



Arthritis Consumer Experts' Party questionnaire—BC Provincial election 2009

1. Arthritis affects more adults than cancer, heart disease, respiratory conditions or spinal cord trauma—approximately 600,000 British Columbians. Arthritis has been estimated to cost the BC economy approximately \$2.1 billion per year. **Do you agree that arthritis is a serious health condition with tremendous social and economic consequences, requiring the immediate attention of the next government of BC?**
2. Currently, no comprehensive program of treatment and care for arthritis exists in BC. We know that appropriate first line treatment of inflammatory arthritis with inexpensive disease-arresting medications has proved to reduce or prevent disability in people with arthritis, saving government money by reducing pressure on hospitals, waitlists to see specialists, and short- and long-term disability programs. **Do you agree that a program of treatment and care for inflammatory arthritis should be a priority for BC?**
3. A comprehensive model of care for arthritis has yet to be implemented in BC. **Do you believe that the BC Government is currently living up to its responsibilities to British Columbians with arthritis?**
4. **If your party forms government, will you work with the BC arthritis community, including family physicians, rheumatologists and patient stakeholders, to create a comprehensive model of care for arthritis in BC?**
5. While most inflammatory arthritis medications have been listed on the BC PharmaCare medication formulary, provincial reviews for these medications in BC took several years.

**Moving forward, do you agree that all people with inflammatory arthritis in BC should be able to fill the prescriptions their doctors write for them regardless of ability to pay?**

Thank you for taking the time to respond to these important questions about inflammatory arthritis in BC.