

# VOTING TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE



## QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

### 1 If elected, will your party create a **public, universal pharmacare program** as recommended by the **Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare**?

Currently, 3.6 million Canadians can't afford to fill their prescriptions. Canada is the only country with a universal public health care system that doesn't cover prescription medication. The current system is unfair and unsustainable. No one should have to choose between putting food on the table and buying the medications they need. Medication should be covered like other health services. When people fill their prescriptions, we should be asking for their health cards, not their credit cards.

### 2 Do you support **public health care**? Will you take action to stop for-profit, private health care?

Our public health care system is based on five important principles laid out in the Canada Health Act: universality, accessibility, comprehensiveness, portability and public administration. These principles work together to ensure that health care is delivered based on people's needs and not on their ability to pay. The federal government should enforce the Act to ensure that health care remains accessible to all.

Health care services should be focused around patients, not on making profits. For-profit, private health care is threatening our public system by taking resources and staff away from it. This results in longer wait times across the country.

### 3 Will you be a **public health care champion** by asking the federal government to provide the provinces and territories with **adequate and stable funding** for health care?

Public health care costs increase annually based on several factors including inflation, the aging population and new technologies. Health care funding in Canada hasn't been keeping pace with these changes. For far too long, the system has been underfunded. To ensure people across Canada can access the same quality of public health care, the federal government should pay its fair share, ensure federal dollars are spent on public health care and commit to meeting the real costs of health care.

### 4 If elected, will your party create a **national seniors' care strategy** so seniors across the country can age with dignity and respect? Will this strategy tie federal funding to consistent standards of care?

Seniors' care often falls outside the scope of the Canada Health Act, which primarily covers services provided by doctors and hospitals. Wait times, eligibility criteria and out-of-pocket expenses for seniors' care vary greatly across the country. A lot of seniors' care is provided by for-profit facilities, and not everyone can afford it. The federal government should adopt a national seniors' care strategy to ensure everyone in Canada can access quality seniors' care.



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