

VISION ACTION BAILLIE

May 12, 2017

Kati Oliver, Program and Projects Manager
Canadian Cancer Survivor Network
Via email: koliver@survivornet.ca

I am pleased to respond to your questionnaire as follows:

Question 1:

The Canadian Medical Association Journal published research in 2014 that showed one in twelve Canadians report they skip doses or decide not to fill prescriptions because of cost.

If elected to government, what will your party do to make prescription medications more affordable?

Jamie Baillie has a vision for a Nova Scotia health care system that is there when you need it. We are committed to reduce out-of-pocket medical costs paid by Nova Scotian cancer patients who pay the highest out-of-pocket costs for take-home medication. If elected on May 30th, a new PC government would work together with stakeholders such as the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network to find ways to make prescription medications more affordable for a greater number of Nova Scotians.

In addition, a PC government will freeze the Seniors' Pharmacare cost-share ratio to ensure no future government will download additional costs to our seniors.

Question 2:

Healthcare is the number four issue (behind education, labour relations and balanced books) on the minds of Nova Scotian voters.

If elected:

a) How will your government improve the delivery of cancer care and other healthcare services in Nova Scotia?

b) Will your government restructure healthcare delivery, and if so, how?

c) How will your government ensure that cancer patients receive the services they need, including home care, financial assistance during recovery and for long-term side effects of cancer and/or treatment?

As noted above, we are committed to reduce out-of-pocket medical costs paid by Nova Scotian cancer patients who pay the highest out-of-pocket costs for take-home medication. A PC government will treat oral cancer drugs and hospital-administered cancer drugs equally, as other provinces have done.

The Nova Scotia PC party will make health care a priority. Among other actions we want to recruit more doctors and invest more in mental health care. We will also replace the Victoria General Hospital using the new Rebuild Nova Scotia infrastructure fund.

We can deliver better care by reducing wasteful spending, overhead and added bureaucracy within the health system. We will reign in the Nova Scotia Health Authority by enforcing real administrative savings and invest those savings in frontline health services.

Question 3:

A key element of ensuring timely treatment for a Canadian cancer patient is ensuring they have access to the medications they need at the time they need them. Unfortunately, this is not always the case in Nova Scotia. As of January 31, 2015, Nova Scotia drug plans covered 23.5% of the 464 new drugs approved by Health Canada from 2004-2013 and the average number days to list the new drug covered under each public drug plan was 681 (Coverage for new medicines in Canada's public drug plans, 2015, Mark Rovere and Dr. Brett J. Skinner).

If elected to government, will you commit to ensuring that all cancer patients in Nova Scotia receive timely access to medications at the time they need it?

Access to medication in a timely manner is crucial after a cancer diagnosis. A PC government will cut through the red tape that prevents timely access to medication.

Question 4:

Government figures, dated March 2017, indicate that just over 25,000 people were on the wait list for access to a family doctor or a nurse practitioner, although numbers released by Statistics Canada indicate that 11.3 per cent of the population, or just over 100,000 people, did not have access to a health-care provider.

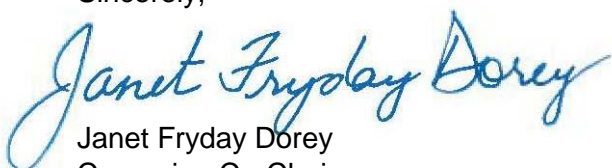
If elected, how will your government ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to a health-care provider?

A Jamie Baillie government will invest in physician recruitment and bring more doctors to Nova Scotia.

We will take concrete action to ease the doctor shortage:

- Invest \$13.5 million to bring more doctors to underserved areas
- Double the tuition relief program to \$6 million to keep new family doctors in Nova Scotia
- Credential recognition for Canadians who study medicine abroad.

Sincerely,



Janet Fryday Dorey
Campaign Co-Chair
PC Party of Nova Scotia