

Medicare

#6

DRUG ABUSE
INC.

Facts and Insights

☉ Skyrocketing prescription drug prices are driving the overall costs of our health care up and up - prescription drugs are the single biggest contributor to increased health care spending.

☉ We paid out \$12.3 billion for prescription medicines in 2001. That's an astonishing 68.3% increase over what we paid for drugs just five years ago in 1997.

☉ Canada's patent laws give drug makers a license to print money. Big name drug companies bask in absolute patent protection for a full 20 years during which they can charge us whatever they can get away with, without fear of competition.

☉ The big name drug corporations can stop generic drug makers from producing low cost drugs even after the generous 20-year patent period is over. It's easy. The corporations with the patents simply file a patent dispute claim in court which gives them an automatic injunction against the generic drug maker while the dispute is slowly working its way through the legal system.

Obvious Conclusions

☉ Eliminate the granting of automatic injunctions to big name drug makers.

☉ Lower the 20 year patent protection.

☉ Include the cost of prescription drugs under Medicare.

*Our Medicare celebrates
the triumph of solid values
AND sensible economics!*



TAKE Action

Speak out for the good of your health. No one can do everything—but every single one of us can do something.

URGE the federal government to implement the Romanow Report: Pierre Pettigrew
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READ the National Union brief to the Romanow Commission and other health care information: www.nupge.ca
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CONNECT with your neighbours and get involved in a local Medicare campaign; get fresh information; get email addresses for your MP and your MLA; link up with a trade union:
www.savemedicare.com
www.healthcoalition.ca
www.clc-ctc.ca

ENCOURAGE your friends and co-workers to find out more.

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* Also available in French