

Question 1: Chronic Disease Management

According to a March 21 Angus Reid poll, healthcare (20%) is the number two issue, after the economy (26%) on the minds of BC voters. (The environment is a distant third at 9%). That means one in five British Columbians believe that healthcare is the most important issue facing BC today and will evaluate the parties' position on healthcare when deciding who to vote for.

If elected, will your government ensure patients' choice and access to needed medications will not be limited by restrictive policies such as reference-based pricing?

Question 2: PharmaCare Drug Reviews

On average between 2004-2010, BC has approved for public reimbursement 18.28% of the 306 new drugs approved by Health Canada, compared to the cross-country provincial average for the same period of 23.44% (*Access Delayed, Access Denied: Waiting for New Medicines in Canada, Mark Rovere and Brett J. Skinner, Studies in Health Policy, April 2012, The Fraser Institute*).

If elected, will your government commit to increasing the number of new chronic disease medications and other drugs approved for public reimbursement so that all British Columbians have timely access to the drugs they need, and if so, how will this be accomplished?

Question 3: Patient Input

Patient org have a right to provide input on therapies that have the potential to incrementally or significantly improve their health.

If elected, will your government protect and make transparent the patient input mechanism in BC's drug review process?

Question 4: First Nations Health

According to Health Canada, aboriginal British Columbians are more likely than non-Aboriginals to have chronic disease, and their disease tends to be more disabling. If elected, what would your government do to improve access to treatment for aboriginal people in BC, especially those living in rural/remote areas?