

## Press Release

### **New Ontario study quantifies costs of community pharmacy services**

***Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores and Ontario Pharmacists' Association highlight need for new engagement with government to address funding issues***

TORONTO, September 24, 2008 – The Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores in partnership with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association today announced findings from a province-wide study on the costs of community pharmacy services in a speech presented to the Economic Club of Toronto by CACDS President and CEO, Nadine Saby.

The independent study of 505 community pharmacies found the median cost to provide dispensing and related pharmacy services was \$13.77 per prescription. The estimated average payment to pharmacies for these services, however is far less – approximately \$8.70 and declining. The study was conducted by MENTORx, a consulting firm specializing in community pharmacy-based research and evaluation projects, to assess the operating costs incurred by Ontario community pharmacies to dispense prescription drugs and deliver related pharmacy services to patients.

The findings are almost identical to those found in the 2007 Activity-Based Costing Study in British Columbia, showing the real cost to provide pharmacy services in that province was \$13.60. The current maximum allowable fee payable to pharmacies by the B.C. government for the services is \$8.60.

“We need to work closely with government to find the innovative and alternative solutions that will ensure the sustainability of patient care and community pharmacy in Canada,” said Nadine Saby, President and CEO, CACDS. “Investing in community pharmacy care will not only improve the health and well-being of Canadians, but reduce overall health care costs.”

Community pharmacy and government need to work collaboratively on a new model – one that strikes a balance for patients, governments, pharmacy and industry stakeholders; closes the gap in compensation for pharmacy services; and fully incorporates the skills and capabilities of pharmacy to manage health care costs and improve health outcomes.

“Community pharmacists have enormous potential to provide an even broader range of much needed services to improve the health of patients,” said Dennis Darby, Chief Executive Officer, OPA. “We need to ensure pharmacists have the resources they need to be able to provide these services. These studies provide the data needed to inform discussion about costs and reimbursement.”

In Canada, more than three million patient-pharmacist interactions take place every day. Community pharmacists are considered the most accessible of all primary health care practitioners, they assist patients with complicated medication regimes, monitor for drug interactions and provide chronic disease prevention and management services in collaboration with caregivers, physicians and other health care providers.

For more information, and study results, please visit, [www.cacds.ca](http://www.cacds.ca) or [www.opatoday.com](http://www.opatoday.com)

#### **About CACDS**

CACDS is the national voice of community chain pharmacy in Canada. The members of CACDS are traditional chain and banner drug stores, grocery chains and mass merchandisers with pharmacies. Together, CACDS members operate 6,000 pharmacies that dispense 78 per cent of the nation's prescriptions each year. CACDS members employ more than 100,000 Canadians, including 80 per cent of the pharmacists in Canada practicing in community. CACDS was founded in 1995.

#### **About OPA**

The Ontario Pharmacists’ Association (OPA) is the professional association representing the interests of more than 11,000 pharmacists and pharmacists-in-training in Ontario. Founded more than 80 years ago, OPA provides advocacy, services, education and drug information for the profession. For more information, visit [www.opatoday.com](http://www.opatoday.com).

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