities across the country.

Ministers, as you prepare to gather with your federal-provincial-territorial colleagues at the upcoming Health Ministers Meeting, we urge you to consider the following priority recommendations that will help strengthen the healthcare system and improve patient care.

**Strengthen the Pharmacy Workforce.** A robust pharmacy workforce is foundational to delivering quality care. Addressing human resource challenges requires both retaining the existing workforce and building future capacity by attracting talent and ensuring seamless integration into the health care system. This includes recognizing foreign pharmacist credentials, streamlining interprovincial credential recognition with federal leadership under a "One Canadian Economy" to enhance labour mobility, and optimizing jurisdictional regulations so all pharmacy professionals can consistently provide the maximum scope of care. Eliminating policy barriers that restrict operational efficiency in pharmacies will further strengthen workforce capacity and allow pharmacy professionals to dedicate more time to delivering high-value patient care.

**Safeguard Access to Critical Medications.** Canadians rely on uninterrupted access to medications to improve their health outcomes. However, supply chain disruptions continue to undermine continuity of care and create strain on patients and providers alike. Governments should empower pharmacists to routinely perform therapeutic substitutions, ensuring that patients can continue their treatment without interruption in the event of a drug shortage. Enhancing trade diversification, exempting pharmaceuticals from counter-tariffs, and ensuring drug pricing reforms do not compromise the availability of medications here in Canada are key strategies for preventing drug shortages and stabilizing our pharmaceutical supply.

**Enable Pharmacies to Thrive.** Pharmacies must operate within a fair and sustainable regulatory environment to continue delivering frontline care. Achieving this requires reducing red tape and regulatory barriers to enable full system integration, investing in pharmacy services that expand access to care, and re-evaluating national pharmacare to prioritize Canadians without existing drug coverage while preserving current benefit plans. Minimizing pricing policy-driven reductions to pharmacy funding and addressing policies that limit patient choice or create access inequities will also support a diverse and thriving pharmacy sector better equipped to serve all Canadians.

**Enhance Access to Primary Care.** Pharmacies are vital community access points for public health and primary care and need to be recognized as integral partners in national and provincial immunization strategies. As misinformation continues to undermine vaccine confidence and public trust in science, governments should invest in targeted public education campaigns and advance a national immunization record to support uptake, enable data sharing with pharmacy professionals, and strengthen public health efforts. Across Canada, governments also need to modernize regulatory frameworks to enable pharmacy professionals to practice to the full extent of their scope, ensuring consistency in delivering care across provincial jurisdictions.

As you discuss health priorities with your colleagues at the Health Ministers Meeting, we ask you to consider our recommendations outlined in this letter. Neighbourhood Pharmacies and our members stand ready to work with Health Ministers to implement these solutions. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these priorities in more detail.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to building a more accessible, equitable, and resilient healthcare system for everyone.

Sincerely,



Sandra Hanna, RPh.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Neighbourhood Pharmacies Association of Canada