

Arthritis in Saskatchewan – A letter to Saskatchewan New Democratic Party

Email sent out date: October 2, 2020

Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts

Dear Electoral Candidate,

The arthritis community is a significant constituency in Saskatchewan.

In the lead up to the provincial election, Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) is asking Saskatchewan's political leaders to share their plan on how to meet the needs of more than 160,000 Saskatchewan residents living with arthritis.

The Saskatchewan NDP's "A People-First Recovery" plan states that your party will invest in the health of the people of Saskatchewan by:

- Reducing the need for residential seniors care by creating the best home care system in Canada while improving standards in long-term care.
- Ending hallway medicine, delivering better preventative care, and reducing wait times.
- Investing in dedicated mental health and addiction emergency rooms so that no one is turned away at a time of crisis.
- Working with the federal government and First Nations and Metis governments to close the gap in employment, education, justice, and health between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Saskatchewan.
- Continuing to fight for a national pharmacare program to reduce drug costs for Saskatchewan patients.

As part of this commitment, ACE is interested your response to our attached survey titled: "[Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Saskatchewan.](#)"

Arthritis has devastating and debilitating effects on the lives of one in five Saskatchewan voters. Within a generation, the number of Saskatchewan residents with the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – is expected to significantly increase. Two-thirds of people living with arthritis in Saskatchewan are under the age of 65. It's common among athletes and those with physically demanding jobs. In fact, arthritis is the leading cause of work disability in Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada.

To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected Saskatchewan 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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Office: 604-974-1355

Arthritis in Saskatchewan – A letter to the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan

Email sent out date: October 2, 2020

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The arthritis community is a significant constituency in Saskatchewan.

In the lead up to the provincial election, Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) is asking Saskatchewan's political leaders to share their plan on how to meet the needs of more than 160,000 Saskatchewan residents living with arthritis.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan 2020 platform on health states that your Party will:

- Allow Doctor owned public services such as sleep labs, minor emergency etc. an incentive for setting up in rural Saskatchewan.
- End hallway health care by creating 1500 new long-term care beds over the next 5 years and add an additional \$50 million in new support for mental health and addiction services.
- Save and plan for a new hospital in Regina and Prince Albert.
- Fund immediately long-term care facilities in Northern Saskatchewan – one in Buffalo Narrows and one in another Northern community.
- Push for medical transportation system for Northern and Rural communities.

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Yours Sincerely,

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Arthritis in Saskatchewan – A letter to the Saskatchewan Party

Email sent out date: October 2, 2020

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In the lead up to the provincial election, Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) is asking Saskatchewan's political leaders to share their plan on how to meet the needs of more than 160,000 Saskatchewan residents living with arthritis.

The Saskatchewan Party has stated, if re-elected, it will look for ways to innovate and improve health care, including:

- Reducing administrative positions and costs in Regional Health Authorities by \$7.5 million, with savings allocated towards front line care in long-term care facilities;
- Providing \$500,000 in annual funding to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to integrate vision loss rehabilitation services into the mainstream health system;
- Reducing CT scan wait lists by providing patients with the option to pay privately for CT scans using the "two-for-one" model recently introduced for MRI scans, under which for every scan paid for privately, the clinic must provide one scan at no charge to a patient on the public list; and
- Providing an additional \$500,000 annually to expand the remote presence technology pilot project underway in Pelican Narrows to other communities. This initiative uses advanced robotic telemedicine to connect with a patient remotely and provide real-time assessments, diagnosis and patient management.

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