



August 20, 2021

National Campaign Director
Party
Street Address
City, Province
Postal code

Dear National Campaign Director,

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is the professional association representing more than 46,000 registered nurses (RN), nurse practitioners (NP) and nursing students in all roles across all health-care sectors and settings in Ontario. Our mission is to foster knowledge-based nursing practice, promote quality work environments, deliver excellence in professional development and advance healthy public policy.

Health and health care must be front-and-centre in the upcoming federal election. Nurses expect the next federal government to lead Canada out of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure a healthy recovery for all Canadians, and address the inequities exposed by this pandemic. The election priorities of nurses range from expanding Medicare and implementing national standards in long-term-care to addressing the social and environmental determinants of health, and ensuring the fiscal capacity of government to support healthy public policy.

In advance of the election, and in the interest of keeping RNAO members and the public fully informed on key issues, RNAO has prepared 11 important questions related to our election priorities. We are inviting you, on behalf of your party, to respond to these questions (150 words or less each):

Access to health care

1. Are you committed to implementing national standards in long-term care (LTC) based on [RNAO's Nursing Home Basic Care Guarantee \(NHBCG\)](#)?
2. Will you commit to expanding Canada's Medicare system to include universal pharmacare and, if so, by what year? Are there other health-care services you will include under Medicare – e.g., dental care, home care services?
3. Will you increase the number of NPs and RNs serving Indigenous communities? If so, by how many?
4. Will you commit to re-instating a national Chief Nursing Officer to provide advice on a broad range of issues, including health policy and health human resource planning?

Social determinants of health

5. How do you propose to respond to the thousands of opioid-related deaths across Canada?

6. Will you commit to the full implementation of the Vote Housing platform of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness?
7. What is your plan for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's "calls to action" and the "calls for justice" of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls?

Environmental determinants of health

8. What greenhouse gas emission targets are you committed to? What are the key components of your plan to reach those targets?
9. Do you recognize the universal right to clean water and will you commit to ensuring all Indigenous communities have access to clean, safe drinking water? If so, by when?

Fiscal capacity

10. Do you believe the federal government is paying its fair share of health-care expenditures? If not, what is your plan to increase the federal government's health transfers to the provinces?
11. Do you believe that corporations and individuals are paying their fair share of taxes? If not, what is your plan for tax fairness?

RNAO will publish each response verbatim (up to the 150-word limit) as it is received, in the order it is received. I urge you to respond as soon as possible. The thousands of nurses and members of the public who visit our website every day are always very keen to read responses from each of the parties. Your response will be indicative of the importance you give to nursing, health and health care in Canada.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to receiving your responses. Please direct your reply to dgrinspun@RNAO.ca and copy my executive assistant, Ms. Peta-Gay Batten, at pgebatten@RNAO.ca

Warmest regards,



Doris Grinspun, RN, MSN, PhD,
LLD(hon), Dr(hc), FAAN, FCAN, O.ONT. Chief Executive Officer,
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)