



The Professional Institute
of the Public Service of Canada

Office of the President

L'Institut professionnel
de la fonction publique du Canada

Bureau de la Présidente

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Send via email: hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca

Dear Minister Hajdu,

I am writing regarding the government's decision to once again delay the implementation of the revised regulations governing patent medicine pricing in Canada. For too long, Canadians have paid exorbitant prices for patented medication. We are concerned that this potentially forces Canadians to make difficult choices when it comes to their health, it also means that public and private funds are being channeled into the pockets of large multinational pharmaceutical companies.

Federal public service employees and their health plan are bearing the brunt of this inaction. The Public Service Health Care plan, like all private plans, continues to face runaway drug costs as a result of your government's decision to delay action on drug pricing. In 2016, your government committed to taking drug pricing on, nevertheless, implementation has now been pushed forward twice, first until 2020 and now until 2022.

I am asking your government to allow the regulations of the Patent Medicine Price Review Board to take effect as soon as possible. The Review Board's own research has demonstrated an evidence-based approach to drug pricing is long overdue. Continued delays only serve to force Canadians to pay unnecessarily high prices for the prescription drugs they need.

I look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Debi Daviau
President, PIPSC

CC: Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, President of the Treasury Board
Jean-Yves.Duclos@parl.gc.ca