



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



February 2, 2021

VIA Email: The Honourable Peter Julian, M.L.A. New Westminster – Burnaby
peter.julian.c1d@parl.gc.ca

Greetings,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Vancouver and District Labour Council, representing nearly more than 75 affiliated local unions and their approximately 60,000 unionized workers in the City of Vancouver and surrounding municipalities. I write to express our wholehearted support for your Private Member's Bill, C-213, An Act to Enact the Canada Pharmacare Act.

At long last, the Government of Canada must take action to complete the unfinished work of medicare. In doing so, it must ensure that the model of pharmacare implemented follows the lead of the Canada Health Act, and is universal, single-payer, comprehensive, and public. The pharmacare plan contemplated by C-213 is the plan that we need. We oppose patchwork approaches that have sometimes been proposed elsewhere. These would leave some Canadian's behind, generate additional costs, and protect the profits of big pharma over the common good.

It is shocking that today Canada stands as the only high-income country that has a universal healthcare system without universal coverage of prescription drugs. Our incomplete system means that many cannot access the medication they need due to prohibitory costs, or they are forced to make unthinkable sacrifices to manage the expense. This situation has only worsened with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby making the implementation of pharmacare more urgent than ever.

Canadian's have been promised pharmacare time and again by Liberal Party governments, but today we need action not promises. Later this month, the debate and vote on C-213 will put each MP's feet to the fire. Working people will be watching to see who does the right thing in this crucial moment. To this end, we will encourage union members to sign your e-petition and contact their Member of Parliament to express their support for Bill C-213.

We thank you, Jagmeet Singh, and the Federal NDP caucus, for your all your work and advocacy on this issue.

Yours Truly,

Stephen von Sychowski
President, VDLC

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