
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 at 4:11 PM
To: Cheryl Koehn <koehn@jointhealth.org>
Cc: "davidd6@liberalpei.ca" <davidd6@liberalpei.ca>
Subject: Liberal Party of PEI Response
From: "voterinquiry@liberalpei.ca"

Thank you very much for your questions and interest in our plans to keep improving patient access and care, in particular those with arthritis. We fully recognize the burden of arthritis on the PEI population. We are also concerned about the way in which our population is rapidly changing - our youth is moving from rural PEI to urban PEI which means that the percentage of those with chronic disease is increasing in our rural areas. This is true all across Canada.

Our government will invest over \$50M over the next 4 years to bring more doctors and health care professionals to PEI. We will focus on recruitment and retention and build new community centres in Queens county to improve access. PEI has one of the strongest percentages in all of Canada in which Islanders have a family doctor. We plan on increasing the number of general practitioners all across PEI and have targeted the addition of additional rheumatology services and further training for family doctors in pain clinics. We will work closely with the physician leadership on PEI to determine the best way to treat OA and other prevalent chronic diseases. We believe the best measure is access to primary care and the many excellent clinical practice guidelines that are in place to treat those with OA.

Thank you for advising of the GLA;D program. Health PEI is actively looking into programs such as these in which patients can benefit from active movement and physical therapy. We support programs that can provide relief to those suffering with OA.

Our government over the past decade has significantly improved the relationship with our First Nations. It is a priority for us to continue working with the Federal Government of Canada in providing excellent access and care to our First Nation populations.

Finally, as you are well aware, the cost of biologics and biosimilars are creating significant access challenges for all governments in Canada. PEI is actively engaged in the pCPA process in order to secure significant discounts in all expensive drugs that enter the Canadian market. Biosimilars that treat OA are no different and we have placed in our platform measures that will reduce the cost of drugs for this suffering with OA.

Thank you again for your interest and information and please do not hesitate to reach out to us again.

Yours Truly,

Liberal Party of PEI