

Resolution 5A

NATIONAL PHARMACARE STRATEGY (PASSED)

⇒ County of Inverness

⇒ County of Victoria

WHEREAS Inverness and Victoria Counties have recognized and demonstrated over the past years, its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community; and

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

WHEREAS Canada is currently the ONLY country with a national Medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program; and

WHEREAS the risk of having no insurance for medication is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, precarious working and seasonal workers, like many in Inverness and Victoria County; and

WHEREAS 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; and

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

WHEREAS municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a national pharmacare program; and

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

WHEREAS a National Pharmacare plan is sound policy, both economically and socially;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM urge the Province of Nova Scotia to work with other Provinces and the Federal Government to develop and implement a national Pharmacare program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM also urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to adopt a similar resolution respecting the Federal Government.

Response from:
Department of Health and Wellness

RESPONSE:

Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health agree that improving the affordability and accessibility of prescription drugs is a shared priority.

Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health are considering a range of measures to reduce pharmaceutical prices and improve prescribing and appropriate use of drugs, while striving to improve health outcomes. Ministers have agreed to explore approaches to improving coverage and access to prescription drugs for Canadians and have established a Federal- Provincial- Territorial working group.