

Nova Scotia Law Amendments Submission Regarding Bill 17, Fair Drug Pricing Act



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Snapshot of Shelburne

- Mid-way between Bridgewater and Yarmouth
- Rural community; 5000 residents in our municipality
 - 3 pharmacies within the municipality
 - 2 of which are independent pharmacies
- High percentage of seniors in our population base



TLC Pharmasave: Our Story

Bill 13: What does this mean for PhCs?

Pharmacists have longed for the chance to be fairly compensated for their cognitive services and have long awaited the legislation for an expanded scope of practice.

How do we Support Bill 17?

- Move to a more transparent pharmacy model
- Lowered drug costs **to patients and taxpayers**
- Not without fair compensation for all pharmacy services

How do we Support Bill 17?

- Would like to see new tariff agreement in place first
- Only one portion of the equation addressed by this bill
- Creates enormous financial uncertainty for pharmacies

Our Commitment to Our Community

- **Leading community employer**
 - 15 valued employees
 - Sets the bar with comprehensive benefits package
 - Continued investment in career advancement programs from cashier to pharmacist
- **Actively involved in local committees:**
 - Roseway Hospital Auxillary
 - Teens Lending Care (TLC)
 - Pre-Natal Support Networking Group
 - Healthcare Recruitment & Retention Committee
 - SRHS Youth Health Centre
 - Sable River Health Matters

Our Commitment to Our Community

- TLC Pharmasave regularly sponsors **more than 60 local** community groups and charities at a cost of over \$10,000 every year
- From the Osprey Arts Centre to the Beulah Burman Animal Shelter to the Shelburne Loyalist Food Bank

Ongoing commitment to organizations that promote wellness within our community.

Examples of Local Sponsorship

- Roseway Hospital
- Shelburne County Gideon Camp
- Shelburne Regional High School
- Bust-a-Move QEII Foundation
- Pet Projects
- Jutta Christman – Child Sponsorship
- Shelburne County Museum
- Lockport V-12 Soccer Club
- S.W. Rider's Association
- Angela Archer Trust – Local MS Patient
- Lockport Area July 1st Committee
- Lockport Regional High
- Shelburne Curling Club
- Shelburne Royal Canadian Legion
- VON Tri-County
- Shelburne County Figure Skating Club
- Shelburne and Area Chamber of Commerce
- The Senior's Advocate
- Osprey Arts Centre
- Shelburne Founder's Days
- Shelburne County Minor Hockey Association
- Riverhills Golf & Country Club
- Hillcrest Academy
- Shelburne & Area Minor Ball Association
- Harmony Bazaar

Key Role in Healthcare Delivery

In our community...

- Experienced ER closures
- No walk-in clinic in our county
- Over last 3 years, have lost 3 local family physicians with no practices to replace them → many “orphaned” patients
- Pharmacists are fundamental providers of healthcare, especially in rural communities with limited local services.

Our Commitment to Local Healthcare

Some of the services we offer to our patients at no or minimal charge:

- Blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol testing in-store
- LPN on staff
- FREE Rx delivery
- Home compliance packaging
- Regular community health clinics
- Liaison for patients to MSI/3rd party payers
- Medication reviews for ALL patients (not just MSI)
- Weekly medication reviews for local long term care facilities
- In-services for local LTC staff members

Going Forward: Bill 13

- Expanded scope of practice for PhCs and Techs
 - Increased expenditures:
 - Techs – training and wages
 - PhCs – training and cross-over shifts
- With our calculated loss of over \$125,000 we CANNOT absorb the costs associated with implementing these expanded services.
- Therefore, our community may not realize the full benefits of Bill 13

The Future of TLC Pharmasave

- Definite considerations given to cutbacks in staff/store hours, pharmacist overlap time
- Cutbacks to community sponsorship
- No free Rx delivery to seniors in a community with no public transportation
- Elimination of charge accounts and payment plans
- Limitations to any future projects
 - Expansion
 - Bill 13

The Unfortunate Scenario

TLC Pharmasave has weathered a pharmacist shortage in rural Nova Scotia without limiting any services to our patients.

It is extremely unfortunate that at a time when we are finally fully staffed and able to deliver the services outlined in Bill 13 that we are actually having to consider cutbacks instead.

**DELAY THE PASSAGE
OF BILL 17
AND EXTEND THE
TRANSITION PERIOD
FROM 1 to 3 YEARS**