



**Neighbourhood
Pharmacy**
Association of Canada

Association canadienne
**des pharmacies
de quartier**

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Hon. Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services
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Dear Hon. Schulz,

The COVID-19 crisis in Alberta has created extraordinary circumstances in many industries. The greatest impact, however, is on our health care system. As pharmacists, we are trusted by Albertans. The pharmacist is quite often the first point of contact in our provincial health care system. Pharmacists are important frontline health and primary care providers. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to mitigate the stress currently placed on Health Link and physician offices, and we were pleased to see that this was recognized by the government last week.

While we recognize that nurses and doctors should have priority in accessing childcare, pharmacists are also an integral part of front-line health care. To alleviate the pressure on the health care system, it is essential that pharmacists continue to provide a high level of care, and medications to Albertans. To do that, many Albertan pharmacists require childcare support.

It is our ask that as childcare centres are re-opened, pharmacists are a profession able to access these childcare spaces, to ensure that they can continue to care for the health and wellness of Albertans during this critical time.

Should further dialogue be required, we would be happy to make ourselves available.

Regards,

Sandra Hanna, RPh.
Chief Executive Officer
Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada

The Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada advocates for pharmacies' role in caring for Canadians – behind the counter and in front of it. As the healthcare needs and expectations of Canadians are constantly evolving, we connect our members to the tools and information needed to keep pace. We support the full range of Canadian pharmacies, including chain, banner, long-term care and specialty pharmacies, as well as grocery chains and mass merchandisers with pharmacies, with a focus on improving the delivery of care. We aim to advance healthcare for all Albertans by leveraging over 1,500 pharmacies conveniently located in neighbourhoods across the province as integral points of patient care.