



October 23, 2025

Cheryl Koehn
President
Arthritis Consumer Experts
210-1529 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1R1

Dear Ms. Koehn,

Thank you for your letter and election questionnaire. Our responses are as follows:

If elected, will your government ensure that hip and knee joint replacement patients in Yukon are treated within the CIHI guideline of 26 weeks?

A Yukon Party government will:

- *Implement a targeted blitz to reduce the current surgery backlog*
- *Work with health professionals to develop a Surgery Wait Time Action Plan that includes wait-time standards for surgeries*
- *Improve timely access to health services including mammography, MRI, cataract surgery and specialists*

If elected, will your party remove outdated barriers that delay patient access to biologic and tsDMARD therapies, and modernize the Yukon Pharmacare and Chronic Disease Program?

We commit to reviewing the Chronic Disease Program, including those issues that you have highlighted.

If elected, will your government ensure Indigenous Peoples with arthritis have access to culturally safe, community-based care models to close existing gaps and improve outcomes?

The Yukon Party will prioritize recruiting and retaining more front-line health professionals, and will continue to build team-based care models in collaboration with front-line health care professionals. We recognize that team-based care offers Yukoners the right care at the right time.



If elected, will your government introduce culturally appropriate, patient-centered policies to help Indigenous Peoples navigate the healthcare system and receive coordinated care within their community to manage their arthritis?

We commit to reviewing the current situation you noted to ensure access to appropriate and culturally safe care for all Yukoners.

If elected, will your government ensure the continuation, improvement, and expansion of virtual care for Yukon residents – both patients and health care professionals – and ensure access is equitable to all?

Changes have been made in the past to expand on telehealth in Yukon communities, including the 811 health line. A Yukon Party government would look at other improvements and changes that would assist in improving access to care for all Yukoners.

Will your government work with the arthritis community to reduce avoidable emergency department use by people living with arthritis?

We would be interested to hear your suggestions with regards to reducing avoidable emergency department use by people living with arthritis. Our goal is to strengthen Yukon's health care system and focus on outcomes. We would be willing to work with the arthritis community to see how they can be included in our goals for health care.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your work and advocacy on behalf of Canadians living with arthritis.

Sincerely,

Currie Dixon
Leader of the Yukon Party