
Sample Letter to Minister of Health

October 31, 2016

The Honourable Dr. Jane Philpott, P.C., M.D.
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Philpott:

The federal government has always been an active partner whenever major developments in the history of health care in Canada have occurred. I am very optimistic because health care remains a top concern for the Liberal government.

Today's health needs, however, are different from those of the first Accord. We now need to focus on such things as mental health services, pharmacare, seniors care – including home care and long term care – among other health services.

Canadians strongly support major healthcare reforms. As you are aware, Dr. Philpott, Canadians are getting older and will require a lot more support from their Medicare. I believe the health care system must do more for seniors and their families. As such, I urge that an emphasis on seniors care be targeted in the next Health Accord. I truly believe that your role of Minister can be a catalyst for change and is central to making this happen.

I applaud the federal collaboration with the provinces and territories – including the commitment to renegotiate a new reinforced and strengthened Health Accord – to ensure the delivery of the best care to Canadians. In particular, the transfer of funds should incorporate a formula of topping off to compensate the provinces with older populations to deal with the pressures placed on them by an aging population.

I also endorse the 2015 Vancouver Roundtable in their call for action and I support the principles of the Declaration Concerning a National Health Care Strategy for Seniors. To name a few, it calls for the federal government to:

- Provide a thoughtfully structured national health care strategy for aging Canadians.
- Develop and implement a national pharmacare strategy that includes purchasing medically necessary prescriptions.
- Establish national standards for home care and a strategy that will provide publicly-funded in-home care by paid, qualified professionals and also offer unpaid caregivers more support.

Minister Philpott, notwithstanding criticism from Donald Trump, our national health care system is a defining and envious characteristic of Canada. Canadians across this country are looking to you and the Liberal government to take focussed action to protect Medicare and to initiate immediate steps to create the Medicare of the future. I therefore urge you to collaborate with the provincial, territorial and local governments in the renegotiation of a national health accord that meets the changing needs of our aging population; and that protects, transforms and strengthens the delivery system of health care to all Canadians, in particular to older Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

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