# **Green Party’s National Pharmacare Plan Would Save Up to $11 billion annually**

**([COMMUNITY NAME]) September XX, 2015 -** The Green Party’s proposed National Pharmacare Plan will save Canadians between $4 billion and $11 billion each year, according to academic researchers.

**[Candidate name]**, Green Party of Canada candidate ([**riding name]**), said switching to a national buying program will save many **[community name]** residents hundreds of dollars each year in unnecessary prescription fees.

“This plan is a no-brainer: academics and doctors are on-board – it’s time your MP for [community name] does the same,” [candidate surname] said. “The Green Party is willing to do the heavy lifting and push Canada’s healthcare system into the 21st century by adopting a National Pharmacare Plan.”

The Green Party’s Pharmacare plan expands and coordinates the patchwork of public and private plans that already provide drug insurance to 22 million Canadians ([See Backgrounder](http://prospects.greenparty.ca/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=7349&qid=1562615)). The program adopts the four key recommendations of the [*Pharmacare2020* Report](http://prospects.greenparty.ca/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=7350&qid=1562615) published on July 15, 2015:

* universal access to necessary medicines
* fair distribution of prescription drug costs
* safe and appropriate prescribing
* and maximum health benefits per dollar spent.

Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada and MP (Saanich – Gulf Islands), said the Green Party will work with all federal parties, provinces, and stakeholders to implement Phase II of Canada’s universal healthcare system – a national Pharmacare Program.

“We know that an overwhelming 91% of Canadians fully support this plan,” said Ms. May. “This plan ensures that 2 million Canadians would have access to prescriptive medications that they otherwise could not afford. Moreover, the Green Party approach will apply greater rigour to drug registration by applying the approach of the UBC Therapeutics Initiative. We will not register drugs that hurt more people than they help. Not only will it improve the health of Canadians, it will save up to $11 billion annually. It just makes sense to do this and do it now.”

“A national Pharmacare program is the missing piece from one of our greatest achievements as a country: universal healthcare,” added [Jo-Ann Roberts](http://prospects.greenparty.ca/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=7365&qid=1562615), Green Party candidate (Victoria). “A Victoria voter recently told me that he moved to B.C. while battling cancer and discovered that his medication, which cost $10,000 per year and was covered in Ontario, was not covered in BC. He ended up paying out of pocket and is still paying off that debt. We need a national Pharmacare program that provides fair and equitable access to medicine for all Canadians.”

“It has been five years since the Premiers discussed setting up an agency to reduce the high cost of medicine through the bulk-buying of prescription medication,” concluded [Daniel Green](http://prospects.greenparty.ca/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=7366&qid=1562615), Deputy Leader of the Green Party of Canada and candidate (Ville-Marie – Le Sud-Ouest – Île-des-Soeurs). “Our plan will reverse Canada’s sad reputation of being the second highest per capita spender of medicine in the world after the United States. Our plan will also provide universal healthcare coverage for medicine and keep prices under control. The time has come to make Pharmacare a reality!”

For more information, see [Backgrounder: A Prescription for Healthier Healthcare](http://prospects.greenparty.ca/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=7349&qid=1562615), or contact [Professor Steve Morgan](http://prospects.greenparty.ca/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=7374&qid=1562615), content expert and lead-author of the *Pharmacare2020* report (which was endorsed by over 110 professors of health policy and medicine across Canada).

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To arrange an interview with [**local candidate name**]:

Cell:

Email: