

Arthritis in the Yukon - Letter from Arthritis Consumer Experts to (name)
Email sent out date: October 15, 2025

Dear Party/Electoral Candidate,

Yukon voters are waiting for answers on arthritis care.

Arthritis is Yukon's most common chronic disease and affects more people than heart disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke and dementia combined. There are more than 100 types of arthritis, and despite the misconception that it is only a disease of older adults, two-thirds of Yukon residents with arthritis are younger than 65.

It is the leading cause of disability in Yukon. Working age residents with arthritis are twice as likely to be out of the workforce as their peers without the disease, representing a significant economic burden related to direct health care costs and indirect costs to the economy related to lost employment, sick leave, and absenteeism. Rural residents, Indigenous Peoples, women, and racialized communities can face the highest burden but the least access to care.

In the lead up to the territorial election on November 3, 2025, Yukon voters living with arthritis want you to share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment, and care ([see attached survey](#)).

Health care is one of the most important issues for Yukon voters. The way people living with arthritis access and receive health care varies significantly across the territory, particularly in rural and remote communities. This particularly affects residents living with inflammatory arthritis – like rheumatoid arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis or lupus – who depend on getting a timely and accurate diagnosis, fast access to rheumatologists, and appropriate public reimbursement for needed disease-modifying medications. Delays in diagnosis and access to advanced therapies can cause irreversible damage and disability.

Another barrier is timely access to specialized care for residents living with osteoarthritis. Over 99 per cent of knee replacements and more than 70 per cent of hip replacements are caused by arthritis. In the Yukon, a majority of residents are not treated within the medically recommended guidelines for hip and knee replacement. This deeply impacts the lives of Yukon residents with osteoarthritis who require these surgeries.

To effectively treat and manage arthritis, the next elected Yukon government must improve the access to the right arthritis treatment for the right patient at the right time. We look forward to sharing your response with Yukon voters and their families and employers affected by arthritis.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Koehn, President, Arthritis Consumer Experts
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