

ACE Survey for Quebec Election Political Parties

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

Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) is Canada's largest national patient-led arthritis organization. Through its **Vote for Arthritis** campaign, ACE encourages political parties to address the healthcare issues that matter most to the more than one million Quebecers living with arthritis.

ACE invites your party to respond to the following questions. Responses may be published on the ACE website and included in Vote for Arthritis election materials to help people living with arthritis compare party commitments and make informed decisions during the provincial election.

Responses may be edited only for spelling, grammar, formatting and length. Any substantive edits will be shared with your party for approval before publication.

Please submit responses by Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

Question 1

What specific actions will your party take to improve timely diagnosis of arthritis and access to rheumatologists, multidisciplinary arthritis care teams and coordinated models of care?

Early diagnosis and treatment can reduce pain, prevent irreversible joint damage and improve long-term outcomes for people living with inflammatory arthritis.

Question 2

What actions will your party take to modernize access to evidence-based arthritis medications by ensuring medication access policies, including Special Authorization criteria and “fail first” requirements, are aligned with the best available clinical evidence and treatment guidelines to support the right treatment for the right person at the right time?

People living with arthritis should have timely access to the treatment recommended by their healthcare professional. Quebec has recently modernized medication access for people living with Crohn's disease by removing mandatory "fail first" requirements before access to certain biologic therapies, recognizing the importance of providing the right treatment to the right person at the right time.

Question 3

What commitments will your party make to reduce wait times for hip and knee replacement surgery and improve timely access to post-operative rehabilitation services?

Over 99 per cent of knee replacements and more than 70 per cent of hip replacements are caused by arthritis. According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the benchmark for knee and hip replacement is to receive surgery within 26 weeks.¹ In Quebec in 2025, only 54% of knee replacement patients and 42% of hip replacement patients received surgery within the 26-week timeframe. Long waits can prolong pain, disability and loss of mobility for Quebecers living with osteoarthritis who require these surgeries.

Question 4

How will your party improve equitable access to rheumatologists, multidisciplinary arthritis care teams and coordinated models of care for people living in rural, remote and underserved communities across Quebec?

People living in rural, remote and underserved communities often experience greater barriers to arthritis diagnosis, specialist care and treatment than those living in larger urban centres.

Question 5

How will your party measure and publicly report progress in improving timely diagnosis, specialists' access, joint replacement surgery, and rehabilitation for people living with arthritis across Quebec?

People living with arthritis deserve to know whether access to arthritis care is improving. Public reporting helps patients, healthcare professionals and governments measure progress and identify opportunities for improvement.

¹ Canadian Institute for Health Information. Wait times for priority procedures across Canada. <https://www.cihi.ca/en/explore-wait-times-for-priority-procedures-across-canada>