Expanding Access & Advancing Care  
2019 Federal Election Platform

This election is a critical juncture for the future of health care in Canada. There are many decision points looming on the horizon – ranging from pharmacare to health care system transformation, and from the opioid crisis to drug pricing and access to affordable medicines.

Pharmacists are the most accessible health care and medication experts in every community across Canada. With our Election Platform, and in all that we do, Neighbourhood Pharmacies aims to advance sustainable health care for all Canadians.

**BETTERING THE LIVES OF EVERYDAY PATIENTS**
Ensuring Canadians can access the medicines they need.

**Pharmacare—Complete the Plan.**
Neighbourhood Pharmacies believes all Canadians deserve access to medications without financial barriers. Complete the Plan is Neighbourhood Pharmacies’ approach to bring all uninsured Canadians under one affordable public drug plan that will help people who need it most, keep costs down, and avoid disrupting current coverage.

**Protecting Canadians from Shortages Amid US Pressures on Accessibility of Affordable Drugs.**
Ensuring accessibility to affordable medicines and protecting Canadians from drug shortages should be the first priority of government in establishing a national pharmacare plan. Canada’s pharmaceutical supply system is designed and carefully managed to serve our population of approximately 36 million. Our medicine supply is not sufficient to support both Canadian and U.S. consumers.
Advancing concerted multi-pronged solutions to the opioid crisis.

Communities across Canada are faced with an increasing opioid crisis yet have limited treatment options and tools to combat the problem. We need to address the key factors creating the conditions for this crisis while delivering harm-reduction programs that tackle opioid dependency through more effective pain and medication management services.

Neighbourhood Pharmacies calls on all federal political parties to commit to four key actions to help tackle the Canadian opioid crisis:

• Commit to a substantive, pharmacy-delivered pain management program for opioid users.
• Enact meaningful measures that treat prescription-related addiction and enable pharmacists with the authority to deprescribe controlled drugs and substances by including pharmacists as practitioners under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.
• Support dedicated funding to increase the availability of naloxone in communities across Canada as part of the next phase of action in the opioid crisis.
• Authorize pharmacies to dispense and distribute medical cannabis & cannabis health products as an effective secondary or tertiary treatment for several conditions and reduce the number and dose of opioid prescriptions.

Healthy Pharmacies, Healthy Patients.

Healthy pharmacies ultimately deliver a less costly, more efficient health care system. Recognizing and advancing the vital role of pharmacies in delivering healthcare is an important step government can confidently take towards creating the capacity needed to better serve and support Canadians.

About Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada.

Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada (Neighbourhood Pharmacies) represents Canada’s leading pharmacy organizations who deliver high value, quality care to Canadians in all models including chain, banner, long-term care, specialty and independent pharmacies as well as grocery chains and mass merchandisers with pharmacies. Our members are home to the most trusted providers of drug therapies, pharmacy-based patient services and innovative health care solutions.