

NDP Response - Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)

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?

An NDP government will implement a comprehensive, public universal pharmacare system so that every Canadian, including children, has access to the medication they need at no cost.

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?

An NDP government would ensure that decisions over what drugs to cover in the national formulary would be made by an arm's-length body that would negotiate with drug companies. This would ensure that the needs of Canadians – from paediatric to geriatric – are considered.

The NDP will work with paediatricians, health professionals, and other stakeholders to ensure that the formulary meets the needs of Canadians and that children and youth have access to effective and safe medication that will work for them.

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

The best way to increase the availability and accessibility of safe paediatric medications and child-friendly formulations is by establishing a comprehensive, national public pharmacare system because it gives Canada the strongest negotiating power with pharmaceutical companies.

An NDP government will work with patients, caregivers, health professionals, and pharmaceutical companies to ensure that the best interest of Canadians will not continue to be adversely impacted by the long-awaited need for universal pharmacare.

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

Yes. Prescription contraceptives will be covered under universal pharmacare. Last September, the NDP introduced a motion, M-65 to urge Justin Trudeau and the Liberal government to work with provinces to cover the full cost of prescribed contraceptives.

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?

We want guns off our streets and are in favour of cities banning handguns in their jurisdictions. Jagmeet Singh has called on Justin Trudeau and the Liberal government to urge them to let cities put such a ban into effect. As for assault weapons, we firmly believe no civilian needs them, so we want to keep them illegal.

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

We are open to listening to relevant stakeholders and hear their ideas to keep children safe from injuries that could be caused by non-powder firearms.

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

An NDP government will ensure that Canadians receive head-to-toe health care coverage. This means that Canadian children and youth will have access to the mental health services they need.

Canada was the only G7 country without a national suicide prevention action plan until this spring, when Parliament adopted the NDP motion to develop a plan. NDP MP Charlie Angus (Timmins-James Bay) has been a long-term advocate to help Indigenous communities in his northern Ontario riding and across Canada who are struggling with the rise of youth suicides.

The motion calls for the federal government to specifically establish culturally appropriate community-based suicide prevention programs as recommended by Inuit, First Nations, and Métis organizations. The motion also calls for the creation of a national public health monitoring program to prevent suicides and identify groups at high risk for suicidal behaviour.