



2006

Tea & sympathy are not enough!

The need for a national catastrophic drug
plan for Canadians living with diabetes

by Karen Philp, Executive Director

Office of Public Policy & Government Relations

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Diabetes in Canada 2006

- **An epidemic:**

- More than 2 million Canadians diagnosed with diabetes today.
- Canadians at-risk of type 2 diabetes include:
 - Those with a family history of type 2 diabetes
 - Anyone diagnosed as “pre-diabetes”
 - Aging baby-boomers & seniors
 - First Nation, Inuit & Métis peoples
 - New Canadians from high-risk countries
 - Overweight & inactive Canadians
 - Mother & child – gestational diabetes



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The Challenge for Canada

- Diabetes & its complications cost our public healthcare system more than \$13 billion annually & is projected to increase.
 - Threatens sustainability of our public healthcare.
 - 1 in 2 Canadians with diabetes suffer complications including heart attacks, kidney disease or blindness .
- The situation is serious!



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Canadians living with diabetes

- Greatest personal challenge remains affordability & access to diabetes medications, devices & supplies to manage the disease & reduce the risk of costly health complications.
- There are startling variations in drug plan coverage & financial support levels for Canadians with diabetes.



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Disparities in drug plan coverage

Jurisdiction	Listed medications	Restricted medications	Medications not listed
British Columbia	7	5	5
Alberta	12	0	5
Saskatchewan	7	7	3
Manitoba	10	4	3
Ontario	6	3	8
Quebec	10	5	2
New Brunswick	6	6	5
Nova Scotia	6	4	7
PEI	7	6	4
Nfld./Labrador	6	6	5
NIHB/Territories	12	2	3



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Financial barriers remain...

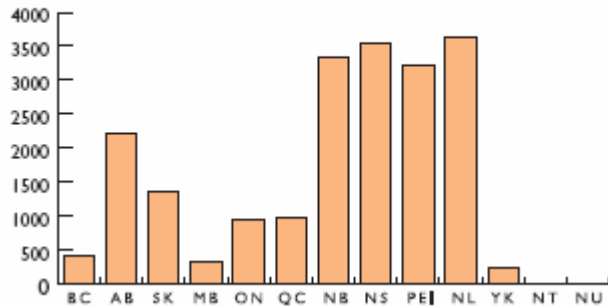
- Access to diabetes medications, supplies & support depends on where you live in Canada.



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Wide disparities exist...

Picture of what Janet pays annually



What Janet pays

Jurisdiction	Annual out of pocket cost for prescribed medication & supplies	% of Janet's annual income
Newfoundland/Labrador	\$ 3,639.33	25.1 %
Nova Scotia	\$ 3,585.71	24.7 %
New Brunswick	\$ 3,355.42	23.1 %
Prince Edward Island	\$ 3,116.19	21.5 %
Alberta	\$ 2,359.34	16.3 %
Saskatchewan	\$ 1,451.04	10.0 %
Quebec	\$ 962.85	6.6 %
Ontario	\$ 948.27	6.5 %
Northwest Territories	\$ 550.00	3.8 %
British Columbia	\$ 395.85	2.7 %
Manitoba	\$ 336.40	2.3 %
Yukon	\$ 250.00	1.7 %
Nunavut	0	0 %
NIHB (federal)	0	0 %



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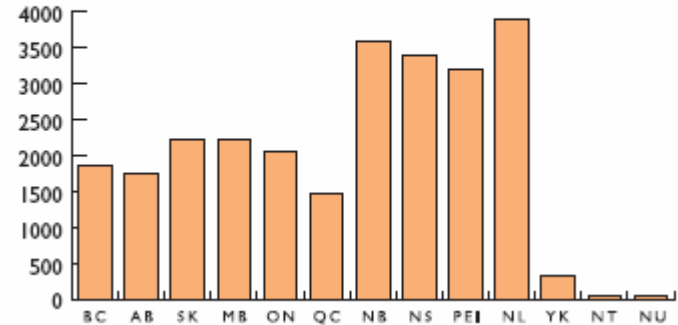


Wide disparities exist...

What Peter pays

Jurisdiction	Annual out of pocket cost for prescribed medication & supplies	% of Peter's annual income
Newfoundland/Labrador	\$ 3,894.68	13.0 %
New Brunswick	\$ 3,674.03	12.3 %
Nova Scotia	\$ 3,441.83	11.5 %
Prince Edward Island	\$ 3,225.36	10.8 %
Saskatchewan	\$ 2,225.70	7.4 %
Manitoba	\$ 2,224.15	7.4 %
Ontario	\$ 2,046.49	6.8 %
British Columbia	\$ 1,897.49	6.3 %
Alberta	\$ 1,733.61	5.8 %
Quebec	\$ 1,460.49	4.9 %
Yukon	\$ 290.15	1.0 %
Northwest Territories	\$ 40.15	0.1 %
Nunavut	\$ 40.15	0.1 %
NIHB (federal)	\$ 40.15	0.1 %

Picture of what Peter pays annually





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The personal cost of diabetes

- Most Canadians with diabetes pay out-of-pocket for diabetes medications & supplies.
 - 46% of Association members spend \$50 to \$200 per month on medications & supplies.
 - 28% spend more than \$200 per month out-of-pocket.
 - 1 in 4 report they cannot afford physician recommended medications nor access them through a public or private insurance plan.



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National Catastrophic Drug Plan

- **All Canadians eligible** if spending more than 3% of adjusted family income each year on medications prescribed by their physician.
- **All medications covered** if approved as safe, effective & for sale in Canada.
- **All provinces & territories** are able to participate fully with adequate financial support from federal government.



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The need is now...

- 4 million Canadians have drug expenses exceeding 3% of their income.
 - 51% of all seniors
 - 8% of non-seniors



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The need is serious...

- Those Canadians with drug expenses exceeding 3% of income account for 66% of all out of hospital drug costs.
 - 85% for seniors
 - 53% for non-seniors



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Canadians are already paying...

- Drug costs which exceed 3% of family income (i.e. catastrophic) total \$6.9 billion or 42% of all costs.
 - 57% of costs for seniors
 - 33% of costs for non-seniors



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Some pay personally...

- While the majority of Canadians are covered for catastrophic drug costs by public & private drug insurance plans, many slip through the cracks.
 - 2% have no coverage whatever.
 - 9% are only partially protected.



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How much would it cost...

- The incremental cost to provide broad protection from catastrophic drug costs would be a small fraction of existing spending.
 - Cost projections depend on the plan details but are generally less than \$500 million.



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We can afford it...

- Healthcare renewal agenda includes proposal for a national catastrophic drug plan.
 - \$41 billion for implementation
- Federal government surplus
 - \$8.2 billion in 2005/06; \$9.2 billion in 2006/07
 - \$54.5 billion to 2010/11.



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A Catastrophic Drug Plan will...

- End the disparities in access to diabetes medications & supplies.
- Ensure Canadians with diabetes manage effectively; live healthier & more productively.
- Reduce the risk of costly, long-term complications.
- Relieve growing pressures on our healthcare system & advance the healthcare renewal agenda.



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Recent actions

- Called for federal leadership & support for the urgent creation of a **National Catastrophic Drug Plan** that includes diabetes & all chronic diseases during federal election campaign.
- Wrote to all provinces & territories to ask for their support for our call for immediate action on the plan.



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Recent actions

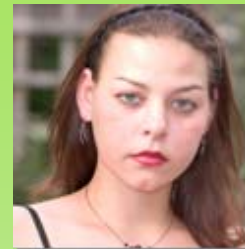
- Provided Canadian Diabetes Association's position & principles to the F/P/T NPS information session Monday, 15 May 2006 in Toronto.



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Upcoming activities

- Our annual National Advocacy Leadership Forum 2006 & Diabetes Day on the Hill to train diabetes advocates on June 4th & then have them advocate directly with MPs & Senators on June 5th.
- Monitoring NPS & preparing for next steps post 30 June 2006.



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THANK YOU!

*For further information, please contact:
Karen Philp, Executive Director
Office of Public Policy & Government Relations
Canadian Diabetes Association
Phone: 613-688-2310 or fax: 613-688-2313
E-mail: Karen.Philp@diabetes.ca*