



Health Care for All

Questions for Candidates

- **How will you and your party preserve and expand our current medicare system, protecting and upholding its five principles: universality, accessibility, comprehensiveness, portability, and public administration?**
- **How will your party address the growing concerns that rural communities have about access to health care services closer to home, and support for individuals and families who must travel to access care?**
- **How will you and your party implement a national pharmacare program?**
- **How will you and your party address the growing need for a national seniors care strategy that upholds the principles of our current Medicare system?**

Why Ask These Questions?

Our access to universal health care is a privilege founded in the vision and hope of Canadian churches that began long before medicare was introduced. Christians believe that wholeness in spirit is linked to wholeness of mind, body, and spirit and that the wholeness of one is linked to the wholeness of all. The church, as the body of Christ in the world, is called to advocate for systems of justice and equality for all. The United Church of Canada has long advocated for the care of all.

Now is not the time to take medicare for granted! Debates about whether it is sustainable continue, with growing pressures to privatize and debates over provincial-federal funding. The federal government needs to be willing and able to take strong national leadership to protect and ensure the five principles of medicare: that it is universal, accessible, comprehensive, portable, and publically administered.

Background Information

These are only a few of the health care challenges we face today:

- **Rural health care:** People who live in rural areas must travel to larger centres where specialist and diagnostic equipment is located. At a time when there is less public transportation, this is an added burden for people seeking care as well as their friends and family. We need to find ways to deliver care at the closest point of contact that is safe and meets the high standard of care we value. We must also find ways to support those who must travel for care.

- A national **pharmacare** program continues to be a vision of medicare advocates and, as of July 2019, all 13 premiers. They recognize that one in four households in Canada cannot afford their medications and are forced to choose between putting food on the table and buying the medication they need. The lack of coverage puts people at greater health risks and costs the system. Canada is the only country in the world with a universal health care system that doesn't cover prescription medication.
- **Seniors care** is one of the fastest-growing industries today. We see divides between those who can afford to buy care and those who cannot. Those who live in urban areas can get specialized care that is not available to those who age in their rural communities. Recognizing the growing and specialized needs of a population that is living longer than ever before, now is the time to address the issue.

Learn More

Canadian Health Coalition, "Improving our public health care" video: <https://youtu.be/KiahF2SMrMU>

The United Church of Canada, [Health Care Policy \(1994H211\)](#) (commons.united-church.ca; click What We Believe and Why, then Health)

www.canadaspremiers.ca/premiers-committed-to-healthcare-sustainability-call-on-federal-government-to-be-full-partner

www.christiancourier.ca/news/entry/renew-the-christian-roots-of-canadas-health-care-system

www.healthcoalition.ca/pharmacare

www.healthcoalition.ca/?s=seniors+care

www.healthcoalition.ca/tools-and-resources/policy-papers

www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/video-how-national-pharmacare-could-change-what-canadians-spend-on

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.

3 John:2