

Establishing Child-Friendly Pharmacare

1. What will your party do to ensure that all children and youth have equitable access to safe, effective and affordable prescription drugs?

No Canadian should have to choose between paying for prescription drugs and putting food on the table. While Canadians are proud of our health care system, many are still forced to make sometimes decisions. These decisions are even more difficult when it comes to the health needs of children and youth, which put even greater strain on any family.

As a government and as a party, we gratefully accept the report by Dr. Hoskins and the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare and the report is an important step in laying the foundation for a national pharmacare program.

We have already committed to working together with provinces and territories to create a Canadian Drug Agency that will make medications more affordable by negotiating better drug prices on behalf of all Canadians. In particular, we know that the cost of many drugs for rare diseases can be astronomical, so we are putting in place a national strategy for rare disease drugs to help Canadians get the life-saving drugs that they need.

If re-elected, we will work closely with the provinces and territories, and our partners and stakeholders to consider the best way forward. Our newly announced investment of an additional \$6 billion over the next four years will include dedicated funding to further the progress we have already made towards universal pharmacare for all Canadians, as guided by the Advisory Council.

2. What measures will your party take to ensure that Canada has a national drug formulary and compounding registry that is appropriate for the unique needs of paediatric patients?

Through our government's initial steps to implement universal pharmacare across Canada, we have taken steps towards the development of a national formulary, which will be a comprehensive, evidence-based list of prescribed drugs.

A re-elected Liberal government will work in partnership with provinces, territories and stakeholders to develop this list, which would provide the basis for a consistent approach to formulary listing and patient access across the country, including for paediatric patients.

As mentioned, we will also be establishing a national strategy for high-cost drugs for rare diseases to help Canadians—many of whom are children—get better access to the effective treatments that they need. We will work with provinces, territories and other partners to co-develop a plan to ensure that patients with rare diseases have better and more consistent coverage for treatments.

3. How will your party strengthen Canada's regulatory system to increase the availability and accessibility of safe paediatric medications and child-friendly formulations?

Our Liberal government recently took the biggest step of any government in the last 30 years to lower drug prices by enhancing the powers of the Patented Medicines Prices Review Board, Canada's consumer protection agency for drugs.

Building on the progress we've already made, these bold reforms will make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible for Canadians of all ages, saving them over \$13 billion dollars in the next 10 years. As the Pharmacare Council made clear, these changes are absolutely essential for moving forward with a National Pharmacare program.

4. Will your party guarantee universal access to no-cost contraception for youth in Canada?

Under a national universal pharmacare program, most contraception would be available at no-cost to youth, as it would be for all Canadians.

Our party and our government has a strong record on being supportive of contraception, having a plan to implement universal pharmacare, and have proven our commitment to increased drug affordability and accessibility - particularly for children and youth.

Protecting Children and Youth from Firearm-Related Death and Disability

1. Will your party support a national ban on civilian ownership of handguns and/or assault-style firearms?

2. What steps will your party take to better regulate non-powder firearms (e.g. air or BB guns)?

Gun crime in Canada is on the rise, and today, Canada has no clear classification for assault rifles — making it legal to buy several military-style weapons.

A re-elected Liberal government will build on the important measures we passed in Bill C-71, and continue to take serious, common-sense action to crack down on gun crime:

- ban all military-style assault rifles, including the AR-15;
- work with the provinces and territories to give municipalities the ability to further restrict — or ban — handguns; and
- protect the rights of law-abiding hunters and pledge not to bring back the long-gun registry. Hunters do not use or need assault weapons.

We will also take concrete steps — in partnership with our law enforcement agencies — to strengthen gun control.

We will prevent people suspected of posing a danger to themselves or others — including their partners or kids — from possessing or acquiring new firearms.

We will require that everyone importing ammunition must show proof of a valid firearms license.

Lastly, we will make it harder for legal weapons to fall into the hands of criminals, by further strengthening safe-storage laws.

3. How will your party address the rising rate of youth suicide across the country and particularly amongst Indigenous youth?

The loss of life from suicide is a tragedy beyond measure and the loss of a child to suicide is particularly tragic. Our Liberal government began working with community partners to advance Indigenous-led approaches to mental wellness including:

- o 63 community-led mental wellness teams
- o Choose Life initiatives by Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- o And the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy

We established a new definition of the Jordan's Principle program, to ensure First Nations children have access to health and social supports they need. Since July 2016, more than 341,000 requests have been approved under Jordan's Principle for vital services, including health, mental health, and wellness supports, since April 2019. In 2019, we committed \$220 million to establish a similar program to support Inuit children.

In Budget 2019, we announced an increased investment of \$50 million over ten years, with \$5 million per year ongoing, to further support the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy.

To move forward with making high-quality health care a reality for all Indigenous Peoples, we will co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous Health legislation – backed with the investments needed to deliver this care – and will continue to work with Indigenous communities to ensure Indigenous control over the development and delivery of services.

The Liberal Party recognizes, however, that the roots of suicide in Indigenous communities derive from a range of social inequities, and we continue to work to improve areas like education, employment, and housing, that contribute to overall community wellbeing.