

### **Establishing child-friendly pharmacare**

In a country as wealthy as Canada, no child should ever go without the medicine they need because their family can't afford it. That's why a New Democratic government will work in partnership with the provinces and territories to establish universal public pharmacare as rapidly as possible – with a target launch date of 2022.

We will create an arms-length agency that will be responsible for establishing and overseeing the list of medications and devices covered by pharmacare. The agency will be governed collaboratively by the federal, provincial and territorial governments and include strong patient representation. It will be responsible for ensuring that formulary listing decisions are paediatric-sensitive to support safe and effective prescribing for all children and youth.

We are very mindful of the need to ensure that children and young people with rare diseases and disorders are well-served and that promising drug therapies are appropriately accessible. We believe that special care must be taken to ensure that formulary listing decisions are responsive to these requirements and future pharmaceutical innovation. Our goal is to construct a broad, comprehensive formulary that all provinces and territories will agree to cover with no direct cost to patients in exchange for dedicated federal transfer payments.

### **Investing in child and youth mental health**

COVID-19 has taken a tremendous toll on Canadians' mental health. This is especially true for children and young people who are reporting high levels of depression and anxiety. Even before the pandemic hit, millions of Canadians were suffering with unmet mental health care needs.

A New Democrat government will work in partnership with the provinces and territories to bring mental health services into our public health care system. Better access to mental health and addictions support will also form a key part of our approach to tackling poverty.

As a first step, we will implement mental health care for uninsured Canadians – providing immediate access to these urgently-needed supports without cost barriers. Our universal public pharmacare plan will also extend access to prescription medication for mental health care to all Canadians. We will work with provinces and territories to build on these initiatives and put in place a truly comprehensive approach to mental health services across the country.