

FAIR DRUG PRICES FOR NEW BRUNSWICKERS

My name is Trevor Moulton, Manager of Hampton Pharmacy in Hampton, N.B. We have been in business since 1970 as a family owned pharmacy. This policy is of great concern to me because I fear it may prevent pharmacies and pharmacists from being able to provide effective care to our patients.

Rising drug costs are a concern for every New Brunswicker. Developing a policy to lower drug costs for patients and taxpayers has my support, but it must be done in a way that addresses a reimbursement agreement which fairly compensates pharmacies for core dispensing services. It needs also to include a commitment by Government to fairly fund expanded pharmacy services.

Pharmacy is crucially important in delivering quality healthcare to New Brunswickers. Pharmacists are the most trusted healthcare professionals. They are also the most accessible. Pharmacists improve health outcomes and help to control rising costs in the healthcare system. This is especially true for patients who have no physician. It is of great concern that we may not be able to deliver the services, quality of care and access that our community has come to rely on, expect, and deserve.

Many pharmacies provide valuable services such as immunizations, prescribing, therapeutic substitution, health information and more. If core dispensing is not sustainable then pharmacies will not be able to continue to offer such services. Further, it is essential that pharmacies in New Brunswick have an appropriate transition period to such a policy, such as two to three years, to allow for development and implementation of new business and practice models.

Hampton pharmacy has provided many services and professional programs such as compliance packaging, blood collection clinics, delivery, health seminars and clinics such as stop smoking clinics in local schools. Professional allowances/rebates have helped fund these very worthwhile programs.

We have been actively involved in community development. Have donated thousands of dollars to local charities, community groups, and school projects. We contributed to construction of the Hampton High School (HHS) theatre, the multi use sports field at the school as well as other countless school programs. We are longtime sponsors of the HHS girls' and boys' hockey teams as well as others. We are a corporate sponsor to the Canadian Cancer Society's Hampton Relay For Life. We have regularly entered teams for various local fundraising events.

Moving forward I feel it is important to continue communications with the New Brunswick Pharmacists Association. All aspects of the business and practice of pharmacy, not just pharmacy services and generic pricing need to be considered. The new policy needs to ensure fair pharmacy reimbursement for the services provided and must consider and avoid any unintended consequences.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to present our perspective on the proposed “Fair Drug Prices For New Brunswickers” policy. I look forward to discussing this important matter with you further in the near future.

Yours truly,

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