

Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Alberta

Arthritis is *one word that describes more than 100 disease types and affects one out of five Alberta residents. To effectively treat and manage the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – the next elected Alberta government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.*

Question 1

According to the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute, arthritis affects more than 500,000 Albertans of all ages, yet no comprehensive model of arthritis care is available. This is particularly pronounced outside of the Calgary and Edmonton metro regions. Where you live can be more important in determining treatment than how sick or disabled you are.

What will your government do to bring a standardized model of arthritis care for all Alberta residents?

Question 2

Reliable, validated screening tests to detect and accurately diagnose arthritis exist, but have not been systematically implemented into Alberta's medical school curricula and healthcare system.

How will your government address the need to implement validated arthritis screening tests into Alberta's medical schools and healthcare system?

Question 3

Arthritis Consumer Experts annually ranks publicly funded drug formularies based on the number of medically necessary arthritis medications (e.g. biologic response modifiers and targeted small molecule). After ranking #7 in Canada in 2013, Alberta dropped to a ranking of #8 in Canada in 2014.

What will your government do to improve the province's ranking and ensure that Albertans living with arthritis, with the help of the doctors who treat them, are able to choose the medication most appropriate for their specific disease and risk factors?

Question 4

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Alberta. On average, over a quarter of men and women with arthritis between 25 and 44 years of age in Alberta were not in the labour force because of their arthritis, costing Alberta's economy \$3.3 billion.

How will your government establish and enact better prevention programs and healthcare guidelines to help reduce the direct and indirect costs of arthritis on the Alberta economy?