



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Newfoundland and Labrador

James Dinn, M.H.A.
District of St. John's Centre

July 22, 2026

Rt. Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

RE: Alberta Dual Practice Model and Supporting National Pharmacare Program

I am writing today to add our voice to the growing calls to protect Canada's public healthcare system and to support continued investment in the national Pharmacare program – an initiative that would make a meaningful difference for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

The Alberta Government's decision to pass Bill 11, The Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (No. 2), which allows dual practice within public hospitals, is deeply concerning. Allowing private, for-profit healthcare to take hold within our public system will not improve health outcomes for Canadians. Instead, it will undermine the public healthcare system and create a two-tiered system that leaves many people waiting longer or paying for the care they need, further straining already stretched household budgets. I urge your government to review this legislation with the founding principle of Canada's public healthcare system in mind: universal access based on need, not the ability to pay.

I look to our neighbours in the United States, where millions continue to fight for Medicare for All and universal access to publicly funded healthcare. For decades, they have looked to Canada as proof that healthcare should be treated as a right, not a privilege. We cannot allow that legacy to be eroded. We must never allow our public healthcare system to become so neglected that privatization is presented as the only solution. Healthcare is a public good, and governments have a responsibility to protect and strengthen it – not open the door to profit-driven care. I urge you to review this decision and take every step necessary to stop the privatization of Canada's public healthcare system.

Healthcare extends far beyond a visit to a doctor's office or an emergency room. It includes access to the medications, medical supplies, and preventive care people need to live healthy lives. That is why I am also urging your government to return to the table with provinces interested in participating in the national Pharmacare program. When the federal New Democrats

championed Pharmacare, they recognized that healthcare does not end when a patient leaves the doctor's office. It continues at the pharmacy, at the dentist's office, and through every service that helps people stay healthy.

One in three Newfoundlanders and Labradorians live with diabetes or prediabetes, and for many families, the cost of medications, insulin pumps, and other essential supplies is overwhelming. I currently have a constituent who is being forced to choose between paying for a diabetic pump and accessing home care. No one should ever have to make that choice. Our province should have been at the table to participate in the national Pharmacare program because it has the potential to transform lives and ensure people can access the care they need without financial hardship.

Newfoundland and Labrador New Democrats believe a strong, united Canada is one that not only protects our public healthcare system but continues to strengthen it for future generations. We urge your government to review the Alberta government's decision to allow dual practice within public hospitals and to return to the table with provinces committed to advancing national Pharmacare. No Canadian's health or well-being should ever be determined by the size of their wallet. Healthcare must remain a universal public service, accessible to everyone based on need – not the ability to pay.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Dinn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Dinn, MHA
St. John's Centre
Leader, NL NDP

Cc. Honourable Tony Wakeham, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador