



**Restore Confidence.
Rebuild BC.**

BC Rural Health Network — Election 2020 Questions

Access to Health Care

1. What will your party do to relieve the financial hardship of travel for medical care?

A BC Liberal government will:

- Improve access to medical care by encouraging practice networks and innovative practice models.
- Work to attract health professionals to under-serviced areas.
- Act to improve BC Ambulance Service response-times for patients, particularly in smaller and rural communities.
- Improve patient care by establishing more Primary Care Networks and Community Health Centres.

For further details on our plans, please see our [platform](#).

2. What will your party do to increase specialist services in rural areas?

BC Liberal government will:

- Learn from the pandemic to build and train the health workforce of the future with increased spaces for doctors, nurses and health professions we need.
- Learn from the pandemic to train the health workforce of the future, including family doctors, nurse practitioners, and other allied primary health care workers as needed.
- Work to attract health professionals to under-serviced areas.

For further details on our plans, please see our [platform](#).

3. What will your party do to provide family physicians in areas that have none?

B.C. is a great place to live, raise a family and practice medicine. Our objective is to build sustainable and effective health services in rural and remote areas of the province.

BC Liberal government will:

- Learn from the pandemic to build and train the health workforce of the future with increased spaces for doctors, nurses and health professions we need.
- Work to attract health professionals to under-serviced areas.

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Mental Health and Addictions

1. As a candidate in the provincial election, what are you and your party prepared to do to address these barriers to mental health and addictions services in rural BC communities?

A BC Liberal Government will treat the causes and prevent the harm:

- Clearly recognize that addiction is a medical disorder, and ensure a focus on public health and safety in the treatment of people suffering from addictions.
- Expand Foundry Centres and Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Teams to respond to mental health-related emergency calls.
- Fund the hiring of 100 more psychiatric social workers/nurses to support the expansion of Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Teams to more communities.
- Increase addiction-treatment and recovery programs, and ensure those who need help getting off drugs have a clear pathway to treatment.
- Increase mental health supports in public secondary schools, such as registered psychiatric nurses.
- Introduce a *Safe Care Act* to safely and ethically help young people with addictions into treatment.
- End the funding discrimination that continues to disqualify abstinence-based treatment programs.
- Implement a provincial prescription-drug monitoring program to prevent addiction with early referrals to specialist care and treatment options.

For further details on our plans, please see our [platform](#).

Community Health Centres

1. If elected, what will your party do to ensure adequate financial and planning support is provided to rural communities expressing an interest in establishing a Community Health Centre?

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the challenges in our health care system even greater for patients and health care workers alike. Part of our plan to address this is to improve patient care by establishing more Primary Care Networks and Community Health Centres.

2. If elected, what will your party do to ensure continued funding for existing Community Health Centres?

BC Liberals have a plan to improve access to health care for patients. This includes supporting Community Health Centres. For further details on our plans, please see our [platform](#).

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3. If elected, how will physicians be paid in Community Health Centres?

Physicians working in Community Health Centres run by health authorities will continue to be paid via the health centre. Similarly to how physicians, nurses, and nurse practitioners are being paid at Urgent and Primary Care Centres.

Privatization of Health Care

1. What is your party's position on private, for-profit healthcare?

We will ensure a strong public healthcare system is preserved in BC and is accessible to all British Columbians.

2. What is your party prepared to do to defend further challenges to Canada's public health care system?

British Columbians deserve a world-class public health system that is robust and accessible to all, and we will defend it.

3. What would you and your party do to improve long term care in BC?

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Invest an additional \$1 billion over 5 years in new long-term care homes, to replace and upgrade ageing facilities.
- As part of our investment in new facilities, ensure every senior in long-term care who wants one has a private room, and decommission multi-bed wards.
- Launch and ensure a truly independent review of the response to COVID-19 in our seniors' long-term care and assisted living homes.
- Implement measures to enable family members to safely visit seniors living in long-term care, assisted and independent living residences during the COVID-19 pandemic, to bring residents comfort and companionship.
- Work with care home operators to address chronic worker shortages and improve the quality of care.
- Improve home-care visits and supports for seniors living in their own homes.

For further details on our plans, please see our [platform](#).

4. What is your party's position on P3s in healthcare?

A BC Liberal government will deliver the biggest infrastructure investment in BC's history, with a total investment of \$30.9 billion over three years, including in, hospitals, primary care clinics, seniors' care homes, and mental health treatment. We will deliver this health infrastructure in the most efficient and effective manner possible.