



*Deputy Premier  
Office of the Minister  
MLA, Edmonton-Glenora*

FEB 14 2019

AR 158693

Shauna Feth, Chair  
Alberta Chamber of Commerce  
1808-10025 102A Ave  
Edmonton AB T5J 2Z2

Ken Kobly, President and CEO  
Alberta Chamber of Commerce  
1808-10025 102A Ave  
Edmonton AB T5J 2Z2

Dear Shauna Feth and Ken Kobly:

Thank you for your letter to Honourable Joe Ceci and me regarding national pharmacare. As Minister of Health, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

Our government is supportive of the concept of national pharmacare. Creating a national pharmacare program will require open and collaborative conversations with a variety of individuals and organizations to gain clarity and develop a common understanding of the current coverage gaps, and how best to address them.

Premiers agreed that discussions on pharmacare with the federal government will be governed by the following principles:

1. Improving access through removing cost barriers for patients should be the focus;
2. Development should be based on the best available evidence about potential benefits, risks, cost, and reliability of supply;
3. Provinces and territories must retain responsibility for the design and delivery of public drug coverage; and
4. Federal pharmacare funding must be long-term, adequate, secure, flexible, and take into consideration present and future cost pressures.

In September 2018, Alberta Health representatives met with the Federal Advisory Council to begin discussions on the Implementation of National Pharmacare (Advisory Council). At this time, the Advisory Council also hosted roundtable discussion in Edmonton with a variety of stakeholders, including private/group plan sponsors, patient groups, Indigenous groups, and clinical and academic experts. Provinces, territories, and their partners are collaboratively working to inform discussions on national pharmacare. Alberta is committed to meaningful dialogue with the Advisory Council and the federal government to ensure that concerns from all parties are considered.

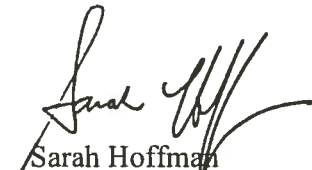
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The design, impact, and potential cost of a national pharmacare program are critical to consider during consultations. The Advisory Council is still developing their proposed pharmacare model that will be used to inform their advice to the federal government. Provincial and territorial Health and Finance officials will coordinate a review and comprehensive analysis of any proposed model in order to support continued discussions to ensure that the pharmacare model is the best fit for Canadians and is sustainable.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your thoughts on national pharmacare.

Sincerely,



Sarah Hoffman  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Health

cc: Honourable Joe Ceci, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board