



Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) Election Questionnaire

- 1. Each year over 11 million Canadians suffer from musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions, which is having a devastating impact on our health and the economy. This number is projected to be more than 15 million by 2031, and will disproportionately affect Canada's aging population. Will your party recognize MSK health as an important health issue and will you commit to working with CCA following the election to address this growing concern?**

We are strongly committed to supporting health research and to ensuring that research gets translated to those who can benefit most from it including clinicians, patients, and their families. That's why we invest over \$1.1 billion annually towards health research through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, with an additional \$350 million committed in Budget 2018.

We will continue to work with all our partners, including the provinces and territories who are responsible for the provision of health services, to support advances in care and treatment for musculoskeletal health.

- 2. Canada is currently facing an opioid crisis, which has been acknowledged by all political parties. Does your party believe that improving Canada's approach to pain management, including increasing access to evidence-based alternative care options such as chiropractic care, is part of the solution in addressing this crisis?**

In April 2019, we announced the creation of the Canadian Pain Task Force to help Health Canada better understand and address the barriers that may prevent people with chronic pain from receiving the health services they need. Through the work of the Task Force, Health Canada aims to promote greater understanding and awareness of the issues related to chronic pain prevention and management.

We are currently reviewing the Task Force's assessment of the current state of chronic pain in Canada which was submitted to us in June 2019. This first report describes current approaches to pain care, education, policy and research across the country.

The next phase of the Task Force's work will involve hearing directly from Canadians who live with and care about pain. Their input will be used to guide a path forward to better prevent, and manage pain in Canada. The second report of the Task Force will be submitted to Health Canada in June 2020.

In the meantime, we are investing close to \$3 million to support improvements to pain-related training for physicians, nurses, pharmacies and social workers across Canada. We will continue to work with stakeholders across the country to take action in key areas: ensuring the perspectives of people living with pain are reflected in our response to the opioid overdose crisis; funding pain-related education programs for health professionals through Health Canada's Substance Use and





Addictions Program; and investing in pain research and knowledge mobilization through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

A re-elected Liberal government will also take additional measures to fight the opioid crisis, including investing an additional \$700 million to ensure that more Canadians get faster access to treatment. As part of this work, we will work with stakeholders, experts and provinces and territories to help scale up evidence-based measures that have the greatest impact.

3. While many regulated healthcare professions can be assessors for the Disability Tax Credit, such as physiotherapists and psychologists, chiropractors cannot, despite being able to for similar provincial programs. Would your party commit to enacting legislation which would add chiropractors to the list of assessors for the Disability Tax Credit?

Our Government's priority is to ensure that all Canadians, including those living with disabilities, receive the credits and benefit to which they are entitled. We recognize that living with a disability can have a significant impact on the lives of those affected and their loved ones. That is why our Government has put in place measures to make the disability tax credit more accessible by, for example, reducing the complexity of the form and amending the Income Tax Act to permit nurse practitioners to certify the forms of their patients. Additionally, in November 2017, our government reinstated the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC), which was abolished under the Harper Conservatives in 2006.

With the return of the DAC, the Agency now benefits from a formal consultation framework. In the Spring of 2019, the Committee published its first annual report, which included recommendations on how the Canada Revenue Agency can improve the administration of the DTC as well as provide better service to persons with disabilities. Our Government continually looks at the tax system to ensure it is fair, effective, and benefits the middle class, and we will take the DAC's report into account if re-elected. With that in mind we also welcome your ideas and suggestions moving forward.

4. Canadian Armed Forces members currently have restricted access to chiropractors, despite having double the musculoskeletal conditions than the general Canadian population. Would your party commit to increasing the accessibility of chiropractors for Canadian Armed Forces members?

Our government is committed to ensuring that members of the Canadian Armed Forces and our veterans have access to the healthcare services they need. The Canadian Armed Forces is currently working with the Canadian Chiropractic Association through a research study to identify the benefits of improved access to chiropractic care. The second phase of the project is now underway and we welcome ongoing collaboration with your organization on this issue.