



Caravan to Canada

About T1International

- T1International is a patient-led advocacy organization that doesn't take funding from pharmaceutical companies or anyone that could influence our advocacy.
- T1International and the Chapters are led by patients fighting for systemic solutions and for the right of every person to have access to affordable insulin in the USA.
- T1International Chapters are networks of patients and concerned people fighting for transparency and policy change throughout the healthcare system to make insulin and supplies affordable. These Chapters exist to push for long-term solutions for *everyone*.
- Patients have the power to make change by speaking out and holding policy makers and companies accountable to ensure insulin is accessible and affordable for all.

The Insulin Price Crisis

- Insulin is as necessary to a person with type 1 diabetes as oxygen is to any human; we believe access to insulin is a human right and should be treated as such.
- There are over [7 million](#) Americans that rely on injected insulin to stay alive and healthy.
- [1 of every 4](#) patients with type 1 in the USA has had to ration insulin due to cost. Many have [died](#).
- Insulin was first used to treat a person with diabetes in 1922. It was discovered in Canada and the discoverers sold the patent for \$1 each so it could [be accessible](#) for all.
- Today, Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Sanofi – the 'big three' – dominate [more than 90%](#) of the world insulin market by value.
- Since the 1990s, the cost of insulin has increased [over 1,200%](#).
- List prices of insulin have been rising at the [same rate at the same time](#) for 10 years.
- Spending by patients with type 1 diabetes on insulin nearly doubled from 2012 to 2016, increasing from [\\$2900 to \\$5700](#).
- In 2017, the average price of one vial of Humalog insulin was about \$275, which is 13 times what it cost in 1996 and [7 times the cost](#) of the same insulin in Canada.
- The cost of production for a vial of most analog insulins is [between \\$3.69 and \\$6.16](#).

T1International #insulin4all

Americans Traveling to Canada

- It is unacceptable that Americans have to leave their country to purchase affordable insulin in other countries, get black market insulin, or go bankrupt because insulin is so expensive.
- Many people in dire situations still can't afford the travel costs (gas, flights, passport, time away from work, kinds, etc.) to go to another country and buy insulin there.
- Buying insulin abroad can help some people right now and makes a strong point about how unaffordable it is in the USA, but it isn't addressing the root cause of the problem.
- Insulin, which has been called "Canada's Gift to the World", is now out of reach for many due to the high prices set by companies that have their headquarters in other countries.



The Canadian Situation

- Neither the Canadian Federal Government nor Provincial Governments subsidize the out of pocket, over the counter price for insulin. The Canadian taxpayer is not losing money due to Americans buying insulin and other prescriptions in Canada.
- Canadian businesses are making money by profiting from the sales at the pharmacy, as well as money that American tourists spend for gas, lodging, etc. during their stay.
- In Canada, over a million people are on insulin. Canadian experts, including Dr. Seema Nagpal, the Vice President of Science and Policy with Diabetes Canada, have stated that [shortages of insulin are not an issue](#), and that Americans purchasing insulin in Canada will not jeopardize the supply of insulin for Canadians.
- Insulin is produced in large vats like you might see with mass-produced food. Therefore, the only way there would be an insulin shortage is if foreign companies hostage Canadians by artificially limiting supply, as they have done with EpiPens. US patients are only doing what they need to do in order to survive pharmaceutical company extortion.
- Even though Americans are making a huge effort to come to Canada for affordable insulin, the Canadian situation is not necessarily better. Pharmacare is not universal in Canada. If no insurance is available through work or school, people with type 1 diabetes are obligated to pay out of pocket at prices many cannot afford.
- **The bottom line:** T1International fights for the rights of *all* people living with type 1 diabetes to have affordable insulin - in America, Canada and everywhere around the world.

For more information, facts and context please contact allison@t1international.com.