

SURVEY RESPONSE
CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Organization: HealthCareCAN

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Throughout the pandemic, Canadians have seen the power of health research and innovation, and the important role it plays in keeping people healthy, communities thriving, and the economy strong. Canada lags our peers in health research investments as a percentage of GDP and as a percentage of public spending on health care. Many of our global counterparts, like the U.S. and the U.K., are investing tens of billions of dollars to bolster their health research and innovation sectors and ensure they are ready for the next pandemic. What will your party do to strengthen and sustain Canada's health research sector moving forward, and how will the sector factor into your plan for Canada's economic recovery?

Canada's Conservatives recognize that the health research sector plays an important role in protecting Canadians from health threats while also growing the economy. We will ramp up Canadian research and production capacity by making Canada one of the best jurisdictions globally for pharmaceutical research and development and the production of vaccines and medicines. We will follow the U.K.'s example by putting in place a sector strategy to grow the sector in a well-thought-out way rather than just handing out money. We will also end the Liberal hostility to the pharma sector that has driven investment out of Canada, left us near the back of the line for vaccines and risks leaving us at the back of the line for new medicines. Instead, we will negotiate constructively with the industry to reduce drug prices while providing long-term regulatory certainty.

A Conservative government will also overhaul Canada's Pandemic Plan and preparedness to include domestic vaccine research, trials and development and manufacturing capacity and readiness. These initiatives will focus on novel vaccine platforms, keeping and attracting the best minds in Canada, and ensuring secure access to supply during pandemic scenarios. We will work with universities, the private sector, provinces and territories, and international partner countries to build for the future. We will also review Health Canada's regulatory processes and the balance between Canada's industrial, health, and economic relationships with the global biomanufacturing sector in light of Canada's poor performance in accessing vaccines during COVID-19.

A Conservative government will also restore Canada's reputation in medical isotopes. Canada began regular production of radioisotopes in 1947 and, since then, we have been one of the world's leaders in the development and application of nuclear medicine. But Canada is losing its leadership position in this critical area. Now is the time for the federal government to develop a National Isotope Strategy to solidify our role as a global health care innovation leader and isotope superpower.

National health care advocacy groups and health system experts, including HealthCareCAN, have identified the need for a health workforce planning strategy to both deal with the workforce shortages facing our country and better support the mental health and wellbeing of healthcare workers. Does your party support the implementation of a national health workforce planning strategy and how would your party work with provinces, territories, regulators, and other stakeholders to implement such a strategy?

Canada's Conservatives will meet with the Premiers within the first 100 days of forming government to propose a new health agreement with the provinces and territories that boosts the annual growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer to at least six per cent. This will inject \$60 billion into our health care system over the next 10 years, and give the provinces and territories more funding to hire more health care professionals and the long-term predictable funding they need to plan.

We will also boost the number of personal support workers in Canada's long-term care homes and retirement homes. We will provide priority in immigration programs to those who can work in long-term care or home care and promote these careers through immigration and refugee settlement programs. A Conservative government would immediately launch a Credential Recognition Task Force to develop new, timely and appropriate credential recognition strategies. One area this task force will study is credential pre-qualification - allowing people in other countries to acquire Canadian-standard proficiency through accredited institutions overseas or distance learning with Canadian institutions.