



**Neighbourhood  
Pharmacy**  
Association of Canada

Association canadienne  
**des pharmacies  
de quartier**

**Office of the Chief Executive Officer**

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December 14, 2020

The Hon. John Horgan,  
Premier of British Columbia and MLA for Langford Juan de Fuca  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4

## **RE: Congratulations from Neighbourhood Pharmacies**

Premier Horgan,

Congratulations on your party's success in the 2020 election, as well as your re-election as the MLA for Langford Juan de Fuca. Your experience as parliamentarian, public servant, and community advocate undoubtedly continue to prove valuable as you serve your constituents and all British Columbians by putting people first, pursuing lasting and meaningful reconciliation as well as equity and anti-racism goals, working towards a better future by fighting climate change, and continuing to grow a strong, sustainable economy that works for all British Columbians.

Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada is the respected voice and advocate for the business of pharmacy and its vital role in sustaining the accessibility, quality, and affordability of patient care in British Columbia and across the country. The 1,350 community pharmacies we represent across British Columbia operate in retail, long-term care, and specialty care settings. Members located in B.C. include companies such as Save-On-Foods, Rexall, Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart, London Drugs, Costco, and Sobeys (Thrifty's and Safeway). The community pharmacy sector in B.C. generates over \$1.9B in GDP and employs over 27,300 British Columbians. We work with the BC Pharmacy Association and other stakeholders to achieve a sustainable pharmacy future by bringing forward strategic initiatives, forming effective alliances, and improving Canada's pharmacy environment.

Pharmacists and pharmacy staff across British Columbia have been working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 public health crisis from the outset, supporting British Columbians and serving their communities with tireless dedication. In addition to working to protect their staff and customers during the pandemic, B.C.'s many community pharmacies stayed open since March to ensure patients continue to be able to access to medications and other pharmacy services when they need them. As you are aware, more than half of the seasonal influenza vaccines administered this flu season will be provided by a pharmacist in a community pharmacy. Across the province, pharmacy continues to fight in British Columbia's other ongoing public health crisis – the opioid overdose crisis – which has claimed the lives of far too many British Columbians over the past four years.

Like other public healthcare providers, community pharmacists and pharmacies want to do more to help British Columbians during these challenging times. My team and I would welcome

the opportunity for a short virtual meeting to discuss the vital role pharmacy plays in British Columbia's public health, primary care, and long-term care sectors, as well as areas in each of these fields where pharmacy can play a larger role to support the health system needs and goals.

Once again, congratulations on your re-election and your government's success. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff in the months ahead.

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