

1. If elected, what will you do to reduce surgical wait times, particularly for knee and hip surgeries?

The B.C. Greens believe that government has one job that is more important than anything else: promoting the health and well-being of the people it serves. The B.C. Green Party recognizes that it is absolutely essential to reduce surgical wait times in B.C., and has several strategies to achieve this goal.

A B.C. Green government will establish an Innovation Task force to promote the application of best practices to reduce surgery wait times across the province. For many years, chronic shortages in hospital beds have resulted in the cancellation of elective surgeries, creating a backlog of patients which increases wait times. To solve this problem, a B.C. Green government will provide more residential care beds and better home health care to seniors. This will free up hospital beds currently occupied by seniors due to the lack of community alternatives. On top of this, we will invest \$40 million in new long term care facilities, which will increase the number of beds in acute care facilities. An increase in the number of beds in acute care facilities means that they have the capacity to hold more patients recovering from surgery at once, helping to reduce wait times.

Centralizing the management of waitlists and the referral of patients to the first available surgeon, and modernizing and integrating the information systems to support waitlist management strategies, will also help to expedite surgical wait times.

A B.C. Green Government will also prioritize provision of primary care. We will allocate \$100 million for the expansion of support for interprofessional, integrated primary care to be provided by physiotherapists, nurse practitioners, midwives, dieticians and other health professionals. This will reduce the need for people to see a general practitioner and potentially avert the need for surgery. Effective interprofessional teamwork is an essential component for the delivery of high-quality care in an increasingly complex health-care system.

This initiative to enhance and support interprofessional health care will enable patients to benefit from the full scope of knowledge and expertise of qualified health practitioners, reduce the burden on medical practitioners, and reduce wait times for treatment. The goal is to optimise the system to ensure that early intervention at the right level avoids more costly treatment at a later stage, thus reducing the need for more invasive treatment. The B.C. Greens will work with all stakeholders to make this happen, including doctors, nurses and hospital workers, health authorities and other health-care professionals.

2. If elected, what will you do to better protect investors in this province. In particular, will you support a best interest standard that requires financial advisors to put the interests of their clients before their own? Will you support a ban on embedded commissions? Will you regulate titles used by financial advisors?

White collar crime has long gone under-punished in B.C. Unscrupulous financial advisers have stolen millions of dollars from unwitting clients, often senior citizens. Perhaps one of the more troubling developments in recent years has been the number of scams perpetrated through the internet and over the phone. Non-violent crimes affect British Columbians' sense of safety and their financial security, and overwhelmingly affect seniors. We need to take a much stronger stance on white collar crime and fraud - it is costing many of our citizens far too much.

In response, a B.C. Green government will spend \$15 million to improve and expand the tracking of business fraud to include electronic and telephone scams, enhance the understanding of how to prevent financial crimes, and pursue perpetrators when crimes are committed. We will collaborate with the federal government, relevant agencies, and other provinces to track fraud and address securities related offences. We will also introduce a "whistleblower program" to help inform authorities of fraud, and introduce harsher penalties for companies who turn a blind eye to financial crimes.

We will also explore other measures to better protect investors, which may include supporting a best interest standard for investors, supporting a ban on embedded commissions, and regulating the titles used by financial advisors.

3. If elected, what will you do to improve home care for BC residents?

As the number of seniors in B.C. rises, so the pressures on the health care and long-term care systems increase. We recognize that many seniors want to stay in their homes and communities. It also makes financial sense for the Government to support seniors to stay in their homes for as long as possible. A B.C. Green Government will invest \$35 million over four years in home care to enable seniors and other people who need assistance to stay in their own homes.

A B.C. Green government will also work with health authorities to identify and remove barriers to the implementation of integrated healthcare delivery between acute and post-acute service providers. The shift from inpatient to ambulatory and community care has been shown to decrease health-care costs and better address the range of health care needs of the population.

4. If elected, what will you do improve the lot of unpaid caregivers in the province?

We recognize that unpaid caregivers do absolutely essential work, and are taking on an increasing burden for providing care due to shortcomings in our healthcare system. By strengthening our healthcare system and addressing some of these shortcomings, through investing in prevention, acute care needs, and reducing wait times, as well as investing in home care specifically, we can help alleviate their burden. Our investments in home care will help to alleviate the burden of unpaid caregivers in BC and enable seniors to live in their own homes for longer. A B.C. Green Government will invest \$35 million over four years in home care to enable seniors and other people who need assistance to stay in their own homes.

A B.C. Green government will work with health authorities to identify and remove barriers to the implementation of integrated healthcare delivery between acute and post-acute service providers. The shift from inpatient to ambulatory and community care has been shown to decrease health-care costs and better address the range of health care needs of the population. More effective post-acute and community care would help to take some of the burden from unpaid caregivers. A B.C. Green government will also explore further ways to support unpaid caregivers. We will pilot basic income, which we believe is one measure that could help support unpaid caregivers, who are doing work that is essential to their families and communities, but are not being remunerated.

5. If elected, how will you help BC seniors living in poverty?

The B.C. Greens are committed to reducing poverty in B.C. for all of our citizens. We support a shift towards livable incomes, and believe that all British Columbians should have the means to live a healthy life. Nobody should be living beneath the poverty line in a province as wealthy as ours.

We will implement a poverty reduction strategy, in consultation with experts and advocacy groups. A B.C. Green government will also draw on experience in other jurisdictions to design a basic income pilot project that will test its ability to reduce poverty, and improve health, housing and employment outcomes. Seniors are one group that we believe could particularly benefit from basic income. Though there are a number of assistance programs available for seniors, the application process can be complex, and many seniors are unsure of what supports they are eligible for. A streamlined basic income program would ensure that seniors do not fall through the cracks in our social safety net.

A B.C. Green Government will roll Medical Service Plan (MSP) premiums into the payroll tax and personal income tax to ensure that they are administered in a more equitable and progressive

manner. B.C. is the only province in Canada to charge regressive MSP premiums. Such premiums unfairly burden low and fixed income British Columbians with a heavy flat tax.

A B.C. Green Government will also address the high cost of prescription drugs. We will develop a proposal to implement an essential drugs program beginning in 2019, designed to reduce the costs of prescription drugs and ensure the cost of drugs is not a barrier to health management.

A B.C. Green government will also take aggressive action to resolve the housing affordability crisis, which has hurt many lower income seniors, who are facing higher rents or being priced out of neighbourhoods they have spent much of their lives in. We will introduce a comprehensive housing strategy that recognizes that the primary purpose of housing must be to provide homes first, and a means of investment second. We will invest in increasing supply, investing up to \$750 million per year to support the construction of approximately 4,000 new units of affordable housing per year. We will also crack down on speculation, which is driving up the price of real estate, through increasing the foreign buyers tax to 30% and expanding it across B.C., as well as introducing speculation taxes to discourage the flipping of homes.

6. If elected, how else will you improve the lives of older Canadians living in BC?

The B.C. Greens believe that the highest form of government is promoting the health and well-being of the people it serves. A B.C. Green government would focus on prevention, health and wellbeing to ensure people live healthier lives for longer.

The answers above detail our commitments to reduce wait times, invest in chronic care and post-acute care, eliminate MSP premiums, invest in home care to enable seniors to stay in their homes, plan to implement a prescription drugs program, and invest in integrated care.

We will also make investments in public transit essential to accessible communities, allowing seniors to participate more fully in their communities and making people less dependent on private vehicles. These investments will help ensure that when people are no longer able to drive, they aren't isolated and unable to participate in the lives of their communities.

A B.C. Green government will establish a task force to develop a plan to transition the balance of resources between acute care and preventative care. The task force will review the funding and range of services covered by the healthcare system to ensure the mix of services better meets the treatment and prevention needs of the population.

A B.C. Green Government will also act to ensure the staffing of public and private care homes meets government guidelines, and will provide an additional \$200 million over four years to address staffing levels in public facilities. A B.C. Green Government will collaborate with Health

Authorities and the BC Care Providers Association to ensure that clear, measurable and enforceable staffing standards for residential care facilities are implemented.