

April 15, 2025

Dear Anita Chan,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to speak to the Arthritis Consumer Experts and share the Green Party of Canada's platform. We appreciate your continued advocacy.

Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Karine Cambron
Coordinator, Survey and Questionnaire Response Team
Green Party of Canada

1. If elected, what will your government do to ensure better and faster access to arthritis care and treatment?

The Green Party will expand public healthcare to include universal pharmacare, ensuring all arthritis patients can afford needed medications. We'll increase federal health funding and invest in hiring more doctors and nurses to reduce wait times and improve access to arthritis specialists. We support early diagnosis, better pain management, and faster access to joint care. We'll also boost research funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to support innovation in arthritis treatment and prevention. Our goal is a health system where everyone, regardless of income or region, gets timely and effective arthritis care.

2. If elected, how will your government ensure provinces and territories adhere to agreed-upon surgical wait time targets and implement best practice, as well as offer effective joint replacement prevention education at a population level?

We'll work with provinces to meet surgical wait time targets by increasing federal transfers. That means money will go to frontline care, not into general budgets. We support expanding coverage to include preventive care like physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and joint health education. Prevention must be part of the solution. Our plan includes national support for public education on healthy movement, early intervention, and chronic pain management. Arthritis should not lead to unnecessary surgery because preventive care came too late.

3. If elected, how will your government work with provincial and territorial governments to standardize arthritis health data, so access and quality of care are consistently measured, evaluated and reported on across the country?

We support building a consistent, national system for collecting and reporting arthritis data. The Green Party will work with provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments through a new Council of Canadian Governments to ensure arthritis outcomes are tracked and shared. We'll increase funding to the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and the Public Health Agency Of Canada (PHAC) to improve national public health monitoring. Good data is key to good care. With standardized reporting, we can identify gaps, evaluate progress, and make sure every Canadian gets quality arthritis treatment.

4. If elected, what culturally appropriate, patient-centered policies will your government introduce to help Indigenous Peoples navigate the healthcare system and receive coordinated care within their community to manage their arthritis?

The Green Party will fully implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action on health, including Indigenous-led arthritis care. We will fund and expand community-based health services that are culturally safe and designed by Indigenous communities themselves. This includes investing in the training and recruitment of more Indigenous healthcare professionals and ensuring permanent support for culturally rooted healing and wellness initiatives. We support Indigenous self-determination in health policy and will ensure that arthritis care—like all care—is coordinated, local, and respectful of traditional knowledge..

5. If elected, will your government increase arthritis research funding to align with the disease's prevalence and impact and support high impact areas, including precision medicine, arthritis prevention, population health data and Indigenous arthritis health research.

Yes. We will increase health research funding to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). This will support research into arthritis prevention, precision medicine, population health data, and Indigenous health. We recognize that arthritis is common and growing in impact, yet research on it is under-funded. Our approach ensures research funding aligns with real-world needs. We will also prioritize research led by or in partnership with Indigenous communities to better understand and treat arthritis in culturally relevant ways. Addressing this gap is part of building a fair, evidence-based healthcare system for all.