

## A national catastrophic drug plan will:

- Ensure Canadians with diabetes or other chronic disease spend less than 3% of their income for medications, supplies and devices.
- Avoid increasing the two-tiered access to diabetes medications and supplies by including all medications that are approved for sale by Health Canada as safe and effective.
- Address the wide discrepancies in current formulary coverage and ensure all Canadians have the same high level of coverage.
- Ensure all provinces and territories are financially supported to participate fully and equally in a national catastrophic drug plan.



The Canadian Diabetes Association asks for the implementation of a National Catastrophic Drug Plan ensuring Canadians pay less than 3% of their adjusted annual income on medications, devices and supplies.



Canadians living with diabetes deserve the drugs, supplies, education, care, management and financial support needed to manage their disease no matter where they live in Canada.

### To find out more about our advocacy work, please contact:

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## Diabetes *it's epidemic...*



### More than 2.4 million Canadians have diabetes.

- More than three million will be diagnosed by 2010.

### Diabetes is a leading cause of death by disease.

- Uncontrolled diabetes results in heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, blindness and amputation.
- More than one million Canadians with diabetes do not have controlled blood glucose levels (*DICE study 2005*).

### The cost of diabetes and its complications to all Canadians?

- Estimated \$17.4 billion in 2005.
- Direct costs projected to jump 43% by 2010 and more than 75% by 2016! (*Cdn Journal of Diabetes, June 2004*).



## ... and expensive for Canadians with diabetes

### The personal cost of diabetes?

- Up to \$5,000 a year out-of-pocket to buy diabetes medications and supplies.
- \$1 is the average cost of one test strip.
- Insulin dependent Canadians should test at least three times a day.

### Cost? \$1,095 a year for test strips alone!

It matters where you live in Canada if you have diabetes.

- There is a wide disparity in the diabetes medications available to Canadians who are eligible for provincial drug plan coverage.
- Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and territories and the federal government offer the most choice, Ontario offers the least.
- Canadians with diabetes have lower incomes on average than other Canadians (*Statistics Canada 2005*).



## Diabetes it costs a lot more than you think.



Canadians living with diabetes – even if they do not have serious complications – must take appropriate medications as prescribed by their doctor, and test their blood glucose levels daily.

- A 22-year old Canadian with type 1 diabetes and no complications, earning \$15,000 a year, can pay up to 18% (\$2,588.70) of pre-tax income for diabetes medications and supplies yearly, depending on where she lives.
- A 52-year old Canadian with type 2 diabetes and no complications, with a family income of \$55,000, also faces paying up to 11% (\$3,412.39) of pre-tax income for diabetes medications and supplies each year, depending on where he lives.

Diabetes is a progressive disease requiring more medications and prescribed treatments the longer you live with it. Over a lifetime, the personal costs of managing this chronic disease can be catastrophic, and can impact the ability of Canadians with diabetes to save for their retirement or to help their children through post-secondary education.

- 53% of Canadians – seniors, Aboriginal Canadians, veterans, RCMP and Canadians on social assistance – are helped by government drug plans, but still must pay for



some diabetes medications and supplies that are not covered by their plan.

- 58% of employed Canadians have employer-sponsored drug plans to help, but still must pay for some diabetes medications and supplies that are not covered.
- 2% of Canadians have no coverage at all because they are employed in a job that does not provide a drug plan, they work part-time or are self-employed. These Canadians generally pay the full cost of their diabetes medications and supplies.