

**Arthritis in Manitoba – A letter to the Green Party of Manitoba
Email sent out date: August 22, 2019)**

Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts

Dear Electoral Candidate,

The arthritis community is a significant constituency in Manitoba.

Arthritis has devastating and debilitating effects on the lives of one in four Manitoba residents, a rate higher than the national average of one in five. Within a generation, the number of Manitobans with the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – is expected to significantly increase. To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected Manitoba government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Manitoba. About a quarter of the population with arthritis between 20 and 54 years of age in Manitoba were not in the labour force because of their arthritis, costing Manitoba's economy more than \$600 million in productivity losses.

Arthritis Consumer Experts is asking Manitoba's political leaders to share their plan on how to meet the needs of more than 226,000 Manitoba residents living with arthritis and improve arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

The Green Party of Manitoba health platform promises to increase the focus on preventative, community-based health care; expand health care coverage in Manitoba; improve medical and emergency medical services across Manitoba; provide increased services and support options for seniors; provide increased services for individuals with disabilities and their families; and increase support for mental health services.

As part of this commitment, Arthritis Consumer Experts is asking if you are also considering investing in improving in models of care for chronic disease, including arthritis. We are interested your response to our attached survey titled: "Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Manitoba".

We have also shared with you an arthritis resource titled "Arthritis Consumer Experts – Arthritis in Manitoba Fact Sheet" for your reference.

Regards,

Cheryl Koehn President, Arthritis Consumer Experts

Email: koehn@jointhealth.org

Office: 604-974-1355

**Arthritis in Manitoba – A letter to the Manitoba Liberal Party
Email sent out date: August 22, 2019)**

Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts

Dear Electoral Candidate,

The arthritis community is a significant constituency in Manitoba.

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Regards,

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**Arthritis in Manitoba – A letter to Manitoba NDP
Email sent out date: August 22, 2019)**

Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts

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Arthritis has devastating and debilitating effects on the lives of one in four Manitoba residents, a rate higher than the national average of one in five. Within a generation, the number of Manitobans with the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – is expected to significantly increase. To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected Manitoba government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

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The NDP's platform for this year's provincial election focuses on health, jobs, and the environment. Your Party promises to reverse the closures of two Winnipeg hospital emergency departments, hire as many as 500 new nurses, reinstate coverage for outpatient physiotherapy, revive support for previously cut special drugs program, boost spending for mental health services and create a new ministry in charge of mental health and addictions.

As part of this commitment, Arthritis Consumer Experts is asking if you are also considering investing in improving in models of care for chronic disease, including arthritis. We are interested your response to our attached survey titled: "Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Manitoba".

We have also shared with you an arthritis resource titled "Arthritis Consumer Experts – Arthritis in Manitoba Fact Sheet" for your reference.

Regards,

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Office: 604-974-1355

**Arthritis in Manitoba – A letter to The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba
(Email sent out date: August 22, 2019)**

Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts

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Arthritis has devastating and debilitating effects on the lives of one in four Manitoba residents, a rate higher than the national average of one in five. Within a generation, the number of Manitobans with the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – is expected to significantly increase. To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected Manitoba government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

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Arthritis Consumer Experts is asking Manitoba's political leaders to share their plan on how to meet the needs of more than 226,000 Manitoba residents living with arthritis and improve arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

The PC Party of Manitoba announced that a re-elected Progressive Conservative government will invest an additional \$2 billion in health care services and facilities over the next four years. The plan will reduce emergency wait times and increase the number of hip and knee replacements, cataract surgeries, MRI and CT scans that Manitobans have received since 2016, and see the building of a new, state-of-the-art emergency department for St. Boniface Hospital.

As part of this commitment, Arthritis Consumer Experts is asking if you are also considering investing in improving in models of care for chronic disease, including arthritis. We are interested in your response to our attached survey titled: "Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Manitoba".

We have also shared with you an arthritis resource titled "Arthritis Consumer Experts – Arthritis in Manitoba Fact Sheet" for your reference.

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