

Information on Health Care from Candidates running in Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola

(collected from statements made by the candidates during interviews conducted by the Support Our Health Care Society of Princeton)

Angelique Wood - New Democratic Party

- allow seniors to live at home longer
- fully support national pharmacare and so does the party; a national pharmacare plan is on the docket
- absolutely enforce the standards in the Canada Health Act. Brian Day's position is reprehensible
- signing a new health accord is #1 priority
- part of NDP plan is to address seniors living in poverty
- feels that most people are concerned about wait times. We need to reinstate a national strategy to investigate how to improve national health care
- we need to find ways to keep people happier, healthier, and more productive. Seniors living longer in their own homes is part of the solution. Prevention is the answer: we need to be healthier which can be achieved through education and childcare

Karley Scott - Liberal

- Liberals are developing their health care platform and the issues being discussed are support for public health care, national pharmacare, and seniors care
- solutions to health care problems need to be built on interconnectedness, forming relationships between all parties
- there needs to be a continuum of care for patients as well as their supporters, starting with prevention all the way through to palliative/end of life care
- negotiate a new Canada Health Accord with the provinces and territories; seniors care should be part of that 10 year commitment; start by looking at the 2004 health accord for principles that should be supported in a new accord
- supports the idea of a national pharmacare program; federal leadership is needed to bring the provinces together to make this happen
- the Liberal party believes strongly that Canadians should have equal access to public health care, regardless of income or geographic location; very much aware of the issues facing rural/remote communities when it comes to accessing health care
- most pressing issue is the proposed change from equalization of transfer payments to a per capita model. Liberals would return to an equalized payment system.
- a lack of hospital beds and long term residential care beds is a major issue. There needs to be a federal plan and the Liberal party plans to take the lead in tackling infrastructure problems
- although the private, for profit threat is not presently being discussed, she will take this concern further and bring it up during campaign strategy sessions; she believes Liberals have stepped up in the past and will do this again

over --->

- Liberals are interested in innovation (“doing things smarter”) and collaboration (working with all levels of government)
- Canada’s public health care system was once was the envy of the world; she believes we can be that way again; health care professionals need to come together to make this happen

Dan Albas - Conservative

- supports palliative care. The provinces and federal government share a role in providing this care
- personally supportive of the idea of pharmacare but believes that universal pharmacare must be a provincial decision. Plans should be self-supportive
- federal statutes in the Canada Health Act need to be enforced or, if not working, need to be amended. However, the Feds will not contemplate changing the status quo, because opening the Act up will create a Pandora’s Box of revisionism with no hope of a “win”
- constituents are concerned about long wait lists. Government is nervous about mucking around with wait lists, because of “zero sum” issues, i.e. solving one category of wait listing simply moves the shortfall to another sector.
- provinces will need to tax more because of demographics and growing health and social needs

Robert Mellalieu - Green

We were unable to arrange an interview with Mr. Mellalieu.