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Canadian Cancer Survivor Network

2017 Election Questions

NDP Response

1) If elected, an NDP government will work with the provinces and the federal government to establish a Canada-wide universal pharmacare plan.

2) The NSNDP has been clear that health care is our top priority since day one of this election campaign. We know that our healthcare system needs each piece to work if we want the whole system to function well. Cancer care is no exception -- from primary care to mental health care to long term care, if Nova Scotians don't have access to basic health services, their experience dealing with cancer is going to be much more difficult. That's why we're investing \$120m over four years in bringing more doctors and nurse practitioners to Nova Scotians, doubling our initial investment in the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and replacing the cuts Stephen McNeil and the Liberals made to community mental health organizations, and creating more spaces in long-term care.

Under the McNeil Liberals, Nova Scotians were promised shorter wait times and better access to primary care, but the government has focused on moving bureaucrats around to create the new Nova Scotia Health Authority. If health care consolidation had resulted in more timely access, we would have supported this reorganization, but like most Nova Scotians we have been disappointed by the exercise, which has somehow managed to leave health care providers and patients out of the decision making process. Patients with life-threatening chronic illnesses have likely felt the impact of this approach even more than most.

3) The NSNDP recognizes that timely access to medications is crucial for successful cancer treatment. We are committed to working with health care providers to expand the availability of the most appropriate drugs for cancer patients.

4) Primary health care services for all Nova Scotians is a top priority for the NSNDP. In addition to a four-year investment of \$120 million in primary care, an NDP government will accept the recommendations of Doctors NS' recent position paper on Fixing Nova Scotia's Primary Health Care Problem, including, amongst other things, working together with our health care system and Doctors NS to implement a blended payment model for physicians to remove the disincentive for preventative care that the fee-for-service system creates.

The NSNDP knows that our communities deserve reliable primary health care for the long run. That's why we'll work with the DHW and NSHA, along with physician recruiters and the Dalhousie Medical School work with

Doctors NS to develop a recruitment and retention strategy based on a new compensation model that supports preventative care and the doctor-patient relationship, and allows doctors who want to practice in Nova Scotia to help the community of their choosing.