



September 23, 2008

Conservative Party of Canada  
#1204 - 130 Albert Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5G4

**Re: Arthritis Consumer Experts' Party questionnaire—Federal election 2008**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Arthritis Consumer Experts is a national organization providing research-based education, support, and advocacy training to people with arthritis across Canada. As part of our work, our organization advocates for reimbursement coverage of medically necessary medications for all Canadians with arthritis, regardless of province of residence or ability to pay. With that in mind, the federally-funded Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) plan is a topic of great concern for our members.

The NIHB has a mandate to ensure that the health of First Nations and Inuit people in Canada is equal to the Canadian population as a whole. As discussed in the backgrounder provided as part of this questionnaire package, the NIHB is failing to live up to its responsibility to the more than 58,000 First Nations and Inuit Canadians who live with arthritis.

We would very much appreciate it if you would take the time to answer the enclosed questions about your party's position on the NIHB as it relates to reimbursement coverage for arthritis medications.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Koehn".

Cheryl Koehn  
Person with rheumatoid arthritis  
President, Arthritis Consumer Experts

Encls. Party questionnaire and NIHB background document