

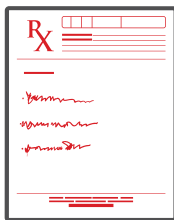
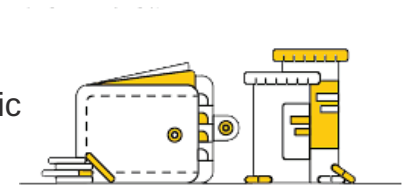
# Canada needs a National Public Drug Plan for All

## The reasons:

1. One in every 10 Canadians cannot afford the drugs they are prescribed. They end up ill, go to emergency rooms, and in some cases need surgery. Only a third of Canadians are covered by public drug plans which vary from province to province. Most are covered partially through their workplace by private insurance plans that are expensive and unreliable. Another 10% of Canadians have no coverage at all.

2. Of 32 OECD countries Canada pays the second highest cost for prescription drugs. We also lose money by paying insurance companies to administer thousands of plans.

3. Pharmaceutical companies spend \$36,000 per doctor each year, often influencing prescribing behaviour, leading to inappropriate prescribing practices.

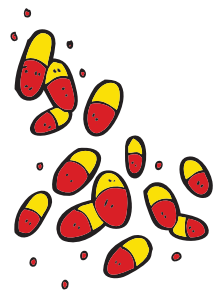


## What is a National Public Drug Plan?

- A national public drug plan would provide prescription drugs to everyone in a fair and equal manner, with oversight and some funding by the federal government.
- Drug prices would be negotiated at the national level. With the power to provide access to the whole population of 36 million people, we could achieve up to \$11 billion in savings.
- A national drug agency would improve drug safety by providing independent, accurate information to doctors, independent analysis of new drugs and a national database to track adverse reactions.

## Canada can do better

- Canada is the only country with universal health care that does not include drugs.
- Canada is far behind. Many countries introduced national public drug plans in the 1940s at the same time as their public health coverage.



Let's ensure everyone has access to the medicines they need.