

# NURSING MATTERS: ELECTION PRIORITIES 2018



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

### Recommendations

INVEST IN mental health services and supports to ensure adequate mental health access for all New Brunswickers.

RESEARCH, FUND and improve access to treatment for drug addictions to address epidemics such as the current opioid crisis.

IMPROVE MEASURES and increase the role of registered nurses and nurse practitioners in mental health / addiction prevention strategies and treatments.

### Rationale

IN A 2017 New Brunswick Health Council survey on accessing health services, 19% of respondents self-identified as having a mental health issue, while only 33% of that group were able to access mental health services.

IN 2017, naloxone was administered to 282 suspect opioid overdose patients, of which 152 responded to naloxone (53.9%).

THERE WERE 108 Emergency Department visits related to non-suicidal opioid overdoses, with an average of 13.5 visits per month between May and December 2017.

### Supporting Evidence

UP TO 25% of disability costs associated with mental health problems could be avoided by taking action.

READMISSIONS FOR mental health patients to hospitals is higher in New Brunswick than the national average.

IN AUSTRALIA, research found an average positive ROI of \$2.3 for every dollar invested in workplace mental health initiatives.