

Ottawa

Room 349, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-996-1119
Fax: 613-996-0850



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 349, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-996-1119
Télééc. : 613-996-0850

Constituency

9711 Fourth Street Suite 1
Sidney, British Columbia V8L 2Y8
Tel.: 250-657-2000
Fax: 250-657-2004

Elizabeth May

Member of Parliament / Député(e)
Saanich — Gulf Islands

Circonscription

9711, rue Fourth suite 1
Sidney (Colombie-Britannique) V8L 2Y8
Tél. : 250-657-2000
Télééc. : 250-657-2004

The Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Health
Province of British Columbia

July 3, 2025

Re: A Plea for Universal Pharmacare and Urgent Access to Brineura for Charleigh Pollock

Dear Minister,

As you will be meeting tomorrow with the family of Charleigh Pollock, the little girl tragically afflicted with CLN2 disease, I am writing to express my support for the family's request that the province continue funding Charleigh's access to Brineura.

That said, I see Charleigh's case in a larger context. I hope that you, along with our new Federal Health Minister, the Honourable Marjorie Michel (copied here), may be able to collaborate to address the desperate need for full, universal, single payer pharmacare.

Canada remains the only country with universal public healthcare without all prescription drugs covered within the health care system. Numerous studies, including the report led by Ontario's former Health Minister Eric Hoskins and the seminal, multi-university pharmacare study in 2020, have shown that comprehensive pharmacare would save lives and avoid billions of dollars in costs driven by the high price of prescription drugs in Canada. Coverage becomes even more imperative for medications such as Brineura with smaller demand as the disease, in this case CLN2, is so rare.

Big Pharma has no guardrails. It can charge whatever it wants for treatment and medication access. It can make obscene profits and exploit urgent, heartbreaking cases like Charleigh's to build public pressure and compel governments to pay up. The irony is not lost on me: I am now assisting the industry in getting what it wants precisely because Charleigh's need is so urgent.

Let's be clear and public about how we are pawns helping Big Pharma to rip us all off. But we do not have to be. We can negotiate price and bulk purchasing from a position of strength with one federal drug formula and negotiated price.



This letter is both a plea to help this little girl, Charleigh, immediately, and a call to tackle the larger issue head-on. We must act now to ensure our healthcare system is not bankrupted by Big Pharma's unchecked greed.

Thank you for your concern and attention to this urgent need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

