



**1. Build a true culture of safety in health care**

**BC's nurses are at greater risk of injury from workplace violence than law enforcement and security workers. Do you support investing in violence prevention to keep nurses safe? Will you support an amendment to the Criminal Code of Canada to make violence against nurses an "aggravating circumstance?"**

Violence is never acceptable. Today's BC Liberals recognize when patients are under physical or mental stress, there is a risk for violent behaviour. We are committed to working closely with frontline staff, health authorities, WorkSafeBC, SafeCare BC and unions to reduce workplace violence and develop specific strategies to improve staff and patient safety.

Any changes to the Criminal Code would need to be addressed by the federal government.

**2. Educate, hire and retain enough nurses for safe patient care**

**BC's health authorities haven't been educating or hiring enough nurses to ensure people get safe, timely care, resulting in hallway medicine and gridlocked emergency rooms. Do you support investing enough to ensure an adequate supply of nurses, including specialty-educated nurses, so that British Columbians receive safe, timely patient care in our urban and rural communities?**

Yes, we know there are pressures in nursing with a 2015 CIHI report finding that across Canada over 25% of Registered Nurses are over the age of 55. Since 2001, our government has more than doubled the number of nursing spaces, adding almost 4,800 new student spaces to train registered nurses, psychiatric nurses, specialty nurses, nurses re-entering the workforce and licensed practical nurses, as well as nurses with advanced degrees. Building on this, Today's BC Liberals will provide funding to train an additional 500 nurses per year across the province by 2022.

### **3. Invest in seniors' care to support aging with dignity**

**Nine out of ten BC care homes lack the staff needed to provide the minimum 3.36 direct care hours per day. Do you support funding 100% of residential care homes to deliver safe, quality care, so that vulnerable seniors in care are no longer over-medicated and under-mobilized?**

BC has a growing, aging, and active population –we need to invest in making sure our healthcare system takes care of seniors with the dignity and respect they deserve, no matter how complex their needs. B.C. has 27,700 residential-care beds and 4,468 assisted-living beds, an increase of almost 6,900 seniors-care beds since the BC NDP was in power. Over the next four years, Today's BC Liberals are committed to providing a \$500 million funding lift that will enable health authorities to deliver an increased average of 3.36 direct care hours per resident per day across residential care facilities

### **4. Advocate for health and social justice**

**Over 163,000 children in BC live in poverty that directly affects their health and life chances. Will you address social determinants of health and work to reduce poverty, raise minimum wages, provide affordable childcare and safe housing, and improve income and social supports for vulnerable citizens?**

Our plan is built on a foundation of controlling government spending, low taxes, and creating jobs through a strong, diverse economy. When this foundation is solid, we address poverty by ensuring everyone has a job and that families keep more of their hard-earned money. Since 2001, the number of people dependent on income and disability assistance has decreased by 59,000 (24%). And when our economy is strong, we can provide services for those who need them, like the Single Parents initiative, which is helping 4,600 moms and dads get off social assistance.

### **5. Provide affordable, accessible health care for all**

**Only BC collects MSP premiums for health care. This tax kicks in at just \$24,001 of income, reaching the maximum \$1,800 a year for families earning \$42,001 – the same amount a family earning \$420,000 a year pays. Do you support eliminating MSP premiums as regressive taxation that falls hardest on those least able to pay, so health care is affordable and accessible to all?**

Yes. For middle-class families looking for help making life more affordable, Today's BC Liberals will provide a billion-dollar tax cut by making dramatic reductions to Medical Service Plan premiums. With two million British Columbians already exempt from MSP, two million more will see their premiums cut by 50% in January – the first step towards eliminating MSP entirely. This means a typical family of four earning less than \$120,000 will save \$900 per year in 2018.

## **6. Improve mental health services**

**Mental health issues afflict one in five, many of whom receive no services and may wind up homeless or in prison with addictions. Do you support investing in mental health services in order to provide this needed care to people in their own communities?**

Our BC Liberal government is committed to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental illness, and has made it a priority to build a comprehensive system of these services throughout the province. We spend about \$1.5 billion per year in mental health and substance use services, including programs for children and youth.

Going forward, we will use all of the funds provided by the federal government in the recent BC-Canada health agreement for incremental home care and mental health supports.

## **7. Expand fentanyl crisis response**

**922 people died from overdoses in 2016, 60% fentanyl-related. Many thousands more were saved by first responders and frontline nurses. Do you support immediate investment in more harm reduction capacity, publicly provided detox and rehabilitation services, and better backup and relief for frontline health care workers?**

Yes, in response to this crisis the BC Liberal government has:

- Invested \$100 million to fund a comprehensive strategy to combat overdoses
- Increased access and coverage for opioid substitute treatments, like suboxone
- Met our 500-treatment bed commitment
- Established a BC Centre on Substance Use – the first of its kind
- Distributed over 30,000 no charge Naloxone kits

Driving forward, we will utilize the \$10 million provided by the federal government to continue to prevent overdose deaths. We will also fund an additional 250 mental health and problematic substance use beds by 2022.