

April 12, 2019

Canadian Cancer Survivor Network

2019 Provincial Election Survey Responses

Question 1: Strengthening a publicly-funded healthcare system

According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Alberta spends more on healthcare than any of the other provinces and territories. This is projected to increase due to the aging population in the province. Concerns have been voiced on the sustainability of healthcare spending, and parties are responding with best approaches to ensuring Albertans receive affordable, accessible, timely and quality care.

If elected, what steps will your government take to strengthen the publicly-funded healthcare system in Alberta?

The United Conservatives believe Albertans deserve better from our health care system. As noted, Alberta spends more than any of the other provinces and territories on health care, and still wait times are growing and patient outcomes are lackluster.

A United Conservative government would ensure patients are at the center of the health care system. We will cut surgical wait times, make major investments to reverse Alberta's opioid crisis, support mental health, and improve both primary and palliative care for Albertans.

A United Conservative government would maintain or increase health care spending over four years and, if elected, within 30 days of being sworn-in would commission an audit of Alberta Health Services (AHS) to identify efficiencies and ensure our provincial health care system is there for all Albertans.

Further, we will reduce wait times to no more than four months in four years by replicating elements of the highly successful Saskatchewan model for health care reform, the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative (SSI).

A United Conservative government would be committed to ensuring Albertans receive the highest quality health care possible. More details on our health care plan are available in our platform, which can be found [here](#).

Question 2: National pharmacare

Canada's universal healthcare system does not include access to prescription medicines. The result is a provincial/territorial patchwork of public and private insurance plans that are costly, ineffective and do not guarantee access to prescribed drugs. The federal government has set up an Advisory Council on the Implementation of Pharmacare to look at how access to prescription drugs can be improved in our healthcare system. Patients throughout Canada are concerned that national pharmacare will lead to a list of covered drugs that only meets the lowest common denominator.

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 elected, a United Conservative government will seek to ensure all Albertans have access to the prescription medications they need. Since the federal government has not yet introduced their national pharmacare program, it is difficult for us to comment. A United Conservative government would ensure that stakeholders are consulted and that we advocate on behalf of the best interests of Albertans if and when the federal government introduces a national pharmacare program.

If not, please explain how your party will ensure that Albertans will have timely access to prescription drugs.

Will your government consult Albertan patients, survivors and caregivers on how to move forward with national pharmacare?

Yes. A United Conservative government would consult with all stakeholders on how to move forward with national pharmacare.

Question 3: Access to cancer rehabilitation services

Surviving cancer can leave a host of problems in its wake. Physical, emotional, and financial hardships often persist for years after diagnosis and treatment. While advances in cancer detection and treatments have reduced mortality, persistent and late effects of cancer and its treatments need to be identified and managed lifelong, with rehabilitation programs filling a gap in survivorship care and responding to the need of some survivors for more specialized physical and mental recovery care.

If elected to government, how will you ensure that cancer survivors have timely access to rehabilitation services in Alberta that are timely and free?

A United Conservative government recognizes that rehabilitation services are an important part of recovery for patients that need them. While we have not commented on this topic specifically, we would welcome stakeholder input on this issue and would seek to ensure that Albertans receive the highest quality health care possible.

If elected as an MLA, would you be interested in serving on the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network's All-party Cancer Caucus which meets twice a year and is currently studying gaps in rehabilitation services in Alberta and how to fill them?

If elected, the United Conservative government would welcome the opportunity to connect with important stakeholders, like the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network.