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**Subject:** FW: Request regarding Bill C-213 The Canada Pharmacare Act

**From:** peter.julian@parl.gc.ca <peter.julian@parl.gc.ca>
**Sent:** November 26, 2020 12:11 PM
**To:** Village of Rycroft <rycroft@rycroft.ca>
**Subject:** Request regarding Bill C-213 The Canada Pharmacare Act

Mayor DIAHANN POTREBENKO
City of RYCROFT

Dear Mayor POTREBENKO,

We are writing to you today seeking the City Council of RYCROFT's formal endorsement of Bill C-213, the *Canada Pharmacare Act*.

Introduced in February 2020, the *Canada Pharmacare Act* is ground-breaking new federal legislation based on the recommendations of the Hoskins Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare and modelled on the *Canada Health Act*.

The *Canada Pharmacare Act* specifies the conditions and criteria that provincial and territorial prescription drug insurance programs must meet to receive federal funding. This includes the core principles of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility.

Universal public drug coverage has been recommended by commissions, committees, and advisory councils dating as far back as the 1940s. Immediately following the last election, the New Democratic Party of Canada began working to draft a legislative framework to enable the implementation of a universal, comprehensive and public pharmacare program. The *Canada Pharmacare Act* is the first piece of legislation introduced by the New Democrat Caucus in the current Parliament.

As you know, across Canada, people are making impossible choices every day because they cannot afford their prescription medications. Over the past year alone, one-in-four Canadians were forced to avoid filling or renewing a prescription due to cost or take measures to extend a prescription because they could not afford to keep the recommended dosage schedule.

Even those with private coverage are seeing their employer-sponsored benefits shrink – a trend that has accelerated due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. In fact, Canadians are twice as likely to have lost prescription drug coverage as to have gained it over the past year.

Simply put, universal public pharmacare will extend prescription drug coverage to every single Canadian, while saving billions every year. The final report of the Hoskins Advisory Council found that, once fully implemented, universal public pharmacare will reduce annual system wide spending on prescription drugs by $5 billion. Businesses and employees will see their prescription drug costs reduced by $16.6 billion annually and families will see their out of pocket drug costs reduced by $6.4 billion a year.

Although a recent study from Anus Reid Institute found near universal support for pharmacare among the Canadian public, powerful vested interests in the drug and insurance industries are lobbying to block this critical program in order to protect their profits.

Indeed, the *Canada Pharmacare Act* is reaching a crucial period in the legislative process. The first hour of debate on this bill took place in Parliament on November 18, 2020. The second hour of debate and the first vote will be held in February 2021. This legislation could be enacted by next spring, allowing millions of Canadians who are struggling to pay for medication to receive the support they desperately need.

That's why we need your help to secure the adoption of the *Canada Pharmacare Act* in Parliament. **We are asking your City Council to join other municipalities across Canada to formally endorse Bill C-213**. We will be publicizing this support nationally.

For more information on C-213 and to sign the e-petition, please visit our website: www.pharmacarec213.ca

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us if you require further detail.

We look forward to hearing from you.DIAHANN

Sincerely,
**Peter Julian, MP**
**New Westminster-Burnaby**

**Jenny Kwan, MP**
**Vancouver East**

**Don Davies, MP**
**Vancouver Kingsway**