



Jonathan X. Côté  
Mayor

March 9, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

**Re: National Pharmacare Program**

At a meeting of New Westminster City Council held on February 24, 2020, Council passed the following motion regarding a National Pharmacare Program:

*WHEREAS the City of New Westminster recognizes the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community;*

*AND WHEREAS over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them;*

*AND WHEREAS Canada is currently the only country with a National Medicare Program that does not have a National Pharmacare Program;*

*AND WHEREAS the risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, as well as precarious and seasonal workers;*

*AND WHEREAS studies show that adding a National Pharmacare Program to our National Health Care System would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year;*

*AND WHEREAS recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment;*

*AND WHEREAS municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a National Pharmacare Program;*

*AND WHEREAS a national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing, especially to Canadian seniors;*

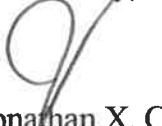
*AND WHEREAS a National Pharmacare plan is a sound policy, both economically and socially;*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***

*THAT the City of New Westminster write a letter calling on the Federal Government to work with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a Universal Public National Pharmacare program as a top priority.*

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Yours truly,



Jonathan X. Cote  
Mayor

Cc: The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health  
All BC Municipalities