



## RNAO Questionnaire to Party Leaders

If elected, will your party:

1. Enforce the principles of the Canada Health Act and negotiate a new Health Accord with the provinces and territories, including increased health transfers?

**Yes.**

Greens fully support the Canada Health Act (CHA) and all its principles – the five guiding criteria of the CHA are non-negotiable. We must reassert the mandate of the CHA and use the full force of federal spending powers to identify the extent of a two-tiered system in Canada and work toward eliminate the current system's inequalities. To facilitate federal leadership in health care and negotiate the principles of increased health transfers, a [Council of Canadian Governments](#) – representing the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments – could create a working committee on health care.

2. Expand our universally accessible, publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system to include pharmacare?

**Yes.**

Green MPs will call for [a universal pharmacare program](#) that ensures all Canadians can access the medication they need. Canada is the only industrialized country with a universal healthcare system that does not provide for universal coverage of prescription drugs. While pharmaceuticals are the largest single driver for increased healthcare costs in this country, there has been no federal leadership on the issue. A national pharmacare program will enable Canada to negotiate purchases in bulk and combine administration costs, saving billions. We will establish, in cooperation with the provinces, a new crown corporation to bulk purchase and dispense prescription drugs, based on a rigorous evidence-based model. This program should adopt the four key recommendations of the Pharmacare 2020 Report, published on July 15, 2015: universal access to necessary medicines, fair distribution of prescription drug costs, safe and appropriate prescribing, and maximum health benefits per dollar spent. A Council of Canadian Governments will facilitate this intergovernmental cooperation. The Council would promote collaboration between federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

3. Expand our universally accessible, publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system to include home care?

**Yes.**

Seniors should be able to choose the care model that best fits their needs, whether that be residential or home care. Green MPs will advocate for a National Home Care Policy that improves upon existing eldercare policies and establishes guidelines for the care of seniors who have special needs and require care by geriatric specialists. While we applaud the provinces for taking the lead on continuing care, we are in desperate need of federal leadership to harmonize the provincial plans and give the kind of nation-wide support that only the federal government can provide.

4. Reject efforts to privatize and/or commercialize the delivery of health care, including user fees, co-payments, means testing and medical tourism?

**Yes.**

The federal government must reassert its mandate to protect the Canada Health Act. The Green Party proposes to measure and identify the extent of the multi-tiered system in Canada with an eye to completely eliminating all the current scheme's inequalities. Universal health care is fundamental to Canadian citizenship - it's an expression of the values that draw us together. Only a single-payer system can provide Canadians with the quality healthcare that we need.

5. Resurrect a commitment made by the First Ministers in 2003 to achieve 24/7 access to primary care delivered by interprofessional teams working to their full scope?

**Yes.**

The Green Party of Canada believes that we should embrace the vision of 'Patient-Centered Primary Care' as developed by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. The health care team that centres on the patient includes a large number of trained professionals and moves away from a physician-centric model of health care delivery. The Green Party will work to shift our focus from hospital-based care to community-based primary care delivered by teams.

6. Reverse cuts made to the Interim Federal Health Program, which provides limited temporary health-care benefits to refugee claimants?

**Yes.**

The Green Party agrees with the Federal Court that these cuts constitute "[cruel and unusual treatment](#)" and are unconstitutional. We are turning our backs on Canada's long history of compassionate refugee resettlement policies. Greens will swiftly reverse these cuts.

7. Reinstate the Health Council of Canada?

**Yes.**

Greens believe that a strong national health care system must be underwritten not just with federal cash, but also with a substantial dose of federal government leadership. To this end, the Health Council of Canada could be reinstated, or a Council of Canadian Governments could create a standing council on health care, as has been done in Australia. Either of these bodies, purposed with the task of renewing the Canada Health Accord, would send a clear message that the federal government has an important role to play in our health care system.

8. Earmark funding for provinces and territories to increase registered nurse and nurse practitioner-to-population ratios?

**Yes.**

Canada needs more nurses but Canada also needs nurses doing more. The Green Party will work to increase the role of nurse practitioners in providing medical care and shift our focus from hospital-based care to community-based primary care delivered by teams.

9. Develop a national palliative care strategy that provides universally accessible services across the country?

**Yes.**

The Green Party will establish and fund a special program to provide grants to non-profit societies setting up palliative care hospices and work with the Council of Canadian Governments to ensure we put a strategy in place that guarantees accessibility and affordability of palliative care.

10. Develop a principled regulatory framework to implement the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on assisted death?

**Yes.**

The Green Party is the only federal party supporting changes to the Criminal Code to allow physician-assisted death. With increased funding for palliative care hospices, "living-will" legislation that guarantees people the right to limit or refuse medical intervention and treatment and investment in educating the public about end-of-life issues we can balance the implementation of this complex change. The unanimous Supreme Court decision was clear: we must act now to protect Canadians' dignity.

11. Support affordable housing programs by increasing federal spending on those programs by \$2 billion annually?

**Yes.**

The Green Party will develop a National Housing Strategy through [the Council of Canadian Governments](#). Canada is the only country in the OECD without a housing strategy. Any coherent

plan must include concrete funding for a seniors' housing plan, a First Nations plan, a plan for social housing, and for affordable market housing.

12. Launch a comprehensive national poverty reduction strategy, with targets, timelines and sufficient investments?

**Yes.**

Poverty is perhaps the greatest social determinant of health outcomes. That 1 in 7 Canadian children and a shocking 1 in 2 First Nations children live in poverty is a national scandal. The Green Party will implement a comprehensive plan to eliminate poverty that begins with a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI). A GLI will provide a regular payment to every Canadian, at a level above the poverty line, to meet basic needs while encouraging additional income generation. It does not require needs testing, surveillance, or additional follow up. For higher-income Canadians, the amount of the GLI is merely taxed back in whole. A GLI will ensure no Canadian's income falls below what is necessary for health, life, and dignity.

13. Adopt the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to address the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation?

**Yes.**

The Green Party will immediately adopt all recommendations of the TRC Commission of Canada that fall within federal jurisdiction. As Elizabeth May [stated upon the release](#) of the TRC's report: "Canada's great shame has been laid before us in harrowing detail. It may be history, but it is not only of the past. The searing pain inflicted by the residential school system is crippling lives today. Let us not stand idle. It is our collective moral responsibility to walk together on a path to truth, justice, love and reconciliation."

14. Implement aggressive national carbon pricing?

**Yes.**

The Green Party will take swift and concrete action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and return Canada to a global leadership role in the fight against climate change. Carbon Fee and Dividend will put a clear price on carbon pollution, and every dollar generated by the carbon fee will be returned to Canadians through an equal, per-capita dividend payment.

15. Commit to comprehensive greenhouse gas targets, including reductions to at least 25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and at least 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050?

**Yes.**

At COP21 in Paris this December, Canada should commit to cut greenhouse gas emissions of at least 40% below 2005 levels by 2025. To accomplish these reductions, we will establish a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system to phase out carbon emissions and promote renewable

energy. Canada can also realize significant emissions reductions by increasing the efficiency of existing housing and building stock. We will unleash an army of carpenters, electricians, and contractors to plug the leaks in Canada's buildings, where energy waste makes up 30 per cent of our national carbon pollution. The Green commitment to infrastructure includes huge investment in energy-savings in public transit and water systems.

**16. Develop an aggressive program to reduce the emission of toxic substances, and ensure that people are made aware of toxics in their homes, workplaces and the products they consume?**

**Yes.**

Greens will make multiple amendments to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to strengthen protection against toxic chemicals. We will also establish a Toxic Chemical Tax on harmful chemicals to make industry accountable for chemicals in production and to push industry to reduce and eliminate the production of toxic substances registered under CEPA.

**17. Ensure that all people and corporations pay their fair share of taxes?**

**Yes.**

The Green Party will eliminate personal taxes on incomes below the low-income cut-off of \$20,000. We will also raise corporate taxes over four years from the current level of 15% back to the level set in 2009 (19%) while the small business corporate tax rate must remain low to stimulate growth in SMEs. Corporations are not using their extra cash to create jobs: by 2014, an astonishing \$629 billion was stagnating in corporate accounts - 35 per cent of Canada's GDP. Restoring the corporate tax rate to 19 per cent is a fiscally responsible choice while keeping Canada competitive internationally.

**18. Rely more heavily on green taxes that impose user fees on any activity that damages the environment?**

**Yes.**

The Green Party will institute a full range of "polluter pays" taxes, designed to reduce the use of fossil fuels by sending a market signal to producers. We will also cancel the \$1.3 billion dollar annual subsidy to fossil fuel companies.