

Response to NBNU / NANB questions from New Brunswick NDP

Access to Care

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

A. An NDP government will create a comprehensive plan for the health care system developed with all key stakeholders including the public.

The key focus of this plan will be to implement the national pharmacare program and our Home Care and Nursing Home plans. Evidence based studies show that a national pharmacare program would reduce the demands on our doctors offices, clinics and our hospitals and emergency rooms making it easier for seniors and disabled persons to live longer in their own homes, all of which reduces the overall cost to our health care system.

In respect to primary care we will:

Establish a new program in ERs to address non-urgent patient needs.

Hire 25 new nurse practitioners in each of four years to head community clinics and perform other functions where needed.

Accelerate the move of primary care into community-based clinics with set geographic and demographic patient loads and under the leadership of nurse practitioners where appropriate.

Expand the medical program at UNB-SJ to address the shortage of doctors and specialist doctors where possible and recruit new physicians trained in New Brunswick.

Hire 20 new family physicians.

Pharmacare

Q. What is your party's plan for a national, universal Pharmacare plan?

A. The key focus of an NDP government will be to implement the national pharmacare program and our Home Care and Nursing Home plans. Evidence based studies show that a national pharmacare program would reduce the demands on our doctors offices, clinics and our hospitals and emergency rooms making it easier for seniors and disabled persons to live longer in their own homes all reduces the overall cost to our health care system.

We will move now to add pharmacare to our public healthcare system by introducing our plan until we can get a national pharmacare plan.

Long-term Care

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

A. We have a four-part plan for nursing homes:

1. Keep our nursing homes under community and church based non-profit control.
2. Stop the move to for profit nursing homes. All new nursing homes will be under the community not for-profit umbrella.
3. Ensure better resident care by revisiting the skill mix ratios currently under review.
4. Move towards a resident / caregiver ratio of 3.5 hours of care per day.

Implement our Home Care plan to be coordinated with the Extra Mural Program under public administration.

We will also put an end to all privatisation in health care by returning Extra Mural program and Tele Health to public ownership and control. Place Ambulance NB under public ownership and control.

Mental Health & Addiction

Q. What will your party do to address mental health and addictions issues in New Brunswick?

A. We will continue to improve access to mental health services.

Support risk reduction programs to combat addictions including safe injection sites throughout the province.

Publicly fund the sexual health clinic 554 in Fredericton.

Nursing Shortage

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

A. Hire 25 new nurse practitioners in each of four years to head community clinics and perform other functions where needed.

Work with our universities and community colleges to ensure that we are educating registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, doctors, specialists and all the other vital occupations necessary for our health care system.