



**Neighbourhood
Pharmacy**
Association of Canada

Association canadienne
**des pharmacies
de quartier**

Office of the Chief Executive Officer

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October 19, 2020

Scott Moe
Leader of the Saskatchewan Party
Saskatchewan Party Candidate for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scott.moe@saskparty.com

RE: 2020 Election Campaign

Dear Scott,

I am writing today to introduce you to the [Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada \(Neighbourhood Pharmacies\)](http://neighbourhoodpharmacies.ca). We represent Canada's leading pharmacy organizations, including chain, banner, long-term care, specialty pharmacies, grocery chains, and mass merchandisers with pharmacies. Our focus is on improving the delivery of care. We advocate for pharmacies' role in caring for Canadians, both behind and in front of the counter. We aim to advance healthcare for Canadians by leveraging close to 11,000 pharmacies conveniently located in communities throughout the country as integral points of patient care.

Neighbourhood Pharmacies is focused on the business of community pharmacies to ensure our members can continue to deliver the convenient, professional patient care, products and services on which residents of Saskatchewan rely. The total economic footprint of the pharmacy sector in Saskatchewan is estimated at over \$558 million in GDP and 8,300 jobs. Our commitment to our communities and to our patients is repaid in trust, as 80% of Canadians consult their pharmacists for professional healthcare, at nearly 400 neighbourhood pharmacies across the province.

We engage stakeholders in dialogue to leverage the community pharmacy sector's capabilities to enhance the sustainability of Canada's healthcare system for current and future generations. We also develop and offer innovative solutions to help advance needed change in our healthcare delivery system.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacies have supported residents of Saskatchewan and continued uninterrupted operations as trusted health system partners. Specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can do more. For example, the [Ontario government has partnered with pharmacies](#) to expand access to COVID-19 testing to track, trace and isolate cases. Alberta has undertaken a similar partnership with their [pharmacy asymptomatic testing program](#). These initiatives have expanded testing capacity and made testing more convenient and accessible.

Going forward, we continue to offer our support to do more, including an expanded role in immunizations (beyond flu, and including pneumonia, COVID-19, and other routine child and adult immunizations), expanded support for the opioid crisis through naloxone programs, as well as broader roles in the health system, public health and primary care.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the need for the continued integration of pharmacy into Saskatchewan's Connected Care Strategy, as well as for pharmacies to help support Care Transitions. Including pharmacy as an integral partner in these strategies will benefit all Saskatchewan residents, in healthcare institutions, in the community and through transitions in care.

Pharmacies work collaboratively to prevent admissions to the hospital, prevent premature admissions into long-term care, help patients have more timely discharge from the hospital, and maximize the time patients can live independently in their homes. Improved transitions between the community and hospital will help patients regain independence and reduce the number of hospital readmissions, and help ensure people get the right healthcare, from the right providers, at the right time, and in the right location.

A strong and sustainable pharmacy sector underlie the sector's ability to continue to drive value for the health system and to be an accessible and reliable healthcare destination for residents of Saskatchewan.

Please reach out to me at shanna@neighbourhoodpharmacies.ca to determine dates and times that would be convenient for you, for a teleconference or virtual meeting, to plan and discuss how pharmacy can continue to effectively support Saskatchewan residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hanna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sandra Hanna, RPh.
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Dawn Martin, CEO, Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan