

# NURSING MATTERS: ELECTION PRIORITIES 2018

## What will you and your party do to ensure the implementation of a national, universal pharmacare plan?

### Recommendations

IMPROVE ACCESS to medication by including prescription drugs in the public health care system.

ENSURE EQUITABLE access to prescription drugs by establishing a national formulary.

CONTROL COSTS by systematically implementing bulk purchasing for patented and generic prescription drugs.

ENSURE THE appropriate use of prescription drugs by assessing the safety and efficacy of medications.

## Body Count

How many Canadians lose their lives without pharmacare?



**270 to 420**

premature deaths of working-age Canadians with diabetes every year



**370 to 640**

premature deaths of Canadians with ischemic heart disease every year



**550 to 670**

premature deaths from all causes among older working-age (55–64) Canadians every year



**Up to 12,000**

Canadians with cardiovascular disease aged 40+ require overnight hospitalization



**Up to 70,000**

older Canadians (55+) suffer avoidable deterioration in their health status every year

## Prevalance of Cost-related Non-adherence (CRNA) in Canada and Comparable Countries with Universal Health and Pharmaceutical Coverage

	All Adults Aged 18+ (2016 data)	Adults Aged 55+ (2014 data)	Adults Aged 65+ (2014 data)
Australia	6.3%	6.8%	4.4%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
France	3.9%	1.6%	1.5%
Germany	3.2%	3.7%	4.2%
Netherlands	4.4%	4.0%	2.9%
New Zealand	5.7%	4.8%	3.4%
Norway	3.4%	2.4%	1.9%
Sweden	5.7%	2.4%	1.8%
Switzerland	8.9%	2.9%	2.5%
UK	2.1%	3.1%	2.4%

Sources: 2014 and 2016 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Surveys

### Rationale

26% OF Atlantic Canadians don't take their medications as prescribed because they can't afford to.<sup>1</sup>

A NATIONAL universal pharmacare plan could save New Brunswick \$278 million per year.<sup>2</sup>

THIS SAVINGS could be reinvested in home care, community health centres, long-term care and human resources.

92% OF Atlantic Canadian residents strongly support establishing a universal prescription drug plan to cover all Canadians.<sup>1</sup>

### Supporting Evidence

\$278 MILLION in annual savings could be spent on:

- \$101 million could be allocated to home care, of which \$2 million could be allocated to 5,500 more home care visits to New Brunswick seniors.
- With another \$101 million, New Brunswick could build 40 community health centres, providing 80,000 more residents with high quality integrated care to respond to both physical and mental health needs.

- \$13 million could provide 250 more long-term care beds per year.

- That last \$63 million could hire 800 registered nurses, which would reduce overtime and improve safety across the board.

FAILING TO adhere to prescribed medications leads to increased costs on the health care system as well as decreased well-being and lost lives.

<sup>1</sup> [www.angusreid.org/prescription-drugs-canada/](http://www.angusreid.org/prescription-drugs-canada/)

<sup>2</sup> A Roadmap to a Rational Pharmacare Policy in Canada, M.-A. Gagnon, 2014