

Hello, thanks for the opportunity to voice an opinion on this matter.
My name is Terry Crowe and I live in Saint John New Brunswick.

Many thanks
Terry Crowe

I congratulate the GNB for buckling down in its efforts to secure fair pricing of generic drugs in this province. May I take this opportunity to suggest that any revenues saved in these efforts go toward the funding of the Provincial Catastrophic Drug Program that was a major platform of thie government this time last year.

While it is noble to discuss efforts to reduce generic drug costs, focus must not be lost on the 25-30% of New Brunswickers are left with NO financial help whatsoever in the area of critical cost medications. Some of these prescriptions are prohibitively expensive. And very often these same prescriptions allow one to get on in society, whether to raise families, earn a living or any number of other normal and valued activities of daily life.

The NB public Drug Program addresses the requirements of a legitimate sector of New Brunswick's population. However, in order to qualify for help, one must first be a client of Service New Brunswick. By dint of that fact the N.B. model fails to address the needs of a significant proportion of people who are equally deserving of critical health care costs. (Link to "The New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program" <http://www.gnb.ca/0212/intro-e.asp>)

I'll offer up a typical example of what becomes of many who request help with expensive prescriptions.

If you are self employed as an owner operator business, or a spousal partnership, or other such personal enterprise, the Government of New Brunswick deems it necessary that your family liquidate all retirement funds before an adult family member is eligible for NBPDP assistance. This clause is carried out with such a day-to-day sense of normality that members of the department of social development openly discuss with potential claimants that they "TAKE A SEA CRUISE," or "DO HOME RENOVATIONS" so as to more quickly evacuate household liquidity. This is beastly! When someone is experiencing the pain of an illness the last thing on their mind is a playful vacation.

NB writes permission for a great deal of NB'rs..... yet seemingly has no appreciation for the upheaval caused to families and individual who are small business and self employed. The Irony is how small business activity is lauded as the 'backbone of a community." Is this just lip service or is this administration going to uphold the promise of a Catastrophic Drug Program; finally for New Brunswick?