



**Submission to
Alzheimer Society of
Manitoba**

April 5, 2016

1. Issue: Community Based Health Services

Question:

What is your party's plan for improving care and services to community dwelling people with dementia and their family care partners?

Seniors in Manitoba deserve to remain in their homes for as long as possible. With a rapidly aging population, initiatives to properly care for the health needs of older adults are necessary. A new Progressive Conservative government will partner with and support community groups which provide home supports for seniors which allows seniors to remain in their homes for as long as it is safe to do so.

We have an opportunity and responsibility to look for new innovative models with supervised living projects and other group living projects. We will also review if any progress has been made since the July 2015 report by the Auditor General where he slammed the Selinger NDP for its' poor management of the Home care system. He said it was plagued by inefficiencies and inconsistent services.

He also said there was a lack of strategic planning and direction. We must ensure that these issues are addressed if we hope to be able to support seniors living longer in their communities. We also need to address the critical shortage of staff working in Home Care.

2. Issue: Health Workforce

Question:

What is your party's plan to ensure that people with dementia, whether they are living in the community, supportive housing or long-term care settings or being cared for in acute care are cared for by a workforce that is knowledgeable, compassionate and person-centred?

A new Progressive Conservative government believes those who are caring for people with dementia should have the proper training. That programing can be accomplished through continuing education programs but also needs to have a bigger focus in the professional education programs.

A patient centred health care system is what we should strive for as it is the best way to meet the needs of those we care for.

3. Need for Additional Personal Care Homes

Question:

Given the current pressure that the lack of adequate long term care spaces is placing on acute care services and the projected need for additional long term care services, what is your parties' plan for addressing this pressing need? Is your party committed to developing personal care homes that incorporate best practices in built environments and models of care that promote quality of life through person-centered care?

The Progressive Conservative party is committed to building 1,200 PCH beds. That many beds will not happen overnight, it will take several years to complete them all. We are committed to working with communities to build these PCH beds, so that communities can have a say. Best practices and innovative models of care will be looked at when constructing these beds.

Under the NDP only 20 PCH beds were built each year on average. In the 1990's the Progressive Conservative's built 90 PCH beds on average each year. The NDP have dropped the ball when it comes to the construction of PCH beds.

4. Issue: Funding of Personal Care Home Infrastructure and Services

Question:

In light of the financial challenges facing PCH providers, please tell us the strategies your party is planning to address funding of personal care home infrastructure and services.

The funding of supplies and capital allocations is outdated and we will work with the PCHs to determine what can be done to address this challenge.

5. Issue: Information about the Health Services and System Navigation

Question:

What communication and education strategies has your party considered to meet the information needs of Manitobans so that they can be better informed about options and how to access and navigate the health care system?

We know it is a tough time for families who have reached the stage where they have to figure out elder care options. We have already begun to study what other provinces are doing to address this. A new Progressive Conservative government will work directly with families and other stakeholders to assess what Manitoba should have in place to ease this burden.

6. Issue: Supportive Housing

Question:

Is your party prepared to review the current availability of supportive housing and to prepare a plan for establishing supportive housing in more rural communities?

Yes.

Question:

What plans does your party have to look at creative ways to ensure Supportive Housing is affordable, especially for couples. For example: increasing the number of subsidies, and/or rent geared to income supportive housing spaces; looking at challenges couples face, covering pharmacare for Supportive Housing clients (as is done in Personal Care Homes).

Supporting couples to stay together is important. A new Progressive Conservative government will review this issue once we have access to adequate departmental information so that we can make an informed decision with all the information before us.