

October 21, 2024

Anita Chan
Arthritis Consumer Experts
#210 – 1529 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver V6J 1R1

Dear Anita Chan:

Thank you for submitting your questions to the Saskatchewan NDP. I am pleased to respond on behalf of our party.

What will your government do to provide high quality, accessible, evidence-based models of care, such as team-based care, for Saskatchewan residents living with arthritis?

People living with arthritis need reliable access to care. Scott Moe and the Sask. Party have pushed the healthcare system into crisis, and doctors are feeling so disrespected and burnt out they're packing up and leaving the province.

Carla Beck and the Saskatchewan NDP want to get our healthcare system out of last place. We're going to invest \$1.1 billion of new funding, hiring more doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers, so that no one goes without access to care. We'll also put together a Health Human Resources round table so our healthcare workers can identify the problems they're facing and the solutions they want to put into place. We know that more needs to be done to expand team-based care in Saskatchewan, and would make expanding this model in Saskatchewan a priority.

Will your government introduce culturally appropriate, patient-centered policies to help Indigenous Peoples navigate the healthcare system and receive coordinated care within their community to manage their arthritis?

The lack of culturally relevant care is a major barrier to Indigenous people in Saskatchewan accessing healthcare when they need it. Saskatchewan New Democrats are committed to working with First Nations and Métis leaders in this province, especially in Northern Saskatchewan, to get more Indigenous people working in healthcare and delivering the services the people in their communities most need.

Will your government commit to reinvesting biosimilars savings to increase accessibility to new medicines and expand coverage for existing medicines for people living with inflammatory arthritis?

People living with inflammatory arthritis have particular needs for reliable, readily accessible medication to cope with their symptoms. Saskatchewan New Democrats are open to exploring

changes to the Saskatchewan Formulary to better serve people's urgent needs, including improving access to medications.

Will your government take steps to ensure timely, specialized care for Saskatchewan residents struggling with osteoarthritis, including joint replacement surgery wait times that are within medically recommended guidelines?

Anyone who's required a replacement knee or a new hip knows how painful and draining the wait period is, and it only gets worse with time. Under Scott Moe, Saskatchewan has the longest wait times for hip and knee replacements in the entire country. Instead of dealing with the problem in our public healthcare system, the Sask. Party has focused on private clinics that are Sask. Party donors. Carla Beck and the Saskatchewan New Democrats are committed to investing into healthcare to hire the physicians and surgeons Saskatchewan people need. It's time to get our province out of last place.

What will your government do to ensure the continuation, improvement, and expansion of virtual care for Saskatchewan residents – both patients and health care professionals – and ensure access is equitable to all?

The Saskatchewan NDP wants to make sure every single person in this province has access to care, and we are prepared to look into expanding virtual care options to access for people unable to access in-person care.

Thank you again for submitting your questions.

Sincerely,



Mitch Bonokoski
Director of Research and Policy