

Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Saskatchewan

Arthritis is *one* word that describes *more than 100 disease types* and affects one out of five Saskatchewan residents. To effectively treat and manage the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – the next elected Saskatchewan government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

Question 1

Arthritis affects more than 150,000 Saskatchewan residents aged 15 years and above, yet no comprehensive model of arthritis care is available. This is particularly pronounced outside of the Regina and Saskatoon metro regions. 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 standardized model of arthritis care for all Saskatchewan residents?

Question 2

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 Saskatchewan.

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

Question 3

Arthritis Consumer Experts annually ranks publicly funded drug formularies based on the number of medically necessary arthritis medications (e.g. biologic response modifiers and targeted small molecule). After ranking #2 in Canada in 2014, Saskatchewan has dropped to #4 in Canada because its formulary has not changed despite progress in other provinces' formulary.

What will your government do to improve the province's ranking and ensure that Saskatchewan residents living with arthritis, with the help of the doctors who treat them, are able to choose the medication most appropriate for their specific disease and risk factors?

Question 4

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Saskatchewan. About a quarter of the population with arthritis between 20 and 54 years of age in Saskatchewan were not in the labour force because of their arthritis, costing Saskatchewan's economy more than \$640 million in productivity losses.

How will your government establish and enact better prevention programs and healthcare guidelines to help reduce the direct and indirect costs of arthritis on the Saskatchewan economy?