

Request to Appear as a Delegation

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Name of Delegation: Request for Port Moody to Support National Universal Pharmacare

Name of Primary Contact Person: Dr. Amy Lubik

Name(s) of Delegation Member(s) in Attendance:

Amy Lubik, Edith MacHattie

Purpose of Delegation:

The purpose of this delegation is to share information on national pharmacare with mayor and council and ask that they call on the Federal Government to work with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a National Pharmacare program, and suggest that they sign on to and support similar motions from the Union of BC Municipalities.

Details of Request:

Canada is currently the ONLY country with a National Medicare Program that does not have a National Pharmacare Program; the 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 the risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income citizens. Port Moody has recently heard presentations, where speakers told of how people in our municipality are having trouble paying for food and housing - this would likely reflect their ability to pay for needed medications. As the city council is the closest level of government to the people, it makes sense for them to advocate for a universal National Pharmacare Program. Also, the municipality is an employer and expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a National Pharmacare Program.

The Township of Langley recently approved such a motion and copied their local MPs and MLAs.

Additional Information in Support of Request:

The 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, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade, which is why the Surrey Board of Trade has endorsed a universal National Pharmacare Strategy. The recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment.