

Health

2018

18.4.1 MEDICINAL CANNABIS

Policy: That NPF demand the Canadian government mandate the Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) of Health Canada to take steps towards clinical review and approval of the use of medicinal cannabis as a positive alternative to current pharmaceutical drugs, And - That the NPF along with Health Canada recognize and promote the use of medicinal cannabis.

Submitted by Unifor local 1973 Retired Workers Chapter

18.4.2 MEDICINAL CANNABIS TAX EXEMPTION

Policy: That the NPF urge the government of Canada to treat medicinal cannabis in a similar fashion as prescriptions and remove the HST taxes.

18.4.3 EYEGLASSES FOR SENIORS

Policy: That National Pensioners Federation lobby the Federal Government to provide free eyeglasses for seniors whose income is below the Poverty Line.

Submitted by Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated

18.4.9 PHARMACARE EXCLUSIONS

Policy: that the National Pensioners Federation go on record against any exclusions, And - That the NPF continue to fight for a truly Universal Pharmacare Plan for every Canadian.

Submitted By: Club #407 – Unifor Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

18.4.10 NATIONAL PHARMACARE COVERAGE FOR PEOPLE WITH EXPENSIVE, CHRONIC ILLNESSES

Policy: That the National Pensioners Federation propose to the federal government that the government establish as a key part of National Pharmacare an Appeal Board composed of independent, highly qualified medical and other experts. (The purpose of the Appeal Board would be to assess in a timely way the refusal by government officials administering National Pharmacare of out-of-hospital coverage for an individual requiring an expensive prescription drug recommended by physicians for treatment of a chronic life-threatening illness.)

Submitted by NPF Health Committee

2017

NATIONAL PUBLIC DRUG PLAN

Policy: that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) continue to demand that the Federal Government pass legislation to provide a National Public Drug Plan (Universal Pharmacare program),

And - That the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) write directly to Canadian Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Philpott, requesting she take a positive stance towards promoting a National Public Drug Plan and advocate for such a plan to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health Study on the Development of a National Pharmacare Program.

NATIONAL PHARMACARE PROGRAM

Policy: that the National Pensioners' Federation urges the Federal Government to enter into meaningful discussions with the Provinces to provide a National Pharmacare Program so that all Canadians have equal access to prescription drugs at a reduced cost.

Submitted by OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION of BC

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT

Policy: That the federal and provincial governments advocate on behalf of the public by exposing (where found) the pharmaceutical industry's exploitation of the sick to contrive higher drug costs.

2016

16-2-8 VITAMIN D

Policy: That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal Government to require Vitamin D testing as recommended by the Vitamin D Council and informed MD's when conditions such as with diabetes, hypertension, rickets, cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, cognitive impairment in the elderly, depression, colorectal cancer, multiple sclerosis, and lupus are identified, helping to prevent disease conditions and consequences to patients, families and cost to the healthcare system.

16-2-7 GMO LABELLING

Policy: That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal Government to require Genetically Modified Organism labeling on all GMO products being sold in Canada.

Section: Additional policies

16-2-6 TAINTED BLOOD

Policy: That the NPF call upon the Government of Canada to refuse to issue or approve any license to Canadian Plasma Resources or any other private, for-profit, donor-paid blood products company to operate in Canada; and implement legislation which ensures that no for-profit, donor-paid clinics will be allowed to operate in Canada.

16-2-5 PAID PLASMA & PRIVATE BLOOD COLLECTION CLINICS

Policy: That the NPF and its clubs work with interested groups to meet with all levels of government to ensure that the recommendations of the Krever Commission report are adhered to and no paid plasma and private blood clinics are allowed to operate in Canada.

16-2-3 IMPROVEMENTS TO LEVEL OF SERVICE TO SENIORS LIVING IN CARE HOMES

Policy: That the NPF urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to fund residential care homes to a level sufficient to provide recommended standards of individual care hours that will reduce the need for over-medication and that this care be culturally sensitive.

16-2-2 DENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Policy: That the NPF urge the Canadian, provincial, and territorial governments to fund dental services, particularly for those low income Canadians without any dental coverage.

16.2.1 RENEWAL OF CANADA'S PUBLIC MEDICARE SYSTEM

Policy: That the NPF Convention 2016 affirms our demands on the Liberal government of Canada to support and renew Canada's public Medicare system: Pharmacare – Create a national public drug program to ensure equal access to life-saving medication, and – Ensure sufficient stable Federal and Provincial funding to provide high- quality acute care, home care, and long-term care services; and – Develop a Seniors Strategy to increase the care of our aging population; and – Protect and enforce the Canada Health Act, ensuring health care remains public for the public good; and that the National Pensioners Federation and affiliates continue to advocate and mobilize our members and communities for a renewed Health Accord and to hold federal, provincial, and territorial ministers accountable to their constituencies in the year ahead to renew our public health services.

2015

UNIVERSAL PROGRAMME OF HOME SUPPORT AND HOME CARE

Policy: That the NPF support a Universal Programme of Home Support and Home Care based on need, available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, for seniors and that this policy should become part of any election platform and further that the NPF urge the federal government to make implementation of this policy a priority.

SUPERIOR QUALITY FOR THE CFIA

Policy: That the NPF urge Agriculture Canada to require the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to give Canadians assurance that they are receiving meat products which have passed through a federal inspection programme that is equal or superior to that given to meat products destined for the United States of America or elsewhere.

SAFETY INFORMATION FOR THE CANADIAN CONSUMER

Policy: That the NPF contact Health Canada and the Canadian government to ensure that they adhere to their own stated principles to ensure steps are taken to provide Canadian consumers with more timely and transparent information regarding the safety of imported medicines and that the government of Canada enact legislation to give it the authority to demand recalls and/or to ban the sale of medicines that might potentially be harmful to consumers.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Policy: That the NPF strongly urge that all local, provincial, territorial, and federal health authorities (including medical and dental colleges) endorse and support the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology's ongoing research and education in the public interests.

RE-INSTATE THE CANADA HEALTH COUNCIL

Policy: That the NPF urge the federal government to reinstate the Canada Health Council to continue to monitor and implement a Canada Health Accord.

PUBLIC NOT-FOR-PROFIT LONG-TERM CARE

Policy: That the NPF support universal and fair access to public not-for-profit long term care and work with other seniors' organizations to achieve this.

OPPOSING THE TPP

Policy: That the NPF communicate our opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership which would make more costly a Canadian Pharmacare programme and that we call upon the federal government to discontinue the discussion on all parts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership immediately.

IMPARTIALITY OF THE CFIA

Policy: That the federal government recognizes the need to have qualified federal meat inspectors routinely and consistently carry out inspections to ensure that there is an impartial buffer between the meat product processor and the consumer, thereby giving emphasis to food health safety as opposed to a potential profit motive.

ENSURING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Policy: That the NPF demand that the federal government provide improved measures to fully ensure a healthy environment for all present and future Canadians.

LONG-TERM CARE

Policy: That the NPF lobby all levels of government to achieve adequate long term care for seniors and work with other organizations to achieve this objective.

10 YEAR HEALTH ACCORD

Policy: That the federal government work with the provinces and territories on a new 10-year Health Accord that includes stable, predictable, and long-term funding that grows at least 6% per year.

2014

TRANSPARENCY IN TRADE DEALS

Policy: That the federal government open the doors to all the secret meetings, allow citizen input into all trade deals and allow parliament to be involved in debating the issues.

TRANSPARENCY IN FREE TRADE TALKS

Policy: That we demand accountability to the citizens of Canada on free trade talks and public hearings in issues which have lasting effects on living standards.

SECURE FUNDING FOR A NEW HEALTH ACCORD

Policy: That the federal, provincial and territorial governments be urged to negotiate a new Health Accord that protects, transforms and strengthens our National Health Care System to include adequate and stable financial resources (including at least a 6% escalator), as well as national seniors' health care plan and a national pharmaceutical strategy that will improve health outcomes for Canadians.

RESTORE HEALTHCARE FUNDING

Policy: That the federal, provincial and territorial governments act immediately to restore funding and safe staffing levels in the health care sector.

REASONABLE TRANSFER FEES

Policy: That the Canadian government adopt as a principle that charges for transferring medical and/or dental records be limited to the actual cost of postage or courier service

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VULNERABLE SENIOR CARE

Policy: That the federal and provincial governments require increased public accountability and transparency from all those entrusted with the lives of vulnerable seniors while those seniors are “in care”.

PRIORITIZE HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR SENIORS

Policy: That the federal, provincial and territorial governments make health and wellness programmes for seniors and retirees a priority and provide tax incentives for seniors and retirees who participate in health and wellness programmes.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MODEL

Policy: That the federal, provincial and territorial governments support and promote the “Primary Health Care Model” of health care delivery throughout the country.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT

Policy: That the federal and provincial governments advocate on behalf of the public by exposing (where found) the pharmaceutical industry’s exploitation of the sick to contrive higher drug costs.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG STRATEGY

Policy: That the federal, provincial and territorial governments establish a publicly administered body to implement standards, accreditation, regulation and supervisions of care in long term care and personal care facilities and that the publicly administered body report to the public.

LONG-TERM CARE OVERSIGHT

Policy: That the federal, provincial and territorial governments establish a publicly administered body to implement standards, accreditation, regulation and supervisions of care in long term care and personal care facilities and that the publicly administered body report to the public.

HEALTH SERVICES IN CETA

Policy: That the Government of Canada negotiate a new exemption to the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) that reads: “Nothing in the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement be construed to apply to measures adopted or maintained by a party with respect to health care, health services or health insurance.” and further that the Government of Canada remove all matters related to pharmaceutical patents from the CETA and from all future trade and investments agreements.

ELEMENTS FOR A NEW CANADIAN HEALTH ACCORD

Policy: That the Canadian government commit to a re-negotiated Canada Health Accord which includes a continuing care plan that integrates home, facility based long-term respite and palliative care, dental health, dental care, a universal public drug plan and stable funding.

DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER ADVERTISING

Policy: That the federal government ban the direct-to-consumer advertising of pharmaceuticals.

DEMENTIA BUDDY PROGRAMME

Policy: That the federal, provincial and territorial governments encourage development and implementation of the “Dementia Buddy Programme” in medical school curricula and approval for the first year medical students’ participation in this programme across Canada.

BUILDING A COALITION FOR A NEW CANADIAN HEALTH ACCORD

Policy: That the NPF ask other seniors organizations and individuals to join us in declaring our commitment to use all democratic means before us to ensure that a Canadian Health Accord is implemented in accordance with the principles noted in the policy noted above.

ADEQUATE HOSPITAL FUNDING

Policy: That provincial Ministers of Health cease using the same global lump sum approach as in the 1960s to hospital budgets and move to a model which allows a hospital to run efficiently and without a need to charge for parking fees.

2014 HEALTH CARE ACCORD

Policy: That the NPF call upon the federal government to stand up for health care and negotiate a new 2014 Health Care Accord.

2013

RESTORE NATIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

Policy: That the NPF urge the federal government to rethink its plans to curtail (or cease funding) health categories presently allocated to the provinces and rescind those parts of any planned legislation detrimental to the overall existing National Health Care provisions.

NEGOTIATING A UNIVERSAL DRUG PLAN

Policy: That the NPF call upon all of its members to speak with one voice demanding that the federal, provincial, and territorial governments negotiate a universal drug plan.

COORDINATION OF SENIOR HEALTHCARE

Policy: That the NPF support a more wide-ranging and better coordinated systems of home and community care for seniors which can help seniors to live independent and healthy lives in their own homes and communities; and, further, that the NPF lobby for increased access to home and community care services – especially home care and primary care (physician) services for seniors with complex health needs.

DRUG SHORTAGES AND PHARMACEUTICAL STOCKPILES

Policy: That concrete steps be taken by the federal government to ensure that doctors and pharmacists are not left scrambling for the appropriate drugs to treat their patients and, further, that there should be a mandatory reporting of impending drug shortages to Health Canada; that the federal government's pharmaceutical stockpiles include more drugs deemed essential to health care; that the federal government establish contingency plans whereby provinces and territories could share supplies across the country and restock from alternate international suppliers if a shortage occurs; and that supply contracts for all essential drugs be made with a minimum of two suppliers.

ELEMENTS OF AN INTEGRATED SENIOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Policy: That the NPF policy in respect to integrated care include support for an integrated public system which will deliver a seamless continuum of care for seniors which includes: (a) The facilitation of policies, procedures, and funding which will allow seniors to age in place. (b) Provision of a single and highly coordinated administrative structure with integrated information systems consistent throughout the health authorities. (c) Provision of an integrated full range of health, community and social services commensurate with the diversity of needs of an older population, including addressing preventive health care needs. (d) Establishment of a "one stop" programme for seniors and their loved ones when a need arises. (e) Establishment of a universal system of 7/24 home support based on need and which will empower individuals to live independently in their homes with dignity and for as long as possible. (f) Provision of care that is more than medical in nature and realizing that there are many other services that are critical to allowing seniors to stay in their own homes and community, including such services as assistance with laundry, transportation, cooking, socializing and home cleaning and maintenance. (g) That the NPF urge the federal and provincial governments to retain and improve the Medicare system and prevent private clinics from charging user fees.

2012

HOME CARE FOR SENIORS

Policy: That the NPF and its members call on the federal and provincial governments to cooperate, improve, and implement the following programme so as to improve home care for seniors:

- a. provide and improve respite relief for voluntary care givers;
- b. provide paid leave for family care givers when necessary;
- c. provide sufficient home support through federal and/or provincial funding agreements; and
- d. financially support current volunteer programmes and encourage the establishment of new volunteer programmes which have seniors helping seniors with minor home repair programmes, non-medical health promotional programmes and visitations, companionship, and social excursion programmes.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

Policy: That the NPF demand of government the implementation of all recommendations of the Royal Commission on the future of Healthcare in Canada, chaired by the Honourable Roy Romanow. (Convention 2012)

GROUP HEALTH CENTRES

Policy: That the NPF advocate and support the establishment of Group Health Centres using the Sault Ste. Marie Group Health Centre as a model.

GUIDELINES FOR PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS

Policy: That the NPF urge the federal government to develop guidelines for the use and administration of psychotropic drugs based on best practices and sound research.

FEDERAL ANTI-SMOKING EDUCATION

Policy: That the NPF call on all levels of government to initiate educational programmes that will discourage and prevent youth from starting to smoke.

FEDERAL CANCER FUNDING

Policy: That the NPF call on all levels of the federal government to pledge resources to efforts to find a cure for cancer within the next ten years.

EYE CARE COVERAGE

Policy: That the NPF urge provincial governments to support regular eyesight examinations for all seniors by a qualified doctor or optometrist and further that the NPF urge the federal government to include eye care coverage for all seniors under the Canada Health Act.

PHYSICIAN CARE FOR SENIORS

Policy: That the NPF petition Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to promote family practice physicians to:

- a. Maintain an updated and accurate listing of physicians who are accepting new patients; and
- b. Encourage family physicians to accept complex cases and ensure responsible continuity for the care of seniors, especially those with multiple and complex needs.

WAGE ALLOWANCE FOR LIVE-IN HOME CARE WORKERS

Policy: That the NPF urge both the federal and provincial governments to provide live-in home care and home support workers with a wage allowance which would enable those workers to remain at home to care for seriously disabled or frail elderly relatives in need of extended care.

ENDING PROVINCIAL MEDICAL PREMIUMS

Policy: That the NPF call on those provincial governments which still charge medical premiums to seniors to eliminate those premiums.

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR HOME CARE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Policy: That the lobby efforts of the NPF include pressing for the implementation of national standards for home care and palliative care and ensure adequate hours of care are provided to those in need, permanently eliminating the competitive bidding process, and moving to a public delivery system with accountability standards that allow seniors to live in their homes as long as possible and with dignity.

HEALTH CARE PRINCIPLES

Policy: That the NPF call on the members of this federation to support strongly the protection of all five principles of health care legislation:

- a. Universality
- b. Accessibility
- c. Portability
- d. Comprehensiveness
- e. Public Administration

NATIONAL PHARMACARE PROGRAMME

Policy: That the NPF urge the federal government to support the immediate allocation of funding to establish a National Pharmacare Programme.

BRAND-NAME DRUGS AND CETA

Policy: That the federal government ensures that the European Union's condition that extends the exclusivity of "brand name" drugs an additional three years is removed from the "Commercial Economic Trade Agreement".

