THE COLLEGE OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
OF CANADA

LE COLLÈGE DES
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE
DU CANADA

3 December 2020

Mr. Peter Julian, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Julian,

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) is pleased to support Bill C-213 that you introduced in the House of Commons, calling on the government to enact the *Canada Pharmacare Act*. The CFPC supports a national pharmacare program based on universal access and embraces the principles of comprehensiveness, universality, and equality. The CFPC has regularly called on the federal government to assume a leadership role in establishing a universal, single-payer, comprehensive and publicly-funded pharmacare plan, as highlighted recently in the CFPC's 2019 federal election priorities for family medicine.

A universal national pharmacare program would help reduce inequalities in accessing medication. Universal access to prescription medications can improve the health outcomes for everyone in Canada, including the most vulnerable in our communities. It is important to ensure that out-of-pocket costs do not prevent patients from accessing the critical medication they need.

Canada continues to be the only developed country in the world with a universal health care system that does not provide universal coverage of prescription drugs. Data shows that 1 in 5 Canadians have no prescription drug coverage and are unable to afford the medication their doctors prescribe. Federal leadership is urgently needed to strengthen our system and ensure improved health outcomes for all in Canada.

Yours Sincerely,

Francine Lemire, MD CM, CCFP, FCFP, CAE
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

cc   Dr. Catherine Cervin, President, CFPC
        Mr. Eric Mang, Executive Director, Member and External Relations, CFPC
        Mr. Artem Safarov, Director, Health Policy & Government Relations, CFPC
        Mr. Don Davies, M.P., NDP Health Critic
        Mr. Jagmeet Singh, M.P., NDP Leader
        The Hon. Patty Hajdu, M.P., P.C., Minister of Health
        The Hon. Michelle Rempel-Garner, M.P., P.C, Shadow Minister of Health
        Mr. Greg Malone, M.P.,Green Party, Health Critic