

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 boomers live with arthritis.

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

Question 2

More than 4.6 million Canadian voters live with arthritis; by 2036, an estimated 7.5 million Canadian adults will have arthritis. Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Canada. The impact of arthritis on the Canadian economy in healthcare costs and lost productivity is estimated to be \$33 billion each year. However, no comprehensive model of arthritis care is available.

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

Question 3

Canada is one of the few industrialized countries without a comprehensive program for medically necessary drugs available to all, and this lack of universality regarding drug coverage is a major shortfall for Canadian patients.

How will your government participate in the development of a national pharmacare program that will ensure Canadians have equitable and consistent access to medically necessary medications?

Question 4

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

What will your government do to improve the healthcare of Aboriginal Canadians living with arthritis?