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Re: British Columbia 2017 General Election Questionnaire

Dear Ms. Morris,

People, and improving their lives, are the focus of our platform and election campaign. On this front, if elected we will implement a suite of measures that bolsters affordability, housing security, and erases the social deficit that has grown over four terms of BC Liberal government by ensuring British Columbians can access the service they rely on for their health, wellbeing, and independence. Many of these proposals will benefit seniors living in BC — including CARP members.

Under Christy Clark and the BC Liberals, too many British Columbians are not getting the healthcare they need — despite paying more and more in MSP premiums every year.

John Horgan and the BC NDP will take action to make our healthcare system work for you. We will make improving your access to family doctors and other medical professionals the top priority for our Ministry of Health. We'll develop a new Urgent Care model that gets emergency room visitors the healthcare support they need faster, and we'll help rural British Columbians with an improved medical travel allowance.

Our strategic investments in health care include expanding the hours and scope of home care so seniors can continue to live at home and out of residential care. The Urgent Care centres will deliver patient care through multidisciplinary teams comprised of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, dietitians, occupational and physical therapists, mental health and addictions treatment professionals, and other health professionals. These investments will improve health outcomes and provide some relief to unpaid caregivers.

When nine in ten seniors' care homes don't meet minimum government standards, it's clear Christy Clark isn't working for BC's elderly population.

John Horgan and the BC NDP will make seniors a priority. We will help them stay in their own



homes longer, improve the consistency of care in care homes and create a legislative committee focused on improving the care and lives of seniors.

Giving support to seniors to stay at home as long as possible is the right thing to do. We will increase the length of home support visits and expand the scope of services provided – helping seniors stay in their homes longer, reducing stress on family friends and other unpaid caregivers.

Seniors who do move into residential care can expect increased support and more accountability from providers and their staff, so they receive the high-quality, dignified relationship-based care they deserve. We will conduct a review to establish and maintain safe staffing levels that aren't disrupted by contracting out or contract flipping.

We will expand and replicate initiatives and best practices that have a track record of reducing surgical wait times — i.e. the Richmond Hip and Knee reconstruction project. We will also deliver the best outcomes and most timely care for patients through province-wide coordination, management of wait lists.

Our plan for government includes several measures that will support seniors living their non-working years with dignity, autonomy and improved economic security. Our comprehensive housing affordability strategy will provide a \$400 per year renters grant, expand the SAFER program that provides seniors with moderate incomes monthly payment supports so they can continue to afford their existing residences; construct 114,000 new rental, co-op and social housing units that will include units for seniors.

We'll develop an all-party Select Standing Committee on Seniors. This committee will be tasked with refreshing the Council on Aging and Seniors' 2006 Report, making recommendations to the Legislature and monitoring and reporting on the implementation of those recommendations.

We will also be convening an expert working group comprised of disability and seniors' advocates, individuals, poverty reduction groups and others to develop a poverty reduction strategy. This working group will be mandated to examine the full scope of poverty reduction initiatives.

John Horgan's BC NDP will also help by reducing the depth of poverty in BC by immediately raising all income assistance and disability rates by \$100 per month, and ending Christy Clark's disability bus pass clawback, fully restoring the BC Bus Pass program for people with disabilities. If elected, a John Horgan BC NDP government looks forward to meeting with you, and other stakeholders like the Canadian Centre for Elder Law regarding measures to protect seniors from financial abuse.



Retirement security and financial consumer protection are issues we consider important too, for example when we've supported expanding the CPP and making disclosure of investment advisors' fees mandatory. We are aware that all other provincial securities regulators but B.C.'s are considering the Best Interest Standard for investment advisors and we will be seeking to meet with you and other affected stakeholders to consider this rule change too.