

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

Arthritis is *one* word that describes *more than 100 disease types* and affects *one in five* people living in the Territories (Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon). To effectively treat and manage the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – the next elected Nunavut government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

Question 1

Arthritis affects approximately 12,000 residents in the Territories, yet no model of arthritis care is available. A model of care includes the early identification of disease, access to a diagnosis by appropriate health professionals, medical disease treatment and management, on-going shared care and patient self-care.

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

Question 2

A 2016 study by researchers from the University of Calgary and Statistics Canada 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

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 Nunavut.

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

Question 4

Arthritis Consumer Experts annually ranks publicly funded drug formularies based on the number of medically necessary arthritis medications (e.g. biologics, biosimilars and targeted small molecule). The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program is currently ranked last.

What will your government do to improve NIHB's ranking and ensure that residents in Nunavut 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 5

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the population. Adults in the Territories with arthritis report pain, disability, and needing help with daily activities much more frequently than those without arthritis. One in five people in the Territories with arthritis report they are not in the labour force.

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