

## **BC Liberal Party Response to 2013 BC Election Questionnaire from Arthritis Consumer Experts**

Thank you for your letter and for providing us with a lot of valuable insight into the health care needs of people with arthritis.

Today's BC Liberals have made health promotion and disease prevention a high priority. We are proud to say that BC has the best overall cancer survival rates in Canada and the highest life expectancy in North America. We have also increased the health budget every single year since our forming government in 2001, and we continue to make efficiencies in spending, better health care outcomes and accessibility top priorities.

Even in challenging economic times, today's BC Liberals are protecting health spending by providing an additional \$2.4 billion for health services over the next three years. Investments in disease prevention and health promotion have been, and will continue to be, a high priority for new funding.

Demonstrating our commitment in action, we will provide up to \$50 million to health authorities annually over the next three years for targeted primary and community care programs for patients with chronic conditions, seniors with complex-care needs, and mental health and substance use patients.

Although our record in the area of health care is second to no other government in our history, we also know that there is more work to be done. You have identified some areas of concern – the challenges and costs impacting people with arthritis.

Your email provides us with a great overview of some of the issues, concerns and recommendations to government in terms of raising awareness and improving health care services for people with arthritis. We look forward to having an opportunity to review and discuss your findings and your questions with Ministry of Health officials. We can also tell you that a re-elected BC Liberal Government will definitely be open to meeting with you to discuss your priorities.

Again, thank you for contacting us and we hope we can count on your support on May 14th.