**Access to Care**

**Elevator Pitch**

I’m pleased to meet you and talk to you about what matters most to me this election. If you’re interested in getting my vote, let’s talk health care. It’s time to put it back on the national agenda. Our health systems are straining to meet the needs of Canadians. I believe that all Canadians should have access to the health care providers they need, when and where they need them. And I believe that more federal resources are needed to support the provinces and territories, providers, patients and caregivers in improving health and health care. I’d like to look at some of the solutions with you and see where you and your party stand.

Let’s focus on how you and your party will bolster a sustainable health workforce that ultimately increases access to care for Canadians.

**Questions**

**The argument:** We’re facing shortages of family physicians, nurse practitioners and medical specialists, which contribute to long wait times and a lack of access to appropriate care for patients.

**The question:** What is your party’s plan to address provider shortages and build a sustainable health workforce?

**The argument:** Almost 5 million Canadians aged 12 and older do not have a health care provider.

**The question:** Does your party commit to increasing funding for innovative primary care models that would open up Canadians’ access to care?

**The argument:** Becoming a medical student and resident is expensive. Then, setting up a practice to care for Canadians comes at a great cost. We need to support, attract and keep physicians where the need is greatest.

**The question:** Would you support extending the Canada Student Loan forgiveness program in areas of need?
Virtual Care

Elevator Pitch

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Let’s focus on the importance of digital health and the potential of virtual care.

Questions

The argument: We’re witnessing digital innovations in how we bank, shop and do our jobs. And, yet, health care delivery in Canada is stuck in the 1960s.

The question: Does your party commit to investing in digital health, connecting all Canadians to the infrastructure and bringing our health care system to 2019 standards?

The argument: Seven out of 10 Canadians would take the opportunity of a virtual care consultation, yet we’re slow to adopt the technology that would make virtual care a reality.

The question: Does your party commit to making virtual care happen?

The argument: Virtual care can lead to significantly better outcomes for patients and physicians, but there are too many barriers blocking its delivery across provincial and territorial boundaries. Virtual visits are not recognized as an insurable health service and physicians can’t practise out of their province.

The question: Does your party commit to creating a national licence for physicians to consult through technology everywhere in Canada?
Seniors Care

Elevator Pitch

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Let’s focus on our aging population.

Questions

The argument: Our population is aging, and our health care systems are falling behind. Seniors care is an urgent issue of national importance. I stand with many Canadians who know that better care for our seniors would result in better care for all Canadians.

The question: Do you and your party support developing, funding and delivering a national seniors strategy?

The argument: Caregivers are at the core of providing and improving care for seniors, but they’re increasingly burdened by out-of-pocket health care expenses. Canadians had to spend over $9 billion to care for their loved ones last year. Imagine a new Seniors’ Care Benefits program, much like the existing Child Care Benefit program.

The question: Do you and your party commit to providing financial support to seniors and their caregivers? To what extent?

The argument: Our health care systems and funding mechanisms were designed more than a half-century ago, to meet the needs of a much younger population. In the face of an aging population, we should be looking at a model like the Demographic Top-Up to the Canada Health Transfer to free up hospital beds, build better community care models and ensure all seniors get the best care possible.

The question: Do you support providing extra funding to provinces and territories based on the size of their aging population?