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Assistant Deputy Minister Steven MacKay
Treasury Board Secretariat
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Mr. MacKay,

We are writing on behalf of AMAPCEO and OPSEU/SEFPO to revisit our ongoing concerns with OPS employer resistance to the inclusion of GLP-1/semaglutide drug coverage within our respective benefits plans. We believe the time has come to include this new and beneficial classification of drugs for reasons of increased efficacy and affordability.

At present, the employer's benefits plans provide coverage solely for the brand name Ozempic and exclusively for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. It is our contention that coverage should be extended to newly available generic GLP-1 and semaglutide medication, and that all should be permitted for off-label use as prescribed by a patient's physician, which is in line with [the World Health Organization's \(WHO\) 2025 recommendation](#).

The WHO recognizes obesity as a chronic disease that has lasting impacts on a person's quality of life and mortality, and that GLP-1 therapies can help individuals overcome the disease and reduce its attendant harms. We ask that the employer adopt this recommendation and permit coverage of GLP-1 and semaglutide medications for the treatment of obesity as diagnosed by a physician.

Additionally, in early 2026, the patent on semaglutide expired in Canada and generic forms of the medication are becoming available to patients. We ask that the employer permit coverage of these more affordable alternatives for the treatment of obesity as diagnosed by a physician.

It is our contention that the expanded use of and access to available forms of GLP-1 and semaglutide medication would go a long way in mitigating preventable diseases and obesity-related health complications, particularly at a time when [the prevalence of obesity is trending upward in Canada](#). Looking toward the future, the early coverage of preventive medicine will help to mitigate the long-term costs of progressive chronic diseases and ailments that arise downstream from obesity and that could have otherwise been treated through the availability of these medications.

Ontario's 70,000 public servants deserve high-quality health benefit coverage. As new medications become available and more affordable to employers and insurance carriers, they must become equally accessible to employees.

Sincerely,

Dave Bulmer, AMAPCEO President/CEO

Chris Eckert, OPSEU/SEFPO CERC/MERC Chair

Cc Matt Siple, Associate Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Secretariat