

Liberal Party of Canada  
81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

October 7, 2008

Cheryl Koehn  
President, Arthritis Consumer Experts  
Box 45536 Westside RPO  
Vancouver BC  
V6S 2N5

Dear Ms. Koehn,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Liberal position on key issue issues pertaining to arthritis.

The Liberal Party of Canada believes that all Canadians, including First Nations, Inuit and Aboriginal peoples should have timely and equal access to medically necessary health services and treatments when they need it.

That is why a Liberal government will invest \$900 million to create a new plan for catastrophic drug coverage. This will help to ensure that Canadians facing high costs for their medication do not have to suffer financially in order to access necessary drug treatments.

We will work with the provincial and territorial governments to determine the level of catastrophic drug coverage that should be provided as a national minimum. As well, we will directly compensate those provinces that are already providing that level of coverage.

In addition, a new Liberal government will work with all levels of government and key stakeholders regarding options to improve Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program so that First Nations, Inuit and Aboriginal persons can receive the very best health care possible.

Thank you again for your letter on this very important matter. Please don't hesitate to contact me again on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Doug Ferguson, President  
Liberal Party of Canada

