

Dear Arthritis Consumer Experts,

Below is our official policy response on behalf of all our candidates.

1. The ONDP is committed to making evidence based therapies available to Ontarians. We will increase access to community-based health care providers who can offer care close to home. We will improve funding to ODSP and home renovations grants to help people make their homes more accessible.
2. We will ensure the continuation of virtual care where appropriate. We will fix broadband issues in northern, rural, and remote areas to make virtual care more accessible. We will restore virtual care billing codes for doctors to offer their patients the option for a virtual appointment where appropriate.
3. Ontario NDP will lead the way and immediately introduce pharmacare in Ontario. We will work with sector leaders to establish fair prices and eliminate out-of-pocket costs for essential medicines.
4. We support Indigenous peoples in Canada to continue practicing traditional medicine. We will fund Indigenous primary care organizations and Aboriginal health access centres to develop culture-specific programs.
5. We will immediately increase funding to hospitals and investment \$1 billion to clear the surgical and procedural backlog. We will increase hospital capacity by hiring more nurses and creating a healthcare workforce strategy. We will create a centralized surgical referral system to support patients to choose if they would like to stay with their current surgeon, choose a sooner appointment, or one closer to home.

Sincerely,

Dan O'Brien (he/him)

Director of Policy

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