



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

BC has one of the best health care systems, and some of the best health outcomes, anywhere in the world. There is always room for improvement. And with a growing, active, and aging population, there is an increasing demand for surgeries.

The number of surgeries in BC has increased 40% over the last 14 years. Today's BC Liberals will invest \$225 million over the next three years to reduce surgical wait times for elective surgeries – with no impact on emergency surgeries. That means 5,500 more hip and knee replacement surgeries over the next two years. This additional funding will help reduce the backlog of surgeries and keep up with demand as the Ministry of Health implements a long-term strategy for more timely and appropriate access to surgery. In addition, hospitals in Surrey, Maple Ridge, Vernon, and Nanaimo will be receiving new MRI machines to speed up diagnosis and treatment for patients.

The previous NDP government's health care record is clear: not a single new hospital was built on their watch, medical and nursing spaces didn't keep up with demand, and budget deficits meant health care was shortchanged. You can't invest in healthcare without a strong economy – and the NDP's weak leadership and irresponsible policies would increase taxes, put British Columbians out of work, and scare away investment. On May 9th, our strong and steadily improving health care will be on the line – and voting NDP would put it all at risk.

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?

We recognize there are concerns about the current regulatory structure around professional financial advisors, planners and investor services. A key request from stakeholders that have approached our government is that they want to ensure provinces have consistent rules so we don't have a patchwork of different regulatory approaches across the country.

With this in mind, the BC Securities Commission is participating in the government of Canada's Canadian Securities Administrators consultations on how to best address this and other requests raised by investor advocacy groups. As such, Today's BC Liberals will wait for the federal consultation to finish and then consider the results to determine the best path forward.

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

Seniors built this province. They have been there for us, and now we need to be there for them. BC has a growing, aging, and active population and we need to invest in making sure our healthcare system takes care of seniors with the dignity and respect they deserve, no matter how complex their needs. We have increased the number of clients receiving home health services 36% between 2001 and 2016 but we know we can do more. Over the next four years, Today's BC Liberals are committed to a \$500 million funding boost to improve care for seniors across the system.

Included in this is \$275 million over the next four years for home and community care services as part of the recent health funding agreement with the federal government. In addition, health authorities will keep increasing their budgets for home and community care – reaching approximately \$200 million above current levels by 2020-21. To further improve the quality of care, Today's BC Liberals are committed to hiring about 1,500 additional staff including health-care assistants, nurses, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists.

We are also providing \$90 million over the next three years to help create new teams of primary care providers in communities throughout BC, starting in those with the greatest need for enhanced primary care services. This team-based primary care model will particularly benefit seniors and those with complex health needs – helping to keep them healthier, more independent, and out of hospital. We're able to make this investment because of the strong economy British Columbians have built, and a solid plan that invests in the services people count on.

We are also committed to increasing funding for an additional 500 nurses per year across the province by 2022. We will also train and place an additional 100 nurse practitioners across British Columbia and create more spaces for in-demand professions, such as physiotherapists and speech therapists. Finally, we will identify retention programs to ensure these health care providers remain in rural and northern communities.

To ensure seniors can live healthy, active lives within their communities, Today's BC Liberals will:

- Invest \$1 million in grants to communities across British Columbia to build activity areas that are appropriate for seniors suffering from dementia.
- Provide an additional \$2 million to the Union of BC Municipalities to fund our age-friendly communities program and expand access for seniors across our province.
- Introduce an Active Seniors Credit to support and promote seniors leading active healthy lifestyles.

We have also provided \$31 million in funding to enhance the Better at Home program in more than 100 communities, helping seniors stay in their homes longer. To ensure individuals seniors can continue to live in their homes, Today's BC Liberals will double the Home Renovation Tax Credit to \$20,000 for improvements to accommodate family members with disabilities. We will introduce a Respite Tax Credit of up to \$2,500 for people caring for seniors or family members with disabilities. And we commit to dedicating all funds provided by the federal government in the recent BC-Canada health agreement to incremental home care and mental health supports.

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

We know that having mom and dad living in either their home, or with other family members, can put added strain on family finances if renovations are required or additional care is needed. To help these families, Today's BC Liberals have committed to providing a Respite Tax Credit of up to \$2,500 for people caring for seniors or family members with disabilities. We will also double the Home Renovation Tax Credit to \$20,000 to make home improvements to accommodate seniors or family members with disabilities.

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

Today's BC Liberal plan starts with a strong, diverse, growing economy that gives British Columbians the opportunity to look after the people we love – and provides government with the resources to support our most vulnerable citizens.

Our government provides support to nearly 52,800 seniors' households through a range of housing options, including:

- Independent social housing units for close to 21,300 low-income seniors;
- Supportive and assisted living units for approximately 11,500 frail seniors; and
- Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) provides monthly rent assistance to about 20,000 low-income seniors' households.

And we've made the single largest investment in Canadian history by committing \$920 million in the last year to create about 5,300 units of affordable rental housing across British Columbia - about 30 projects representing 1,350 units and about \$125 million will be dedicated to seniors.

To make life more affordable for all British Columbians, we are cutting MSP premiums in half for families and individuals with family net income of up to \$120,000 per year – saving families up to \$900 a year. This will be effective next January. And we will not raise your taxes elsewhere to pay for eliminating MSP, as the NDP are proposing. We are committed to eliminating MSP premiums entirely over the long term.

Today's BC Liberals are able to make these investments in people because we've been focused on creating jobs, growing a diverse economy, and controlling government spending in order to leave more money in British Columbians' pockets.

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

Today's BC Liberals are committed to introducing an Active Seniors Tax Credit to support and promote seniors leading active healthy lifestyles. We will also increase funding to BC Transit and Handy-Dart services in communities across BC to provide more frequent service for seniors.

Additionally, we will provide \$1 million in grants to communities across British Columbia to build activity areas that are appropriate for seniors suffering from dementia.

Building upon the previous investments made, we will provide \$2 million to the Union of BC Municipalities to fund our age-friendly communities program and expand access for seniors across our province.