

**Bill #1**  
**Healthcare Expansion Act**  
Moved by: Minister of Finance

**WHEREAS** “On average, Canadians spend \$926 per person on prescriptions per year, through a combination of public, private and out-of-pocket expenditure”;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS** “Continued access to quality health care without financial or other barriers will be critical to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of Canadians”;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS** “Canada is the only country with a broad public health system that does not include universal coverage for pharmaceuticals.”<sup>3</sup>

**THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

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**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this Act is to:
  - a. Establish a single payer national pharmacare plan,
  - b. Establish **PHARMA**,
  - c. Create a national formulary of prescription drugs, and
  - d. Develop a mechanism for drug negotiations for **PHARMA** to engage in.

**Definitions**

2. The following terms shall be defined for the purposes of this Act:
  - a. **Single payer:** A healthcare system where one entity pays for all costs associated with prescription drugs.
  - b. **National pharmacare plan:** A health insurance system to provide all Canadians with equal access to eligible prescription drugs.
  - c. **National formulary:** A list of prescription drugs to be covered by the national pharmacare plan.
  - d. **Eligible prescription drugs:** A drug that is prescribed by a doctor and purchased at a pharmacy and will be included in the national formulary.
  - e. **Cost effectiveness:** an economic analysis of the costs and health outcomes/benefits of a specific prescription drug; used as a comparative tool between different drug options for a certain disease.

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada. “Towards Implementation of National Pharmacare: Discussion Paper”. Published June 06, 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/public-engagement/external-advisory-bodies/implementation-national-pharmacare/discussion-paper.html#s4-1>

<sup>2</sup> Government of Canada. “Canada Health Act”. Last modified September 10, 2019. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-6/page-1.html>

<sup>3</sup> Boothe, Katherine. “Why Canada should introduce universal drugs coverage”. The Conversation Canada. Accessed November 20, 2019. <https://theconversation.com/ca/who-we-are>

### **National pharmacare plan**

3. The Government of Canada hereby establishes a national pharmacare plan.
4. The national pharmacare plan will:
  - a. deliver universal access and coverage to medication for all Canadians regardless of income;
  - b. provide coverage to the following individuals:
    - (1) Canadian citizens,
    - (2) residents with the intent to stay for a minimum of 6 months,
    - (3) permanent residents, and
    - (4) individuals holding an eligible work permit or study permit in Canada;
  - c. eliminate all deductible payments for prescription drugs; and
  - d. function in all provinces and territories.

### **Limits on Private Insurance**

5. Private health insurance providers will no longer provide additional coverage for medication.

### **Establishing PHARMA**

6. The Public Health Agency for Reliable Medication Access [**PHARMA**] is hereby established as a non-governmental public agency.
7. **PHARMA**'s mandate is to
  - a. deliver the national pharmacare plan;
  - b. bulk-buy prescription drugs, both name-brand and generic
  - c. conduct research on the most cost-effective prescription drugs for Canadians; and
  - d. create and manage the national formulary on an ongoing basis.

### **Structure of PHARMA**

8. **PHARMA** is comprised of the following members:
  - a. doctors and pharmacists;
  - b. scientists;
  - c. economists; and
  - d. patient advocates.
9. Members will be appointed by the Minister of Health for five-year renewable terms.

### **Establishing a national formulary**

10. **PHARMA** will create a national formulary of prescription drugs to be covered in the national pharmacare plan.
11. The following drugs are not eligible for coverage:
  - a. over the counter medications, and
  - b. medications administered for use in hospitals.
12. Medications included in the formulary will be chosen through a cost-effectiveness analysis.

### **Bulk-buying entity for eligible prescription drugs**

13. **PHARMA** will be bulk-purchasing prescription drugs that are listed in the national formulary.
  - a. Negotiations will be conducted to ensure the best pricing and supply of medications to meet existing and future health needs of Canadians
14. When purchasing prescription drugs, **PHARMA** must consider:
  - a. cost-effectiveness,
  - b. current and future health needs of Canadians, and
  - c. the drug or treatment's ability to extend and improve a patient's quality of life.