



# Life Before Pharmacare

Report on the Canadian Health Coalition's Hearings  
into a Universal Public Drug Plan

**"I used to have this dream about when I retire I'll travel and I'll visit places I've never seen. Instead I have to think about whether I can afford to pay for my drugs. I won't be covered by my drug plan at work and will still need \$900 a month for drugs. Do I pay for drugs, or put food on the table, fix up the house? It's almost criminal when you think of the wealth in this country."** George Rozon, Edmonton, AB. CEP Local 1118.

**"Last year we were \$6000 in debt with drug bills. Now we are faced with losing our home. We both worked hard all our lives, and I don't think that's right."** Gretta Ross, Sarnia, ON.

**"These (laid-off) brothers and sisters are told to go home. They are without a job and a financial burden is put on them for the cost of any medication they may require. In one-industry towns and older work forces, these people have to make a choice between their medication and bread on the table."** Ritchie Mihalick, Sudbury, ON. CEP National Representative.

**"Each day I am stressed. If there was a program to pay for our drugs, people would not have to spend their life in the red, scared of tomorrow and afraid of the future."** Réjeanne Roy, Petit-Rocher, NB.

**"We need a plan for everyone – a plan based on your health needs, and not where you work"**. Wendy Sol, Saskatoon, SK. CEP Administrative Vice President, Western Region.

This is Life Before Pharmacare. It tells the stories of many Canadians who don't have drug insurance and can't afford to buy their prescribed drugs. It asks why we don't have a universal public drug plan like so many other countries. The Canadian Health Coalition, with support from the CEP and other unions, held hearings in 21 communities across the country and more than 250 people came to tell their stories. CEP members went to speak in Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Sarnia, Ottawa, Sudbury, Moncton and Charlottetown.

Get the full report at [www.ccpa.ca](http://www.ccpa.ca) or follow the Pharma button on the CEP website [www.cep.ca](http://www.cep.ca) and click on Life Before Pharmacare.



*We will continue to fight for Pharmacare, a universal public drug plan that will control drug costs and provide necessary prescription drugs to everyone.*

