

Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Newfoundland and Labrador

Arthritis is *one word that describes more than 100 disease types* and affects one in five Newfoundland and Labrador residents. Within a generation, more than one in four residents is expected to have the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected Newfoundland and Labrador government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

Question 1

Arthritis affects more than 115,000 Newfoundland and Labrador residents of all ages, yet no standardized model of arthritis care is available. This is particularly pronounced outside of the St. John's metro region. Where you live can be more important in determining treatment than how sick or disabled you are.

What will your government do to bring a high quality, standardized evidence-based model of arthritis care for all Newfoundland and Labrador residents?

Question 2

A 2016 study predicts that by 2031, OA will cost the Canadian economy an estimated \$17.5 billion a year in lost productivity. Osteoarthritis forces people to stop working or work less due to pain, fatigue, and the demands of prescribed treatment therapies. The work time loss is significant because of the reducing number of workers available to replace retiring baby boomers after decades of low birth rates.

What will your government do to introduce patient education and exercise programs, such as GLA:D, that have been proven to significantly reduce hip or knee osteoarthritis symptoms?

Question 3

The new Newfoundland and Labrador government must take steps to ensure the sustainability of prescription drug plans and the continued affordability of prescription drugs for Newfoundland and Labrador residents. Biosimilars represent a potential source of significant cost savings to the health care system.

What will your government do to improve the uptake of biosimilars and increase accessibility to life saving medications and reduce out-of-pocket costs for Newfoundland and Labrador residents living with inflammatory arthritis?

Question 4

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

What will your government do to improve the healthcare and lives of Aboriginals living with arthritis in Newfoundland and Labrador?

Question 5

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Newfoundland and Labrador. About a quarter of the population with arthritis between 20 and 54 years of age are not in the labour force because of their arthritis.

How will your government establish better prevention programs and facilitate flexible work arrangements to help reduce the direct and indirect costs of arthritis to Newfoundland and Labrador employers and the Newfoundland and Labrador economy?

Question 6

The economic burden of arthritis is expected to double within a generation and strain Newfoundland and Labrador's health system to provide quality care to people with arthritis.

Will your government take steps to increase the number of rheumatologists and trained arthritis professionals to ensure timely, specialized care for Newfoundland and Labrador patients with arthritis?