

Dear Minister.

Thank-you for listening to our concerns.

Allowances from generic drug manufacturers have allowed pharmacists to be able to dispense prescriptions for the NBPDP program at a loss for many years. The dispensing fee paid by our government does not cover costs associated with the day to day operations of a pharmacy and professional interventions. With the impending drug reform, I hope there is acknowledgement of this and hope that "fair drug pricing" includes reimbursement for services we provide. We certainly are underfunded for dispensing fees, prescribing and adapting prescriptions.

Pharmacists play a vast role in healthcare. We are the most accessible health professional and are being asked daily to provide expanded services to New Brunswickers who do not have a family doctor. Pharmacists are often a vital first point of contact to primary care for patients in the community.

Four months ago, I partnered with another pharmacist and opened a pharmacy at St. Mary's First Nation. We are excited to be there and the community is happy to have us. We are easily accessible and already are playing a significant role in healthcare in the community. We are getting involved in community events and education. I know we will have an impact on improving health in the community.

Please consider the following suggestions for cost savings:

- 30 day trial prescriptions
- faster approval of generic drugs
- funding to support therapeutic substitution
- give pharmacists the ability to order and access lab tests so that we can continue medication and make appropriate adaptations.

Please recognize and appreciate the role we play in healthcare in our communities. I hope that you will offer us fair and reasonable compensation to provide pharmacy services to New Brunswickers.

Sincerely,

***Sherry Price***

pharmacist / owner

St. Mary's Pharmacy

150 Cliffe Street

Fredericton, NB E3A 0A1