

Resolution: Reclaiming and Sustaining Canada's Healthcare
(Prioritized at 2018 Halifax Convention moved by Senior Liberals' Commission, LPC(BC))

WHEREAS: in 2014, over 4 million Canadians had no family doctor; waitlists for specialists and surgical procedures are among the highest they have ever been, with significant regional disparities, including for rural areas and indigenous peoples; in 2017, the International Commonwealth Fund ranked Canada's healthcare ninth among eleven high-income countries; the Federal Government commissioned the Advisory Panel on Health Care Innovation, (2015) chaired by Dr. David Naylor, to identify "*areas of innovation that have potential to sustainably reduce growth in health spending while leading to improvements in the quality and accessibility of care*"; the panel reported Canadian healthcare "*in crisis*", and identified numerous areas for systemic improvement; in 2017 a majority of senior Registered Liberals identified an urgent need for:

- *better access to family doctors and healthcare services*
- *reduced wait times for specialists and medical procedures*
- *innovation for service delivery efficiency and cost reduction;*

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to:

accept the Naylor Report's recommendations to lead systemic reform of healthcare; in cooperation with provinces, territories, and professional organizations, identify and implement methods to:

- provide every Canadian access to family physician supervised primary care
- eliminate wait times to access specialists and surgical procedures, that adversely affect Canadian's health
- foster continuing innovation to reduce costs, enhance efficiency and ensure consistent health care delivery throughout Canada;
- report regularly to Canadians on progress toward achieving the above improvements including data based on patient-derived metrics.

Why Healthcare Reform Matters for the 2019 Federal Election

Why Healthcare?

- Healthcare is consistently *a top concern for Canadians* (note recent provincial elections).
- Healthcare underpins the economy.
- Healthcare is a major budget concern.

Why Now?

- Canadians have demanded healthcare reform from all levels of government for decades.
- Hindered by the jurisdictional issue, that urgent need has reached a crisis point.
- Healthcare infrastructure cracks will deepen as an aging population needs more chronic care.

Why "Reform"?

- Canada's healthcare system was designed in the 1950s-60s.
- Rapid demographic changes have created different needs.
- New treatments have expanded the range of care types.
- ***Other jurisdictions deliver equivalent or better care at lower cost!***

How to Reform? *

- Peer countries have shown the efficacy of a culture of continuous improvement, based on 3 pillars: ***Patient-centered Care, Home Care and Team Care.***
- Such programs require collaboration between delivery systems and a cooperative leadership that sets

goals and promotes the process. Patient-derived measurements of progress are key.

The Payback for Canadians

- Better access to healthcare for all.
- Lower healthcare costs (per capita).
- Lower employee absenteeism for employers.
- Growth in a strong (recession-proof) economic sector, with a potential for export of key technologies.
- The social benefits of not only a just, but also an inclusive society, whose healthcare is as universal as its education system.

The Election Value

- All Canadians care about healthcare, and know the system needs re-engineering.
- Healthcare reform can be a winning issue across the country.
- Unlike carbon tax and pipelines, all Canadians can agree on, support, and vote for healthcare reform.

Proposed 2019 Federal Liberal Platform – Universal & Accessible 21st Century Healthcare

We will move towards a 21st century vision of care that places the patient first and foremost; makes Canadian healthcare both universal and accessible; and gives every Canadian a guarantee of access and medically safe wait times by 202?.

An arms-length oversight body, similar to CRTC for communications, will provide this federal leadership. It will define, track, and publicize national standards for access and wait times.

Canada's publicly-funded universal healthcare system is a source of pride for Canadians – and a source of economic security for the middle class and those working hard to join it. When Canadians are in good physical and mental health, they are able to work better, be more productive, and contribute more fully to our economy while living healthier, happier lives. Universal and accessible healthcare is vital to a strong economy.

Canadians are proud to have a *universal* system, but it is not as *accessible* to all Canadians as it needs to be, in particular for initial access to a doctor or care team, wait times to see specialists, and for medical procedures.

In this year of the federal Department of Health's 100th anniversary, we will continue our pan-Canadian collaboration, assisting provincial and territorial improvements by investing in state-of-the-art technologies that apply innovation and achieve cost efficiency. By 20??, we will give all Canadians a *Healthcare Guarantee* for access and wait times that meet the new national standards and restore Canada as a leader in universal healthcare.

The Department of Health, working alongside the newly formed Seniors Ministry, will meet growing and unique eldercare demands on the system, especially with regard to home care for chronic conditions.

Healthcare and the economy go hand in hand. Canada will build its future on a strengthening foundation of the health and well-being of all its people. We will keep a national focus on a 21st century healthcare vision whose top priority is first and foremost the patient.

Universality + accessibility = 21st century Canadian healthcare

* Draft Background Research Paper to support the resolution **Reclaiming and Sustaining Canada's Healthcare** – available (password SLCBCEXec) at www.federalslcbc.ca/documents; email comments to ca.hcreform@gmail.com.