**DO NOT ATTACH BACKGROUND DOCUMENT WHEN USING THIS LETTER. IT CONTAINS ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT, AS IS MEANT TO BE STAND-ALONE.**

**Sections highlighted in red require you to add in local information.**

CLUB LETTERHEAD

DATE

FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS NOT A CABINET MINISTER[Name of Member], M.P./ M.P.P/M.L.A/M.H.A/M.N.A [riding]

FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS A CABINET MINISTER, The Honourable [name], M.P./ M.P.P./M.L.A/M.H.A/M.N.A [riding]

Name of Federal/Provincial Legislature (ex: Legislative Assembly of Alberta)

City, Province

Postal Code

**Re: Universal Pharmacare**

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_] / FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS A CABINET MINISTER: Dear Minister \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Canada is the only country with a universal health care system that does not cover prescription drugs.

I am writing on behalf of the [CFUW/UWC\_\_\_\_\_], an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), to ask that you make Universal Pharmacare part of your upcoming election platform.

In the 1960’s, when Medicare was implemented, the intent was to add Universal Pharmacare as the next phase. Canada has continually procrastinated, studying the issue over the decades. Since April 2016, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health has been studying a national Pharmacare program. Many organizations and individuals have appeared before the committee with the facts and figures to support Pharmacare. The July 2016 Angus Reid poll shows that 91% of Canadians support the implementation of a universal drug plan. Canadians need and want Universal Pharmacare.

Today one in 10 Canadians cannot afford to pay for their prescriptions. The current patchwork systems of public and private insurance plans across the country are not equitable, nor are they sustainable. In fact, it leaves more than 3.6 million Canadians without any drug coverage at all and places the costs for prescription medication in Canada as second highest among any OECD country. This complex and needlessly expensive system will collapse if nothing is done.

Please commit your party to support a single Canada-wide Universal Pharmacare program to cover all medically necessary/essential drugs. Please ensure that it is funded to cover all costs, so that there are no user fees or co-payments, which discourage use of essential medicines by those who cannot afford them and compromise the integrity of our universal Medicare system.

Universal Pharmacare program will not only improve people's health, it will also generate several billion dollars in public and private savings. This is a long-overdue and affordable step that will help Canada catch up with other developed countries. Canadians should not have to choose between a life-saving prescription and feeding their families. Will you support Universal Pharmacare?

We await your response.

Yours sincerely,

[NAME OF CLUB PRESIDENT]

President – [Name of Club]

*CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization representing over 8,000 women in every province in Canada. Since the founding in 1919, CFUW has sought to improve the status of women and girls, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace.*