



New Democrats

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Dr. Karen Leis
Canadian Paediatric Society
100-2306 St. Laurent
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Dear Dr. Leis:

Thank you for reaching out to lay out the Canadian Paediatric Society's key priorities for the improvement child and youth health and well-being in Saskatchewan. I want to thank you for your leadership and hard work in these unprecedented times amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your questions about your organization's priority issues:

- 1. If elected, what will your party do to improve access to publicly funded mental health treatment and resources for children and youth and reduce SK's high rate of youth suicide, especially in our northern communities?*

Our plan includes a \$100M investment in health staffing to reduce wait times for and to provide more equitable access to mental health services across Saskatchewan. Additionally, we plan to invest \$5 million commitment to a suicide prevention strategy that supports young people struggling with mental health and addictions.

- 2. If elected, what will your party do to improve access to accessible and affordable paediatric drugs and therapeutics for all children and youth?*

New Democrats would continue to put pressure on the federal government to introduce a national pharmacare program so Saskatchewan people can benefit from expanded access to and coverage for paediatric drugs and therapies in Saskatchewan.

3. *If elected, what will your party do to improve childhood poverty and associated inequities?*

We know Saskatchewan has unacceptable childhood poverty rates, with one in four children living in poverty. In addition to introducing a \$15/hr minimum wage and SGI rebates to help make life more affordable for families, Saskatchewan New Democrats committed \$5 million dollars in our platform towards a poverty reduction strategy.

4. *If elected, what will your party do to reduce the threat posed to health, well-being and prosperity from climate change and rising greenhouse gas emissions?*

Saskatchewan New Democrats have committed to moving towards 50 per cent renewable and non-emitting electricity by 2030 and have a target of emissions-free electricity by 2050. We've also released our Renew Saskatchewan Plan, which will help empower people, small businesses, municipalities and First Nations and Métis communities to generate their own power and create a distributed energy grid.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention, we will work hard to see these issues addressed. Please also accept my best wishes for your health and safety during the challenging times our province is facing with COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Bonokoski
Director or Research and Policy