



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CARP Applauds Ontario Government Expansion of Pharmacist Authority

Toronto, ON – The Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) applauds the Government of Ontario on its announcement regarding expanding the role of pharmacists in Ontario. Urging the government to ensure that this initiative remain not just a promise, CARP recommends the government move quickly into consultation with key groups, including CARP, prior to implementation. Bill VanGorder, Chief Advocacy and Education Officer has written to Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health of Ontario as well as other governmental officials to express the same. [Read the letter.](#)

CARP hears consistently from its members that they are deeply concerned about their ability to access reliable and quality healthcare services. In fact, in a recent CARP survey, the top concern expressed by respondents was “access to prompt, quality healthcare.”

“Making it easier for highly skilled, regulated healthcare professionals, like pharmacists, to work to the full extent of their training is a significant step forward. Currently in Ontario, pharmacists who come out of school cannot practice to their full scope. This is not the case in other provinces,” said Bill VanGorder, Chief Advocacy & Education Officer of CARP. “This expansion in services will enhance access to medical care for seniors and others who currently have limited access to a family doctor.”

Pharmacists have an integral part to play in Canada’s health care system, and increasing the scope of authority for pharmacists is a key step in improving the health care of Ontarians.

- Pharmacists are the most accessible health-care professionals in Canada, dispensing and providing advice on 750 million prescriptions per year.

- Convenient and close to home, pharmacists with expanded roles deliver an estimated \$4.7 billion of value per year by improving access to care and reducing pressure on the health-care system
- This expansion of authority would allow Ontario pharmacists to deliver more care options within their local communities, ensuring some healthcare needs could be addressed far more quickly, and family doctors could be freed up to focus on patients with more complex medical issues.
- Other provincial governments in Canada have expanded authority in place for pharmacists, which means there are existing models already in place.

CARP is urging the Government of Ontario to take quick action on this promise by initiating consultations, in which the Canadian Association of Retired Persons is eager to participate. CARP believes that ensuring the perspective of older Canadians is heard in healthcare solutions will enhance not just the quality of healthcare programs and services but also the relationship between government and its constituents.

“We know from Statistics Canada that older Canadians are an increasingly large part of the Canadian population. What’s more, we vote. According to CARP surveys, over 90% of our members vote in their provincial and federal elections. Older Canadians have a perspective worth listening to.”

For more information, please contact:

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About CARP

The Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization that advocates for financial security, improved health care and freedom from Ageism for Canadians as we age. With over 230,000 members and 25 chapters across Canada, CARP advocates on behalf of older Canadians with all levels of government and collaborates with other organizations on health, ageism, housing, ageism and financial issues.

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