



Canadian Cancer Survivor Network (CCSN) Election Questions

1. **Access to primary healthcare: If elected, what steps will your government take to increase the availability of family doctors and healthcare practitioners in New Brunswick?**

A re-elected Liberal Government will partner with the New Brunswick Medical Society to actively recruit new doctors and develop better recruitment incentives to attract doctors to the province, including in rural areas. Currently, programs and budgets to recruit doctors are managed by the Regional Health Authorities and the Department of Health. These efforts would be repurposed and overseen by a partnership between the provincial government and the New Brunswick Medical Society.

Furthermore, we will budget to invest in 90 net new doctors, 50 net new nurse practitioners, 40 net new nurses, 80 net new licensed practical nurses, and 80 net new resident attendants for nursing homes.

Among these initiatives and others, a re-elected Liberal Government would also leverage the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program as a means of recruiting more medical professionals from outside the country, and work with professional associations expedite the certification process to allow professionals to practice as soon as possible. On top of this, we will continue to work with partners to increase the number of seats at the medical training programs in Moncton and Saint John.

2. **National pharmacare: If elected, will your government support the implementation of a national pharmacare program that guarantees access to prescription medicines and a coverage plan that goes beyond a formulary that meets the lowest common denominator? If not, please explain how your party will ensure that New Brunswickers will have timely access to prescription drugs.**

Our Liberal Government is committed to making prescription drug prices affordable for New Brunswickers, which is why upon re-election in 2014, the Gallant Government made amendments to the *Prescription and Catastrophic Drug Insurance Act* that allowed

the government to eliminate the previous Conservative Government's plan to make it a mandatory requirement for New Brunswickers to have prescription drug insurance. Our Liberal Government also created two new premiums for low-income earners in the New Brunswick Drug Plan. This action has provided a New Brunswick Drug Plan that is more fair and reasonable for those that choose to join it.

Our Liberal Leader, Brian Gallant, was glad to host the Council of the Federation meetings in June, one of which focused on health and improved access to healthcare. Many informative and valuable discussions of the national pharmacare plan arose at this meeting, specifically regarding costs and consistency across provinces, as well as federal involvement.

Going forward, a re-elected Liberal Government will continue to engage in further discussions on this file to sort out more details, while proactively prioritizing initiatives for preparation of this plan or another. Together, with the Federal Government and other provinces and territories, we will finish what we started to find common solutions on how to improve health-care services for all Canadians.

3. Patient engagement: If elected, will your government take steps to create a Patient Engagement Committee that directly advises the government on healthcare issues?

Our Government is currently establishing a formal cancer patient navigation program (Commitment #105) in cooperation with the New Brunswick Cancer Network (NBCN). As a first step to designing and implementing the cancer patient navigation program, NBCN conducted a community consultation with key stakeholders around the province.

The goal of this consultation was to identify barriers to accessing services and supportive care for cancer patients and their families. NBCN subsequently developed a program design based on the findings of the community consultation, literature review and an environmental scan of cancer patient navigation programs and best practices in other jurisdictions.

The NB Cancer Patient Navigation Program design recommendations were finalized and approved by the Department of Health in June 2018. The Cancer Patient Navigator job description has been finalized and an interim rating obtained from the Treasury Board (July 2018). Current on-going activities include finalizing budgetary details based on the interim rating for the Cancer Patient Navigator position; discussing job description with regional health authorities (intent, funding, timelines for hiring);

establishing an Advisory Committee of key stakeholders to advise and facilitate coordinated development, implementation and on-going monitoring and evaluation of the NB Cancer Patient Navigation Program, once the navigators are hired. The timing of the full implementation is dependent on the duration of the hiring process for cancer patient navigators.