

**Arthritis in Alberta – A letter to Alberta electoral candidates
(Email sent out date: March 28, 2019)**

Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts

Dear Electoral Candidate,

The arthritis community is a significant constituency in Alberta.

According to the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute, arthritis has devastating and debilitating effects on the lives of one in five Alberta residents. Within a generation, more than one in four Albertans is expected to have the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected Alberta government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Alberta, with nearly three out of every five people with arthritis of working age, costing Alberta's economy \$3.3 billion in direct and indirect costs.

Arthritis Consumer Experts is asking Alberta's political leaders to share their plan on how to meet the needs of more than 500,000 Alberta residents living with arthritis and improve arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

We look forward to your Party's response to our attached survey titled: "Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Alberta".

We have also included an arthritis information fact sheet titled "Arthritis Consumer Experts – Arthritis in Alberta Fact Sheet" for your reference.

Regards,

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