

**Response from Alberta Liberal Party**

**Receive date: May 19, 2023**

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

Our party is not prepared to make specific commitments at this time. However, we are committed in principle to an accessible and evidenced-based model. We will work with stakeholders and experts to determine best practices and find solutions.

**What will your government do to ensure the continuation, improvement, and expansion of virtual care for all Alberta residents – both patients and health care professionals – and ensure access is equitable to all?**

We support collaborating with healthcare professionals and patients to find ways to expand virtual care while balancing quality of care with speed and effectiveness of delivery. We would prioritize equitable access.

**Will your government introduce culturally appropriate, patient-centered policies, such as a patient care facilitator or “arthritis liaison,” to help Indigenous Peoples navigate the healthcare system and receive coordinated care within their community to manage their arthritis?**

We would need to consult more before committing specifically to an “arthritis liaison” but support such a policy in principle. We believe in increasing resources in the healthcare system dedicated towards helping people navigate the system while also reducing the complexity of the system itself where feasible.

**Will your government take steps to ensure timely, specialized care for Alberta residents struggling with osteoarthritis, including joint replacement surgery wait times that are within medically recommended guidelines?**

The Alberta Liberals are committed to expanding access and reducing wait times for specialized care, including joint replacement surgery. We will bring wait times within medically recommended guidelines.

**What will your government do to improve access to early treatment and pain management for rural residents in Alberta living with osteoarthritis who are at risk for increased disease severity and reduced quality of life?**

We will expand preventative care measures to help reduce the number of Albertans that live with these issues. We will expand virtual care to help expand access to specialists for Albertans in rural and remote locations.

