



PRESS RELEASE

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IVSED calls on Health Canada to strengthen transparency, safety and affordability of Canada's medicines and to implement Pharmacare

Independent Voices for Safe and Effective Drugs (IVSED) congratulates the new Minister of Health, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett in the new role of Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health.

Over the past two years, the pandemic has shown that strong federal leadership is important to the health and safety of all Canadians. Protecting Canadians through a strong and transparent drug approval and regulatory system is one of the major roles of Health Canada, but as we have seen with covid vaccine hesitancy, there is a huge danger if there is not public trust that our drug regulatory system is objective, evidence-based and approved medicines are not safe.

We commend the Liberal government's changes to the Patented Medicine Price Review Board (PMPRB) regulations and its stated commitment to Pharmacare. However, we are very concerned that these needed policies will not be implemented due to the influence of the pharmaceutical industry and their partners.

We urge the new government, cabinet and Ministers of Health and Mental Health and Addictions to take a leadership role and ensure Canadians have the safe, effective and affordable medicine they need, bringing Canada in line with other OECD countries.

Specifically, we call on the new government to:

- Implement the PMPRB regulations on January 1, 2022.
- Implement national universal Pharmacare.
- Ensure a transparent, independent and safe medicine regulatory system by limiting the influence of industry through conflict of interest regulations and sunshine laws

IVSED is a pan-Canadian organization whose members include academics, researchers, healthcare providers and patient and consumer advocates with no ties to the pharmaceutical industry. Our members have a long history of engagement in issues related to the safety, effectiveness, and cost of prescription drugs. We have expertise in Canada's health policies in many disease areas including diabetes, dementia-type illnesses, rare diseases, breast cancer, pediatric health conditions, and drugs for mental health and sleep problems.

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