

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

Arthritis is *one word that describes more than 100 disease types* and affects one out of five Canadian voters. To effectively treat and manage the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – the next elected federal government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

Question 1

The aging baby boomer generation is putting an ever-increasing burden on the Canadian healthcare system – 20 per cent of aging baby boom Canadians live with arthritis.

Will your government increase funding to the Canadian Health Transfer to address higher healthcare costs associated with an elderly population?

Question 2

More than 6 million Canadian voters live with arthritis; by 2036, an estimated 7.5 million Canadian adults will have arthritis. However, no comprehensive model of arthritis care is available.

Does your party think standardized model of care is necessary? If so, what should the key component of this model be?

Question 3

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Canada. The impact on the Canadian economy in healthcare costs and lost productivity is estimated to be \$33 billion each year. However, many workers tell us they experienced a lot of difficulties obtaining job accommodations for more flexible work arrangements, highlighting the need for legislation in support of such arrangements.

Will your party support legislation in support of flexible work arrangements for workers living with arthritis and other chronic diseases?

Question 4

Although many Canadians have access to public or private drug insurance, the patchwork of drug plans in Canada creates inequities in access to medicines. The national pharmacare report cites the examples that one in five Canadians struggle to pay for their prescription medicines. One million Canadians cut spending on food and heat to be able to afford their medicine and three million do not fill their prescriptions because they cannot afford to, which can lead to serious health consequences.

What pharmacare reforms will your party implement to address inequities and the most critical disparities in coverage for prescription medicines.

Question 5

Indigenous peoples in Canada have some of the highest rates of serious or life-threatening arthritis in the world, disabling arthritis in the world, and are at greater risk for becoming disabled by arthritis. Significant gaps in indigenous communities in Canada currently exist.

What will your government do to improve the healthcare of indigenous peoples in Canada living with arthritis?