

## 2021 Provincial Election - PANL Key Messages

- With more than 200 pharmacies throughout the province, pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare providers available to meet the healthcare needs of the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Compared to all other Canadian provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador has the highest health care spending and the worst health outcomes. We believe pharmacists are an untapped resource that will help transform the healthcare system, improve patient outcomes, and decrease expenditures.
- Pharmacists in Newfoundland and Labrador are able to deliver a broader range of services compared to just a few years ago. By providing services such as adapting and renewing prescriptions, prescribing and administering vaccinations, identifying opportunities to deprescribe potentially harmful and unnecessary medications and assessing/prescribing for minor ailments, our pharmacists are doing more for their patients than ever before.
- There is extensive evidence demonstrating that a full scope of pharmacist practice (e.g., pharmacist, assessment and prescribing for acute and chronic conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and urinary tract infections) can improve health outcomes and access to care, reduce pressure on the health care system, and decrease health care costs. For example, a full scope of pharmacist practice could contribute to filling the hypertension care gap, not simply in a cost-effective manner, but in a cost-savings manner. It is estimated that government could realize **\$335 million** in savings with full pharmacist intervention compared with usual care.
- NL needs to transform healthcare delivery by developing new models of primary health care that reflect the expertise, education, and training of all healthcare providers. Action should be taken to ensure pharmacists are included in primary health care reform, as team-based primary care pharmacists - working collaboratively with other healthcare professionals - contribute to optimal prevention and management of disease, rational medication use, and cost-effective care. Furthermore, greater involvement of pharmacists in primary care has been shown to increase health care capacity, enhance the patient experience of care, and improve the experience and satisfaction of other health care providers.
- By reducing hospitalization and emergency room visits and increasing capacity in primary care, pharmacists are the key to a more sustainable health care system. Government support for regulatory changes enabling pharmacists to practice to their full scope would increase the accessibility of health care delivery at a lower cost. Further, changes to the reimbursement model for pharmacist-delivered care and health services—to ensure patients are not required to pay out of pocket—will improve access to care and health outcomes.

### Specific asks:

- If elected, will your party support regulatory changes that enable pharmacists to practice to their full scope?
- If elected, will your party take immediate action to integrate pharmacists into the delivery of publicly funded primary health care in our province?