

Arthritis in British Columbia – A letter to (name)
Email sent out date: September 5, 2024

Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts

Dear Electoral Candidate,

The arthritis community is a significant constituency in British Columbia.

Arthritis affects approximately 800,000 B.C. voters. There are over 100 types of arthritis, and despite the misconception that it is only a disease of older adults, two-thirds of British Columbians with arthritis are younger than 65. It is the leading cause of disability in B.C. and a significant economic burden related to direct health care costs and indirect costs to the economy related to lost employment, sick leave, and absenteeism.

In the lead up to the provincial election on October 19, 2024, Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) is asking the B.C. political parties and the candidates running for office to share their perspectives on how to meet the needs of the one in five B.C. residents living with arthritis ([see attached survey](#)).

Health care delivery is one of the most important issues for B.C. voters. The way people living with arthritis access and receive health care varies significantly across B.C. Where you live can be more important in determining arthritis treatment than how sick or disabled you are. This particularly affects British Columbians living with inflammatory arthritis – like rheumatoid arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis or lupus – who depend on getting a timely and accurate diagnosis, fast access to rheumatologists, and appropriate public reimbursement for needed disease-modifying medications.

To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected B.C. government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment, and care.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Koehn, President, Arthritis Consumer Experts
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