



Cheryl Koehn, President
Arthritis Consumer Experts
#210 - 1529 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1R1
www.jointhehealth.org
Tel: 604 974 1355
Email: koehn@jointhehealth.org

Re: Arthritis Consumer Experts Survey for BC Election 2017 - Arthritis in British Columbia

Dear Ms. Koehn,

Thank you for your questions regarding the important issue of arthritis and for sharing information about the impact it has both on individuals and our health care system.

Our health care platform makes strategic investments that would benefit British Columbians diagnosed with arthritis.

Central to our health care transformation agenda is ensuring access to timely, quality comprehensive primary care. We plan to establish Urgent Family Care Centres in urban and rural areas that will deliver patient care through multi-disciplinary teams comprised of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, dietitians, occupational and physical therapists, mental health and addictions treatment professionals, and other health professionals. This team based care model will provide patients afflicted with arthritis with specialized and continuous care and support, and deliver patient education and health promotion initiatives.

Our other strategic investments in health care include expanding the hours and scope of home care so patients diagnosed with chronic conditions can live independently. Furthermore, team members from Urgent Family Care Centres will also provide home visits to their patients when appropriate.

John Horgan and the BC NDP champions independent evidence based pharmaceutical policy and formulary decisions that ensure the treatments that work the best, not the ones that are most promoted and higher in price, are prescribed and covered under the public drug plan. This approach of emphasizing treatment efficacy enables greater patient coverage as it protects the health care system from undue costs.

We also champion leveraging government's purchasing position to secure lower drug prices for the benefit of patients and the public health care system. Savings on prices frees up resources for



broader treatment coverage. On this note, we plan to collaborate with other provinces and the federal government on drug price negotiations and bulk purchasing medication. We also intend to work with the federal government towards a national pharmacare program that can significantly improve coverage and lower costs.

In relation to people living disability and employment, we intend to support assistance recipients as they re-enter the workforce by allowing them to keep an additional \$200 a month in earnings exemptions.

Should we form government, we would be happy to meet with you, and other stakeholders like the Arthritis Research Canada, BC Society of Rheumatologists to further discuss targeted strategies to reach groups at higher risk for debilitating arthritis like First Nations, improving our health care system's capacity to provide specialized arthritis care, and other related issues in more detail.