

Below is a poll conducted by the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) of its members. See the CARP *Pharmacare Report* and detailed analysis online here:

<http://www.carp.ca/advocacy/adv-article-display.cfm?documentID=5097>

Poll Results:

Pharmacare Poll

How do you pay for your prescription drugs?

Drug plan through work	1058 Votes	32.5 %
I pay	670 Votes	20.6 %
Government pays	648 Votes	19.9 %
Social assistance	13 Votes	0.4 %
Worker's Compensation/disability insurance	2 Votes	0.1 %
Other Drug Plan	701 Votes	21.5 %
OTHER	166 Votes	5.1 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Have you skipped filling a prescription in the past year because you could not afford the drugs?

Yes	334 Votes	10.3 %
No	2924 Votes	89.7 %
Total	3258 Votes	

A Carleton University professor recently released a report which suggested a nationwide free drug coverage plan, or Pharmacare, similar to medicare, which government can afford by making changes to the current system including national bulk purchasing of drugs. Do you think this plan makes sense?

Makes a lot of sense	1438 Votes	44.1 %
Makes sense	1078 Votes	33.1 %
Doesn't make much sense	288 Votes	8.8 %
Doesn't make any sense	118 Votes	3.6 %
DON'T KNOW	336 Votes	10.3 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Do you think the government of Canada can afford to provide free prescription drugs to all Canadians?

Yes	1518 Votes	46.6 %
No	1740 Votes	53.4 %

Total	3258 Votes
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The changes to the current system of drug purchasing necessary to permit free prescription drugs for all Canadians would include bulk purchasing, rigorous independent reviews, competitive bidding for generic drugs, eliminating or regulating private drug plans and cutting dispensing fees. Do you think this idea makes sense?

Makes a lot of sense	1173 Votes	36.0 %
Makes sense	1230 Votes	37.8 %
Doesn't make much sense	378 Votes	11.6 %
Doesn't make any sense	183 Votes	5.6 %
DON'T KNOW	294 Votes	9.0 %
Total	3258 Votes	

There are many critics of a publicly funded universal drug plan. Which ONE group do you think will present the greatest obstacles to establishing Pharmacare in Canada?

Patent drug manufacturers	1936 Votes	59.4 %
Generic drug manufacturers	96 Votes	2.9 %
Pharmacy chains	424 Votes	13.0 %
Independent pharmacists	44 Votes	1.4 %
Insurance industry	438 Votes	13.4 %
OTHER	85 Votes	2.6 %
DON'T KNOW	235 Votes	7.2 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Do you think the government would be able to succeed in establishing a national drug coverage plan against this opposition?

Yes	1391 Votes	42.7 %
No	1041 Votes	32.0 %
DON'T KNOW	826 Votes	25.4 %
Total	3258 Votes	

National bulk purchasing would allow the government to aggressively negotiate the lowest possible price from drug manufacturers. Do you think this is a good thing?

Yes	2732 Votes	83.9 %
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No	271 Votes	8.3 %
DON'T KNOW	255 Votes	7.8 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Drug manufacturers complain that any attempt to obtain lower prices will hinder their ability to research and develop new drugs. Is this a concern or not?

Very great concern	288 Votes	8.8 %
A concern	1385 Votes	42.5 %
Not much of a concern	1101 Votes	33.8 %
No concern at all	399 Votes	12.2 %
DON'T KNOW	85 Votes	2.6 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Canada pays among the highest prices in the world for patented prescription drugs, as a way of attracting pharmaceutical research and development to this country. Do you agree it is a good tradeoff to negotiate lower prices for patented drugs if the result might be less research and development based in Canada?

Strongly agree	366 Votes	11.2 %
Agree	1461 Votes	44.8 %
Disagree	798 Votes	24.5 %
Strongly disagree	233 Votes	7.2 %
DON'T KNOW	400 Votes	12.3 %
Total	3258 Votes	

In fact, little pharmaceutical research and development happens in Canada now, despite these policies. Do you agree Canada should negotiate lower drug prices in spite of pharmaceutical company threats to withdraw R&D?

Strongly agree	1183 Votes	36.3 %
Agree	1662 Votes	51.0 %
Disagree	176 Votes	5.4 %
Strongly disagree	49 Votes	1.5 %
DON'T KNOW	188 Votes	5.8 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Under national bulk purchasing, drug brands and prices would be the same in every community across Canada,

regardless of regional diversity. Do you agree with this idea?

Strongly agree	1555 Votes	47.7 %
Agree	1426 Votes	43.8 %
Disagree	151 Votes	4.6 %
Strongly disagree	43 Votes	1.3 %
DON'T KNOW	83 Votes	2.5 %
Total	3258 Votes	

National bulk purchasing can take many forms. Under one plan, the government will identify the least expensive drug brand available for a specific condition, and that will be the only one provided to Canadians. Do you agree that you should be restricted to one brand of the drugs you take, whether or not it is the one you use now?

Strongly agree	190 Votes	5.8 %
Agree	733 Votes	22.5 %
Disagree	1367 Votes	42.0 %
Strongly disagree	796 Votes	24.4 %
DON'T KNOW	172 Votes	5.3 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Under another version, the number of brands of drugs covered would be limited, but Canadians could pay extra if they wished to use a different drug. Do you agree with this idea?

Strongly agree	536 Votes	16.5 %
Agree	1966 Votes	60.3 %
Disagree	477 Votes	14.6 %
Strongly disagree	190 Votes	5.8 %
DON'T KNOW	89 Votes	2.7 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Under another version, no other drugs than those covered would be available in Canada, regardless of whether consumers wished to pay for them themselves. How much do you agree with this idea?

Strongly agree	61 Votes	1.9 %
Agree	178 Votes	5.5 %
Disagree	1385 Votes	42.5 %

Strongly disagree	1547 Votes	47.5 %
DON'T KNOW	87 Votes	2.7 %
Total	3258 Votes	

For generic drugs which are interchangeable, the government would require drug manufacturers to bid on the right to supply generic drugs, and the least expensive drug would be selected for coverage. How much do you agree with this idea?

Strongly agree	555 Votes	17.0 %
Agree	1670 Votes	51.3 %
Disagree	614 Votes	18.8 %
Strongly disagree	190 Votes	5.8 %
DON'T KNOW	229 Votes	7.0 %
Total	3258 Votes	

It has been suggested that the government could extend the idea of national bulk purchasing beyond just prescription drugs to medical devices, equipment and supplies. Do you agree this is a good idea?

Strongly agree	774 Votes	23.8 %
Agree	1656 Votes	50.8 %
Disagree	395 Votes	12.1 %
Strongly disagree	125 Votes	3.8 %
DON'T KNOW	308 Votes	9.5 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Some people suggest that a government run national bulk purchase program would put too much control in the hands of the government, and be bad for the private sector. Do you agree with this concern?

Strongly agree	314 Votes	9.6 %
Agree	975 Votes	29.9 %
Disagree	1249 Votes	38.3 %
Strongly disagree	262 Votes	8.0 %
DON'T KNOW	458 Votes	14.1 %
Total	3258 Votes	

The author of the Carleton University report on Pharmacare suggests a number of strategies for reducing prescription

**drug costs in Canada to permit universal drug coverage.
Which ONE of these do you think will be most effective?**

Eliminate pharmacist dispensing fees	147 Votes	4.5 %
Eliminate all deductibles	102 Votes	3.1 %
National bulk purchasing	1396 Votes	42.8 %
Eliminate Quebec's 15 year patent subsidy of the pharmaceutical industry	168 Votes	5.2 %
Eliminate multiple private plans and save administrative costs	174 Votes	5.3 %
Rigourously review all medications for effectiveness and cost and eliminate those which do not pass the test	835 Votes	25.6 %
OTHER	68 Votes	2.1 %
DON'T KNOW	368 Votes	11.3 %
Total	3258 Votes	

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you support?

Conservative	1209 Votes	37.1 %
Liberal	923 Votes	28.3 %
NDP	267 Votes	8.2 %
Green Party	123 Votes	3.8 %
Bloc Quebecois	4 Votes	0.1 %
UNDECIDED	714 Votes	21.9 %
OTHER	18 Votes	0.6 %
Total	3258 Votes	

How old are you?

Less than 45	6 Votes	0.2 %
45 to 54	65 Votes	2.0 %
55 to 64	1038 Votes	31.9 %
65 to 74	1573 Votes	48.3 %
75 or older	576 Votes	17.7 %
Total	3258 Votes	

Where do you live?

Newfoundland	15 Votes	0.5 %
Nova Scotia	96 Votes	2.9 %
PEI	17 Votes	0.5 %
New Brunswick	54 Votes	1.7 %
Quebec	82 Votes	2.5 %
Ontario	1910 Votes	58.6 %

Manitoba	79 Votes	2.4 %
Saskatchewan	60 Votes	1.8 %
Alberta	250 Votes	7.7 %
BC/Territories	695 Votes	21.3 %
Total	3258 Votes	

What is your gender?

Male	1939 Votes	59.5 %
Female	1319 Votes	40.5 %
Total	3258 Votes	

What is your household income before taxes, including all investments and pensions?

Less than \$20K	85 Votes	2.6 %
\$20K to \$39K	434 Votes	13.3 %
\$40K to \$59K	559 Votes	17.2 %
\$60K to \$79K	491 Votes	15.1 %
\$80K to \$99K	316 Votes	9.7 %
\$100K or more	351 Votes	10.8 %
PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	1022 Votes	31.4 %
Total	3258 Votes	