



## “Fair Pharmacare” calculations reveal unfairness to many

To calculate the “Fair Pharmacare” cuts go to [www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca). Here are some examples of what seniors and low-income earners can expect from this ‘tax on the sick’.

The average working British Columbian family earns roughly \$55,000 a year. Here is what would happen to that family.

### Average BC Family Earning \$55,000 Husband earns 35,000, Wife Earns 20,000 Medical Expenses for the year - \$2,000

	Pharmacare pre-2002	Pharmacare with preliminary changes	“Fair Pharmacare”
Family Earnings	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Drug costs	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Pharmacare Deductible	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,600
Government Pays 70% - deductible to \$2,000	\$840	\$700	\$240
Family Pays	\$1,160	\$1,300	\$1,760
<b>Increased Cost</b>		<b>\$140</b>	<b>\$600</b>

Those are cost increases for a working family. The cost increases for a retired family making the same amount of money are much, much higher.

A single pensioner with an income of only \$30,000 will see possible drug expenditures rise by 75 per cent over what they would have paid in 2001.

### Single Pensioner Income \$30,000

	Pharmacare pre-2002	Pharmacare with preliminary changes 2002	“Fair Pharmacare”
Pension Earnings	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Drug costs	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Pharmacare Deductible	\$200 (dispensing fees only)	\$275 (both drugs and fees)	\$0 (1% of income)
Government Pays	\$1,800	\$1,750	\$1,650
Pensioner Pays	\$200	\$250	\$350 (maximum possible)

<b>Increased Cost</b>		<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$150</b>
-----------------------	--	-------------	--------------

Even pensioners who would be eligible for MSP assistance will pay more. A pensioner with an income of \$25,000 will see a 50 per cent increase in what they would pay on \$2,000 in drug costs over what they paid in 2001.

**Single Pensioner  
Income \$25,000**

	<b>Pharmacare pre-2002</b>	<b>Pharmacare with preliminary changes 2002</b>	<b>“Fair Pharmacare”</b>
Pension Earnings	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Drug costs	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Pharmacare Deductible	\$200 (dispensing fees only)	\$200 (both drugs and fees)	\$0
Government Pays 1	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,700
Pensioner Pays	\$200	\$200	\$300 (maximum possible)
<b>Increased Cost</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100</b>

And the numbers get worse. For example, a retired British Columbian with an income of \$35,000 would have paid \$200 for drugs in 2001. This plan will bump those costs to \$700 – an increase of 250 per cent.