

THE WORLD-
Spectator

PHARMACY APPRECIATION MONTH



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Pharmacists play a growing role in our health care

Pharmacy Appreciation Month (previously “Pharmacy Awareness Month”) is the annual national campaign that shines a spotlight on the pharmacy profession in Canada. Celebrated each March, PAM is a time to highlight the growing role pharmacy professionals play in our health-care system and thank them for their extraordinary efforts.

The role of pharmacy professionals is growing to meet our health-care needs. From coast to coast to coast, pharmacists are being empowered to practise to the full extent of their education, helping them care for their patients with fewer barriers.

Recently we’ve seen new authorities allowing pharmacists to assess and prescribe for minor ailments for the first time in some provinces and the expansion of minor ailments programs and funding in others. We are also seeing new ways of delivering pharmacy care, like the growth of pharmacy-led primary care clinics. In many different ways, the role of pharmacists has grown considerably to respond to the needs of patients.

Pharmacy teams are improving access for patients and reducing strain on our health-care system. Access to health-care services remains a significant and growing challenge for many people in Canada, making pharmacy teams more essential than ever. Pharmacy profes-



sionals have grown their roles as prescribers, as immunizers and as the first point of contact to the health-care system for patients across the country.

Funding pharmacy care and empowering pharmacy professionals improves access to health-care services in our communities. As provinces and territories recognize the tremendous value that pharmacy teams can bring to their patients and to the health-care system, governments are authorizing new services and increasing funding for pharmacy care in many parts of Canada. As

a result, we are seeing a growing awareness and enthusiasm from patients to access care at their pharmacies. More funding means more patients are able to take advantage of health-care services delivered at the pharmacy.

Patients’ relationships with their pharmacy teams have never been stronger. Over the past few years, people in Canada have turned more and more frequently to their pharmacies for health-care services and advice. In the process, they have forged new and lasting relationships with the pharmacy team

members who are helping them lead healthier lives.

Pharmacy professionals across Canada work tirelessly to ensure that patients receive the best possible care. The contributions of Canada’s pharmacy teams, especially over the past few years, have been remarkable. From supporting their communities through the pandemic to helping patients navigate care amidst Canada’s primary care crisis, managing ongoing drug shortages and everything in between, pharmacy professionals are a critical force in Canadian health care.

Quick facts:

- 95% of Canadians have a positive impression of pharmacists.
- Most Canadians live within 5km of a pharmacy.
- There are more than 46,000 pharmacists and 10,900 pharmacy technicians in Canada, working in over 11,700 pharmacies across the country.
- Pharmacists are consistently ranked as one of the most trusted professions in Canada and Canadians see their pharmacist more often than any other health-care professional.
- Every week pharmacists see about 10 million patients across the country.



Darcy Rambold, Jeannette Haubrich (pharmacy assistant), **Paula Canart, Leann Hanna, Teshia Nostrud** (pharmacy assistant), **Marla Lowe** (pharmacy assistant)

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PHARMACY APPRECIATION MONTH



Did you know?

Did you know that 95% of Canadians have a positive impression of pharmacists? Happy Pharmacy Appreciation Month!

Did you know that Canada's pharmacy teams administer millions of vaccines each year to help protect our communities? That includes Covid-19 vaccines, flu shots, travel vaccines and more.

Did you know pharmacists can help with lots of health conditions, not just medications? Talk to your pharmacist!

Did you know there over 46,000

pharmacists in Canada providing accessible, high-quality health care in every community?

Did you know your pharmacist is an important and accessible resource to help you manage your blood pressure and medications?

Did you know your pharmacist can play a big role in helping you quit smoking? Many pharmacies offer smoking cessation programs and support.

Did you know there are over 46,000 pharmacists and 10,900 pharmacy technicians in Canada,

working in over 11,700 pharmacies?

Did you know pharmacists can help you manage chronic diseases like diabetes or hypertension?

Did you know that pharmacists have seen their prescribing authority expand in a number of provinces to help improve access to care.

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LEFT TO RIGHT:
 Lorenda Cowan,
 Darla Hayward,
 Mike Anderson,
 Tyla McMurdo,
 Tracy Lelond-Young,
 Haley Foxtton



Pharmacists

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Patient Tips: Your Pharmacist can help!

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Pharmacy professionals across Canada work tirelessly to ensure that patients receive the best possible care and their contributions, especially over the past few years, have been remarkable. Join us in celebrating Canada's amazing pharmacy teams during Pharmacy Appreciation Month this March!

Here are some patient tips for how best to benefit from your local pharmacy and pharmacists!

- In many parts of Canada, new health-care services are available at community pharmacies. Ask your pharmacist about new services they might be offering to improve access to care in your community.

- Try to use the same pharmacy for all your prescriptions so your health file is always up to date.

- Your pharmacist is a medication expert, but they can also help with many other health-related topics. Just ask!

- Talk to your pharmacist about everything you take. Even over-the-counter medications, vitamins and natural health products matter.

- If you're thinking about quitting smoking, your pharmacist can help with support, products and medication if needed.

- Don't throw old or unused medications in the garbage or down the toilet! Your pharmacist will take it back and dispose of it safely.

- Questions about your medications? Pharmacists are the most equipped health-care provider to

help you understand and manage your medications.

- Pharmacists are your medication experts and so much more.

Ask a pharmacist during Pharmacy Appreciation Month about all the ways they can help you improve your health.



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