



Voters' Guide to Party Platforms on Health Care

Health Care Issue



Reverse privatization of health services

- Rescind Bill 29

- Restore publicly managed and delivered food, housekeeping, laundry and security services in public health care facilities

Wait Times Strategy

- Build 4 new specialized public day surgical centres in high-need areas with focus on hip & knee surgeries and cataract procedures

- Funding mechanisms to pay health providers premiums for higher performance and to have patient funding follow patients when they get treated by health authorities.

- Restore public management of billing and records for the BC Medical Services Plan
- Reinstate workers and services unfairly replaced by private contracts

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Health Care Issue



Wait Times Strategy

- Expand best practices to improve hospital efficiencies like those at Richmond Hip & Knee Reconstruction Project and Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Cataract and Corneal Transplant Unit
- Improve focus on early intervention with 4 new Public Diagnostic Centres equipped with new MRI and CT equipment to take pressure off high-demand areas
- Establish Urgent Care Centres pilot project to help relieve pressures on overcrowded emergency rooms

Health Care Issue



Wait Times Strategy

- Implement immediate plan to deal with bed shortage driving acute care crisis in Lower Mainland by first:
 - *upgrading St. Paul's hospital with 10-year plan to maintain it as a Centre of Excellence
 - *Accelerating the Surrey Memorial Critical Care Tower as a public project, including a day surgical centre
- Expand the capacity and efficiency of hospitals across the province to address acute care shortage in centres like Vernon, PG and Nanaimo
- Deliver wait time guarantees in 5 priority areas, based on the Ontario model: cancer, cardiac, hip & knee, cataract and diagnostics

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Access to health care (geographic)

- Establish BC Family Residency Program to provide travel and accommodation assistance to families who have children being treated at BC Children's Hospital

- Establish a maximum allowable distance from acute care facilities in rural areas and density ratios for facilities serving urban areas

Training and Recruitment

- Recruit and train more doctors, nurses and health professionals

- Double the number of medical spaces with new medical schools in partnership with UBC and UNBC in PG, and UVIC

- Establish 24-7 clinics in rural areas staffed by salaried doctors and nurse practitioners, who can perform emergency surgical services

- Implement E-Hospital services, that monitor patients at a distance and allow for local provision of timely care

- Provide increased and new training programs for health care professionals for both acute care and preventative care

Health Care Issue

Training and Recruitment



- Expand BC medical schools at locations across BC and provide additional residency positions for foreign-trained MDs

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- Increase family practice and specialists residencies from 18 to 25

- Add 1,000 nurses and licensed practical nurses over four years by increasing training spaces, expanding co-op and summery student work placements, and provide increased scholarships

- Created Nurse Practitioner training program in BC, and a new three-year degree at BCIT

- Create new labour mobility to allow qualified doctors, nurse and other health professionals from anywhere in Canada to automatically be registered to practice in BC

- Expand training through new Medical School in Kelowna

- Build on labour agreements with BCNU and BCMA to create certainty, stability and constructive working partnerships with government to improve patient care

- Facilitate the recognition of foreign-trained doctors, nurses and other professionals' qualifications

- Provide payback incentives for graduating doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health care professionals who staff rural and other facilities where recruitment is currently a problem

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Training and Recruitment

- Enhance mentoring and transition programs to keep existing nurses in the system and attract nurses who have left, back to BC

- Expand the number of diagnostic technicians, lab technologists, medical radiographers and other health professionals

Prescription Drugs/ Pharmacare

- Supporting the Therapeutics Initiative with a permanent, independently-managed fund

- Public inquiry into the rising costs and over-prescription of drugs

Health Care Issue



Prescription Drugs/
Pharmacare

Seniors

- Appoint an independent seniors representative to work to improve systems of care and support for seniors and their families by **recommending policy reform for better services and programs for seniors, **providing support to seniors and their families and**providing info to the public and seniors issues

- Setting and funding a provincial minimum standard of 3.2 hours of direct care per resident and addressing inconsistencies in the care delivered from one facility to the next

- Commission a cost-benefit analysis on the feasibility of establishing a new Crown corporation to bulk purchase and dispense generic drugs to pharmacies in BC.

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Home Care & Home Support

- Increase the number of seniors who receive support and the number of hours of care per week received by each senior
- Help more seniors stay at home through increased support for preventative health services and resources
- Build on the recommendations from the Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues

- Increase access to home-support services, in-home nursing and rehabilitative care to help seniors live more healthy, active, independent lives

- Offer financial assistance to families providing home care for seniors and disabled family members who otherwise would require more costly public or private assistance in outside facilities
- Expand home support and home care programs and assisted living service to support people with chronic care needs, including many seniors so they can remain in their own homes

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Residential Care

- Re-open 300 beds in the first 6 months at enhanced care levels through renovation and rehabilitation of public facilities closed by the current government
- Partner with non-profit sector to create 3,000 new long term care beds to fill the current gap
- Ensure proper planning for the future needs of our growing seniors population so we have the appropriate mix of community-based services such as residential care, palliative care, assisted living and supportive housing

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Community-Based Health

- Establish Community Health Centres led by nurse practitioners with a focus on primary and preventative care, and chronic disease management.

- Centres will focus on the Ontario model and will initially focus on high-needs groups and under serviced areas such as First Nations, rural communities, seniors, and recent immigrants

- Capital funds for more not-for-profit community health care and dental clinics

- Establish community health care centres that would include teams of health care workers trained in preventative care, primary care and diagnosis, designed to keep people healthy and out of acute and hospital care

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Community-Based Health

- More flexible hours for health clinics, recognizing the realities of family schedules

Payment of Doctors

- Gradually change from fee-for-service MSP billing towards salaries for doctors

Mental Health

- Build supportive housing for the mentally ill and those living with addiction by reinvesting in a non-profit and supportive housing program

- Increase funding for non-institutionalized mental health patients including children and youth to provide adequate housing, community-based support, and ongoing outpatient and inpatient care by mental health practitioners

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Mental Health

- Enhance outreach services for people with mental illness and addiction
- Increase community mental health and addiction treatment programs
- Immediate support for 1000 new detox spaces, 100 new additional treatment spaces and 100 new long term mental health treatment beds
- Strengthening family and youth involvement, improve networks of support and collaborative services

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Mental Health

- Improve public accountability and coordination of mental health services by working with consumers, providers, families and communities to implement better oversight of mental health and addiction services

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Governance

- Establish Health Quality Council which will be an advisory body made up of provincial, national and international experts that will**develop and implement evidence-based best practices and reforms **implement province-wide innovation in specialized surgical centres and chronic disease management initiatives ** work directly with government, health authorities and health professionals to improve overall quality and performance of the health care system

- Establish 14 Regional Health Trusts, for which the catchment area takes into account the demographic and geographic realities of all British Columbians

- Establish public accountability in provincially funded health organizations by restoring an arms length, non-partisan body that will seek candidates and make appointments based on qualifications, expertise, absence of conflict of interest and community credibility through a competitive, open and accountable process

- Institute a health ombudsperson to investigate and attempt to resolve complaints and problems, ensuring fairness and equitable access to health services and resolving patient care issues

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Funding to health care (MSP)

Persons with Disabilities

- Phase out MSP premiums, funding public health system from general revenue

- Request the Auditor General to review services to persons with disabilities with particular attention to structural barriers

- Develop a strategy that provides continuum of care of ongoing services – with appropriate capital and one-time investment

- Implement the Access and Ability Strategy with a commitment to fully fund its components – this will address accessible transportation, health and assistive services, and income supports

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Persons with Disabilities

- Appoint an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities and an independent officer of the Legislature

Public Health

- Increase cancer screening programs, including new province-wide early screening for colorectal cancer



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