



Nurses Association of New Brunswick – New Brunswick Nurses Union

1. Access to Care. How does your party plan to improve access to primary care services in New Brunswick?

We have a multi-faceted approach to reduce wait times in primary care services. Many of the components of this plan will be released in coming days and weeks. However, the overarching goal is to reduce wait times and hiring more nurses and nurse practitioners is an important part of that plan.

2. Pharmacare. What will your party do to ensure the implementation of a national, universal Pharmacare plan?

Our party strongly supports the creation of a national pharmacare system funded by the federal government. We showed our strong commitment to this when the Premier dedicated half of the agenda to discuss this at the New Brunswick-hosted meeting of all Canadian premiers in 2018.

3. Long-term Care. What is your party's plan for a comprehensive, long-term seniors' care strategy?

We have developed and are implementing a comprehensive Aging Strategy as well as a Home First Strategy to help keep seniors in their homes as long as possible. The latter includes the creation of new tax credits to allow seniors to renovate their homes, a new informal caregiver tax credit for those who care for aging family members, and investments in more affordable housing.

We also launched a \$75-million partnership with the federal government to create an aging pilot program in New Brunswick designed to improve the quality of life of seniors.

We recognize the increasing complexity of needs of nursing home residents and the need for flexibility in hours of care for different types of patient. A re-elected Liberal Government will develop a comprehensive strategy for the recruitment of employees in the nursing home sector and increase the hours of care from 3.1 hours to 3.3 hours by 2022, with a further increase to 3.5 hours by 2026.

Under our five-year Nursing Home Plan, we will also build 10 new 60-bed nursing homes totaling 600 new nursing home beds, add an additional 407 memory care beds, and invest over \$100 million in renovations to existing homes. We will continue working with key partners to intensify recruitment efforts and bring more healthcare professionals to the province.

4. Mental Health & Addictions. What will your party do to address mental health and addictions issues in New Brunswick?

Our party will unveil its plan in the coming weeks. Rest assured we take this issue seriously and it will feature prominently in our platform.

5. Nursing shortage. What is your party's strategy to address health human resource planning and the current shortage of registered nurses in New Brunswick?

Our government hired new nurse practitioners to work in clinics in Fredericton and Saint John. This led to a significant decrease of New Brunswickers on the patient registry and increased access to primary care for those currently without a family doctor. The additional positions will increase the number of nurse practitioners working in New Brunswick to about 120.

We recognize the critical role that nurses play in our health care system, which is why we will continue to develop and implement a nurse recruitment and retention strategy. This work is ongoing as a result of a government and stakeholder committee established in December 2017.

The Liberal government also proposed legislative amendments to allow nurse practitioners to admit patients to the New Brunswick Extra-Mural Program and use diagnostic services in health-care facilities for the care of these patients. The changes allow nurse practitioners to record the cause of death on a death certificate. The Department of Health has also decided to establish a nurse practitioner locum program. It will allow nurse practitioners to replace family physicians who are temporarily absent from their practice, ensuring continued care for their patients.