

March 7, 2024

To: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: The National Pharmacare Plan

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of CFUW-FCFDU (the Canadian Federation of University Women–La Fédération canadienne des femmes diplômées des universités), a national, non-partisan, self-funded organization founded in 1919. With 94 Clubs across Canada and over 6,600 members, we work to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace.

I am writing to express CFUW-FCFDU's **ardent support for your government's recently-announced national pharmacare plan** and its accompanying legislation, Bill C-64, *An Act respecting pharmacare*.

In 2017, CFUW-FCFDU resolved as a national body to urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to deliver universal pharmacare, a publicly funded and financially sustainable drug plan that would cover medically necessary prescription drugs for all Canadians, regardless of their ability to pay. After years of campaigning from non-governmental organizations, patient groups, and other members of the public, we are pleased to see this long-awaited pharmacare program will include universal and single-payer coverage.

We are especially pleased to see that the initial rollout will include coverage for contraception. Universal, free access to contraception is critical to ensuring reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, which is why CFUW-FCFDU passed a Resolution back in 1976 urging the government to make contraception readily available to all persons without charge. The inclusion of diabetes medication in this first phase will also be life-changing for so many Canadians.

Affordable medication is an essential element of a high-quality healthcare system. For far too long, Canadians have been paying higher prices for prescription drugs than most other developed countries, resulting in unacceptable financial burdens on patients. This must change as soon as possible. Accordingly, **we sincerely hope that Bill C-64 will pass with no further delay** and that your government will **allocate substantial funding** to ensure the national pharmacare program covers all essential medications.

Thank you for your attention and support on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Joy Hurst
National President, CFUW-FCFDU