### CMA Recommendations on Vaccine Equity and Intellectual Property

**https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14476**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>POLICY TYPE</th>
<th>Parliamentary submission</th>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>2022-05-13</td>
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<td>TOPICS</td>
<td>Ethics and medical professionalism</td>
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<td>Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs</td>
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#### Documents

- **Appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development**
  - Date: June 1, 2022
  - **CMA Recommendations on Vaccine Equity and Intellectual Property**
Appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14475

POLICY TYPE          Parliamentary submission
DATE                2022-05-09
TOPICS              Health systems, system funding and performance
                      Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health

Dr. Katharine Smart  
President of the Canadian Medical Association  
May 9, 2022  
Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs on the impacts quality health care has on the social determinants of health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed serious gaps in the health care system’s ability to deliver timely and effective care. The pandemic has also exacerbated the country’s longstanding challenges related to access to health care and the social determinants of health. 

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is committed to working with governments and stakeholders to improve the health care system and address the social determinants of health. The CMA’s key priorities include: 

- Improving access to health care services
- Addressing the ongoing public health emergency
- Addressing the social determinants of health

The CMA recommends that the government:

- Increase funding for public health programs and services
- Support the development and implementation of comprehensive and evidence-based public health policies
- Address the social determinants of health by addressing the root causes of health inequities

In conclusion, the CMA supports the government’s efforts to improve the health care system and address the social determinants of health. The CMA looks forward to working with the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs to develop solutions that will improve the health of all Canadians.

Thank you for your time and attention. 

Dr. Katharine Smart  
President of the Canadian Medical Association  
May 9, 2022
Appearance before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN): Administration and accessibility of Indigenous Peoples to the Non-Insured Benefits Program

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14474

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2022-05-03
TOPICS  Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Appearance before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN): Administration and accessibility of Indigenous Peoples to the Non-Insured Benefits Program

Dr. Altha Lewis
President, Canadian Medical Association

May 4, 2022
Drugs may not be copied
Health Human Resource Policy Recommendations: Summary. Briefing to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14473

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-04-14

TOPICS
Health systems, system funding and performance
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Federal Policy Options to Advance Pan-Canadian Licensure

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14471

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-02-22

TOPICS
Health systems, system funding and performance
Health human resources
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

[CMA submission]

Federal Policy Options to Advance Pan-Canadian Licensure

Improving health care by reducing interprovincial and interterritorial barriers

February 22, 2022
Study on Canada’s Health Workforce
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14469

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-02-16

TOPICS
Health systems, system funding and performance
Health human resources
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health:

Study on Canada’s Health Workforce

Dr. Corky Zane Smart
President of the Canadian Medical Association
February 15, 2022
Script against delivery
Recommendations for federal action to address Canada’s health care crisis
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14468

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-02-15

TOPICS
Health systems, system funding and performance
Health human resources
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Study on Bill S-209, An Act respecting Pandemic Observance Day
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14467

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2022-02-09
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Appearance before the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Study on Bill S-209, An Act respecting Pandemic Observance Day

Dr. Jirsch von Hertzen
President of the Canadian Medical Association

February 09, 2022
(Cloth via stream)
CMA Submission to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities’ study of Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14464

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2021-12-15
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
CMA Submission to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology’s study of Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14462

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2021-12-10
TOPICS  Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Canadian Medical Association input in advance of the World Health Assembly Special Session
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14461

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2021-11-17

TOPICS
Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
New Criminal Code offence to protect health workers from threats and violence, including online
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14463

POLICY TYPE: Parliamentary submission
DATE: 2021-11-16
TOPICS: Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Canada’s doctors and nurses urgently calling for federal measures to address Canada’s health workforce crisis
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14460

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2021-11-09
TOPICS  Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Canada’s doctors and nurses urgently calling for federal measures to address Canada’s health workforce crisis

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14460
Vaccine certificates
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14448

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2021-08-21

TOPICS
Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Global vaccine equity

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2021-08-21

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Guidelines for physicians in interactions with industry

Recommendations for physician innovators

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2021-08-21

REPLACES
PD08-01 Guidelines for Physicians in Interactions with Industry

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14459

POLICY TYPE: Policy endorsement
DATE: 2021-08-21
TOPICS: Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Policy Brief: CSAM-SMCA in Support of the Decriminalization of Drug Use and Possession for Personal Use

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14443

**POLICY TYPE**  
Policy endorsement

**DATE**  
2021-06-24

**TOPICS**  
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Population health, health equity, public health

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**PURPOSE**

In Canada, drug use is a complex and multifaceted issue that has been shaped by historical, social, and political factors. The current legal framework around drug use has been criticized for its failure to address the root causes of drug misuse and addiction, leading to widespread harm and inequity. This policy brief aims to provide an evidence-based approach to decriminalization, focusing on the impact of criminalization on public health, equity, and justice.

**APPROACH**

1. **Criminalization and Public Health:**
   - The criminalization of drug use has been associated with increased harm to users, including overdose, transmission of infectious diseases, and mental health issues.
   - Decriminalization can lead to improved access to harm reduction services, which are crucial for public health outcomes.

2. **Social and Economic Impacts:**
   - Criminalization disproportionately affects marginalized communities, perpetuating social and economic disparities.
   - Legalization and regulation can support equitable access to safe and regulated substances.

3. **Human Rights:**
   - The criminalization of drug use violates fundamental human rights, including the right to health, dignity, and equality.
   - Decriminalization can promote respect for human rights and improve public health outcomes.

**CONCLUSION**

Decriminalization is not a panacea, but it is a necessary step towards addressing the complex issues surrounding drug use. It requires a comprehensive approach that includes harm reduction, community support, and evidence-based policies. This policy brief supports the decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use as a critical step towards improving public health and equity in Canada.
Committee Appearance – Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee:
Bill C-7 – An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14380

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2020-11-23
TOPICS  Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Dear Minister, Minister,

We are writing to urge you to take action on the ongoing and worsening drug shortages in Canada and to address the challenges that the country is facing.

The drug shortages are affecting a wide range of medicines, including vaccines, pain medications, and antibiotics. This situation has become particularly urgent due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has put even more pressure on the healthcare system. There is a critical need for action to ensure that Canadians have access to the medicines they need to stay healthy and safe.

As you are aware, the current shortage is not just a matter of availability; it is also a matter of patient safety. The lack of access to essential medications can lead to delayed treatments, increased hospital stays, and even preventable deaths. It is crucial that we address this situation immediately.

To address this issue, we recommend the following steps:

1. Increase funding for the pharmaceutical industry to support production and distribution of essential medications.
2. Implement policies to incentivize manufacturers to produce and distribute critical medications.
3. Establish a comprehensive supply chain management system to ensure a steady flow of essential medications to the market.
4. Enhance international cooperation to share critical resources among countries.
5. Review and update regulatory policies to streamline the approval process for new medications.

We urge you to act swiftly to address this crisis. The health and well-being of Canadians depend on it.

Sincerely,

Canadian Medical Association