



Newfoundland and Labrador  
New Democratic Party

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Jennifer Collingwood, Executive Director  
Pharmacists' Assn. of NL  
85 Thorburn Rd., Ste. 203  
St. John's, NL A1B 3M2

May 9, 2019

Dear Ms. Collingwood:

Thank you for your questionnaire on issues of concern to PANL. Our responses are below.

**In order to increase immunization rates, improve access for all patients, ease demand on physician offices and decrease hospitalizations resulting from influenza, will your party commit to a universal seasonal flu vaccine program so that residents of Newfoundland and Labrador can access the flu vaccine free of charge through physician offices, public health clinics and pharmacies?**

We are on record in the House of Assembly calling on the government to provide free flu shots in pharmacies. We would financially support this.

**Will your party commit to funding these services universally for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, regardless of whether the assessment occurs in a pharmacy, doctor's office or emergency room?**

We would commit in principal to pharmacists being compensated for assessments of some minor ailments, after an examination, by government and stakeholders, of best practices in Canadian jurisdictions for expanding pharmacists' scope of work. Pharmacists should be fairly compensated for this work.

**Does your party support equity among healthcare providers? Will your party recognize the importance of pharmacists to the health care system by adequately compensating them for health care services similar to other providers, such as compensation for consultation with physicians?**

We would first need to review details of the Family Practice Renewal Program and best practices in other jurisdictions regarding compensation for primary health care team providers.

**Will your party commit to provide funding to support the placement of pharmacists in primary healthcare teams in order to enhance accessible care for the patients of our province?**

Yes.

**Will your party support a compensation structure for public service pharmacists that is on par with the other three Atlantic provinces, as opposed to the measure of market adjustment? Will your party work with public service pharmacists and their representatives to address this issue?**

Yes to both questions. Public service pharmacists should be treated fairly. Their regular salaries should be in line with the rest of Atlantic Canada.

**Will your party fund research and evaluation activities that will determine whether pharmacist delivered services improve health outcomes at a reasonable cost?**

We would encourage the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to undertake such a study.

**Will your party ensure involvement of PANL in discussions and approaches to address any mental health and addictions services and programming gaps? With the introduction of hub and spoke models throughout the province, will your party commit to ensuring that clinical services in these sites are delivered by on-site pharmacists?**

Pharmacists must be involved in discussions about mental health and addictions service gaps. On-site pharmacists would make sense. We would like to know more about pharmacists' concerns regarding the location of pharmacists within the hub and spoke model.

**Will your party commit to consult with PANL in advance of and throughout discussions with the Federal Government and other jurisdictions on national pharmacy-related issues that will have an impact provincially?**

The NDP supports a national pharmacare plan. We would be interested in hearing your concerns about provincial impacts.

**Will your party work with PANL and other stakeholders to ensure the compensation provided to pharmacies adequately reflects the true costs of delivering pharmacy services to patients?**

Yes. Pharmacists should be fairly compensated for their work.

Thank you for your interest in the policies and positions of the NL New Democratic Party.

Sincerely,



Alison Coffin, Leader  
NL New Democratic Party