

BRIEFING: HEALTHCARE POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

For Green Party Candidates - April 8, 2025

TODAY'S POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

Today, the Green Party is announcing our plan to protect and expand universal healthcare:

- **Strengthening and expanding universal public healthcare** to ensure every Canadian has access to comprehensive health services
- Bringing mental health, dental care, and pharmacare fully into our public healthcare system
- Addressing healthcare worker shortages while protecting healthcare from privatization

HOW THE HEALTHCARE EXPANSION WORKS

Our plan achieves comprehensive healthcare through a strengthened public system that:

- Enforces and enhances the Canada Health Act, ensuring all new federal health funding goes exclusively to public, not-for-profit services
- Introduces a new Primary Care Health Act guaranteeing every Canadian access to a family doctor, nurse practitioner, or community health team
- Fully integrates mental health services as an insured benefit under Medicare
- Implements Universal Pharmacare and expands the Canadian Dental Care Plan to all eligible Canadians
- Makes significant investments in healthcare worker compensation and training.

KEY MESSAGING POINTS

1. ADDRESSING CANADA'S HEALTHCARE CRISIS

- Canada's healthcare system is experiencing unprecedented strain with millions of Canadians lacking access to primary care
- Healthcare workers are facing burnout and leaving the profession in record numbers
- For-profit healthcare is expanding rapidly, threatening the foundation of our public system and creating two-tier access
- Mental health services remain inaccessible to many Canadians due to cost barriers
- Rising medication costs are forcing Canadians to choose between filling prescriptions and paying for necessities

2. TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT FOR CANADIANS

- Every Canadian will have access to a family doctor or primary care provider, reducing wait times and improving preventive care
- Mental health treatment will become as accessible as physical health services, with therapy and clinical counseling covered under Medicare
- No Canadian will have to choose between paying for medication and other necessities
- Healthcare workers will receive fair compensation and improved working conditions

3. DIRECT SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

- Rural and remote communities will receive guaranteed equitable funding for healthcare services and facilities
- Mobile health clinics and telemedicine will expand to serve underserved areas
- Community-based mental health services will receive dedicated, stable funding

- Indigenous-led health services will expand with permanent funding for land-based healing programs
- Culturally appropriate and inclusive care will be mandated for all populations

CANDIDATE TALKING POINTS

On Universal Healthcare: "Canadians cherish our public healthcare system, but it's being threatened by privatization and neglect. Our plan strengthens the foundation of Medicare while expanding it to include mental health, pharmacare, and dental care. We will ensure that your health card, not your credit card, determines the care you receive."

On Mental Health Integration: "Mental health is health, period. For too long, Canadians have faced enormous barriers to accessing mental healthcare. Our plan fully integrates mental health services into Medicare, ensuring that clinical counseling and therapy are as accessible as treatment for physical conditions."

On Healthcare Workers: "At the heart of our healthcare system are the dedicated professionals who care for us. We would make significant investments in fair compensation and training for healthcare workers across all disciplines. We would also help reduce roadblocks for healthcare workers trained outside of Canada to obtain their credentials in Canada. By valuing these essential workers, we ensure quality care for all Canadians."

On Rural Healthcare: "Every Canadian deserves quality healthcare regardless of where they live. Our plan ensures equitable funding for rural and remote healthcare services, expands telemedicine, and creates mobile clinics to reach underserved areas. No community will be left behind."

On Response to Critics: "Some will say these changes are too ambitious, but Canadians cannot afford half-measures when our healthcare system is in distress. Comprehensive public healthcare delivers better outcomes at lower costs. This isn't aspirational—it's the responsible path forward."