



Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC

Representing seniors in British Columbia since 1950

www.coscobc.org

June 9, 2024

Senate of Canada
Ottawa

Dear Canadian Senator

Re: Seeking your support for Bill C-64, An Act respecting Pharmacare

Today, on behalf of the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC, I am reaching out to request your strong support for the swift and unamended passage of Bill C-64, An Act respecting pharmacare. It is essential that this Bill be enacted before the current session ends to ensure benefits flow to Canadians as soon as possible.

Bill C-64, which aims to make diabetes and contraception medications free, is not only a monumental step towards achieving gender equity but will also contribute to averting the ravages of diabetes from which many seniors suffer serious side effects, including blindness, amputation, kidney failure and premature death.

This legislation will enable persons living with diabetes to obtain needed medications and supplies that may well be unaffordable on their current income. About 250,000 seniors in BC alone live on less than \$23,000 per year, and another 250,000 on less than \$33,000. Medication and supplies can run to \$1,000 per month – clearly unaffordable on limited budgets.

Having access to medications essential to sustain the health of persons living with diabetes as well as enabling confidential access to those who wish for reproductive freedom will reduce overall costs to our health system. It will also give options to individuals who currently face the difficult decision of choosing between essential needs like groceries and medications.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our request for support of this legislation regarding a program of critical importance to older persons.

Yours sincerely

Leslie Gaudette
President

Louise Holland
Chair, Health Committee

President • Leslie Gaudette • 604-630-4201 • pres@coscobc.org
PO Box 26036, RPO Langley Mall, Langley, BC, V3A 8J2