

# CANADA

**226,445**

Number of life-years that could have been gained had Canadians had better access to breakthrough cancer treatments over the last decade.<sup>3</sup>

**464 days**

Average delay in approval of new medicines compared to the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

**18%**

Share of new medicines launched globally that are available to Canadians on a public health care plan.<sup>2</sup>

## Restricted and Delayed Access to Treatments in Canada

Canada's current pharmaceutical pricing policies have led to significant delays and access restrictions for patients who require new and innovative medicines.

In addition to regulatory approval, the current coverage and reimbursement process for new drugs includes numerous steps that can impede access: a review of all patented medicines by the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB), assessments that utilize the quality-adjusted-life-year (QALY) conducted by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH),<sup>4</sup> and additional negotiations and product listing agreements with Provincial public drug plans. This complex and many-layered process acts as a barrier to innovate drugs and creates delays in access for patients.

“Having struggled to access Kalydeco all those years ago for Madi and seeing the continued struggles for therapies, care and supports for rare diseases in Canada continues to motivate us to advocate,” Beth said.<sup>5</sup>



Access to Trikafta is not easy in Canada. Too often patients denied coverage are forced to raise the funds for their treatment. “On Saturday, September 16th, 2023 ‘Trikafta for Chanelle- Ball Hockey Tournament’ was hosted to raise funds for community member, Chanelle LaFleche, for her to get a potentially life-saving medical treatment, Trifakta. Chanelle was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis and the coverage for her treatment has been denied, even with doctors championing for her to get funding and grants to cover the immense medical expense. With this treatment she can increase her life expectancy by over 45 years!”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Conference Board of Canada, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Fraser Institute, 2021

<sup>3</sup> The Conference Board of Canada, 2022

<sup>4</sup> Guidelines for the Economic Evaluation of Health Technologies: Canada. July 2017

<sup>5</sup> Mother-daughter duo from Beeton land new role to raise awareness for rare diseases,” Simcoe.com, Nov. 24, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> “Trifakta for Chanelle’ for the Win!” Seaway News, Sept. 28, 2023.