

MOTION

National Pharmacare Program

WHEREAS The [City/Town/Region] of _____ has recognized and has demonstrated over the past years its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community;

Over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them;

Canada is currently the **ONLY** country with a national medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program;

The risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes service industry employees, those in precarious employment and seasonal workers;

Studies show that adding a national pharmacare program to our national health care system would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade;

Recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment;

Municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a national pharmacare program;

A national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors; and

A National Pharmacare plan is sound policy, both economically and socially, the [City/Town/Region] of _____ express its support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such a policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [City/Town/Region] of _____ call on the [Province/Territory] of _____ to work with the other provinces/territories and the federal government to develop and implement a national pharmacare program.