



COMMUNIST PARTY of ALBERTA

1. What is your party's commitment to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Coverage for Seniors Benefit?

We have not specifically addressed this benefit in our platform, but our overall approach is to improve medicare coverage for all ages, to include prescriptions, dental care, and all other necessary medical care including preventive health care, physiotherapy, etc. We would quickly transition to fully funded public services that would not have to distinguish special programs by age group.

2. What are your party's plans to improve access to safe and affordable revenue-neutral, assisted-living facilities?

Within the general context of ensuring affordable housing for all, our platform includes several relevant points i.e. "Build new, publicly owned, not-for-profit, quality senior's, mental health and long term care facilities;" "Increase support for home care." and "Provide better social support for people with disabilities to remain in their homes;"

3. What are your party's plans to enhance the availability of resources to provide health care for seniors in Alberta? (i.e., geriatricians, virtual care)

We haven't laid out the details, but we are committed to an overall infusion of funds and expansion of services for all ages, including training and hiring staff of relevant medical professions.

4. How would you make ageing in place and/or Home Care a more accessible and viable solution for our senior population?

See the quoted points under question # 2 above.

5. How do you ensure the federal money provided for health care is used to improve publicly accessible health and not to benefit private health care?

The Communist Party is committed to an entirely public health care system and the elimination of for-profit agencies.

6. Specify essential programs and identify the funding your party will put in place to support all seniors in Alberta.

We haven't projected dollar amounts in specific programs, but we are committed to ensuring that corporations pay fair taxes and royalties, and using the resulting infusion of income to develop the economy, provide full employment and improve social services and living standards, including pensions.

7. What is your party's position to ensure that there are appropriate programs (tax and wellness initiatives) in place for seniors so they can continue to maintain an active and affordable lifestyle in retirement?

We intend to improve health care, including preventative services and social services and amenities for all ages, and to be provided as public services at low or not cost. We also include better and more predictable funding for municipalities to provide services and amenities tailored to their local conditions.

8. With an ever-changing and growing senior demographic, how does your party view the role of the Alberta Office of the Seniors' Advocate now, and how do you see it evolving to meet the needs of seniors in Alberta in the future?

Being committed to sweeping changes in our economy and the transfer of wealth from corporations to citizens, we see the need for much greater involvement of democratic and community groups in the process of consultation and in active involvement in development government policies and programmes. As such, we expect seniors' organizations to play a bigger role in speaking directly in their own behalf and to develop government and community organs of support and protection for seniors, rather than putting more responsibility on a specific government office.

9. Would your government use Section 19 of the AIMCo Act to direct AIMCo to make certain types of investments using Teachers' pension plan assets?

We haven't adopted policies referring specifically to the administration of existing pension plans, we are focussed on ensuring that all wages and pensions ensure a liveable income for all Albertans. But as with the answer to #8 above, we envisage more intensive consultation with seniors and with the Teachers union to adopt policies to that end.

10. Would your government support clients of AIMCo, including ATRF, having the option to choose asset managers other than AIMCo?

See answer to question 9

11. Do you support the transition of Albertans contributing to an Alberta Pension Plan (APP) versus the current Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) and if so, why?

We will strongly campaign against an Alberta Pension Plan. We see the proposal as nothing more than an attempt by demagogic politicians to redirect attention from their own incompetence by blaming the federal government, and, even more serious, to foment regional hatreds and mistrust, which can only be disastrous to Canadians in all regions.

Our successive conservative provincial governments have fiddled with the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, leaving it stalled at about 18 billion. Meanwhile Norway has amassed a fund of over a TRILLION dollars in a shorter period of time. The current Alberta administration has given abundant evidence that they should not be trusted with our pensions!

12. Does your party have any other policy positions that you feel would be of interest to Alberta seniors?

Our overall approach is to involve the working people of Alberta, including the retired people, in significantly restructuring the economy away from one-sided dependence on fossil fuel extraction, towards a greener economy which would be more prosperous, more sustainable, and provide a better quality of life for all Albertans. Such a program could only be carried out by public institutions with public ownership, and such a transition could only succeed if it has broad public support, with much more engagement by grassroots organizations in the development of policies and programmes than now exists. Seniors as a group are disproportionately well-placed to take on this role, by virtue of life experience and being able to take on ambitious roles in retirement. We look forward to seeing the organizations of the retired playing a constructive leadership role in a people's government.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your questions. Please take a look at our platform at <https://communistparty-alberta.ca/progamme.html> and I think you will find that every point will contribute to the security and quality of life of seniors in Alberta.