



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02581**

BY: **MR. EYOLFSON (CHARLESWOOD-ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA-HEADINGLEY)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MR. JOHN OLIVER**

Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

DIABETES

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada is committed to strengthening Canada's health care system and to supporting the health of Canadians. This includes working with the provinces and territories to improve the affordability, accessibility and appropriate use of prescription drugs, and the procurement of medical devices. Prescription drugs and medical devices for treating diabetes, such as insulin pumps, are critical for over 2 million Canadians living with the disease.

The management of health products in Canada is a shared responsibility. The Government of Canada is responsible for assessing the safety, efficacy and quality of health products before authorizing them for sale in Canada. Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the delivery of health care for their residents, including determining which health products are reimbursed and under what conditions. It is within this context that Canada's governments are working together to provide Canadians with affordable access to the products they need.

Through the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB), the Government of Canada regulates maximum allowable prices of patented drugs. The Government of Canada has taken significant actions over the last two years to lower prices and improve access to needed prescription drugs. For example, the Government of Canada has consulted with Canadians on proposed changes to the *Patented Medicines Regulations*. Implementation of this modernized regulatory framework will enable the PMPRB to better protect Canadian consumers from excessive prices of patented

medicines. These changes are necessary as drug prices in Canada are approximately 25% higher than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development median. The regulatory amendments aim to lower the prices of patented drugs in Canada to further align them with those in comparable international jurisdictions.

The Government of Canada is also working with the provinces and territories as an active member of the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA). The pCPA combines government's collective buying power to negotiate lower prices on brand name drugs for all public plans, and sets the price point for many generic drugs. As of April 1, 2018, the pCPA has completed more than 207 joint brand drug negotiations and achieved price reductions on nearly 70 of the most commonly prescribed generic drugs. In 2017, it was estimated that the pCPA resulted in a combined savings of more than \$1.28 billion annually.

Building on the success of the pCPA, Premiers committed, in July 2017, to exploring further collaboration in medical device procurement. Provinces and territories are working to develop robust processes to support common procurement efforts while working together to share best practices, explore strategic opportunities to realize efficiencies, achieve cost savings, and improve health care for all Canadians.

Additionally, Budget 2018 announced the creation of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare. The Council, led by Dr. Eric Hoskins, will report to the federal Ministers of Health and Finance and will provide independent advice to the Government. It will conduct an economic and social assessment of domestic and international models, and evaluate a range of options and provide recommendations on how to implement national pharmacare in a manner that is affordable for Canadians and their families, employers and governments. The Council will consult with a broad range of stakeholders and with Canadians, and is expected to deliver its advice to the Government of Canada in the spring of 2019.

The Government of Canada will continue to work with provincial and territorial governments and other key partners to provide Canadians with affordable access to the health products they need.