



Alberta's NDP Response to Questions Posed by the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

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

Seniors built this province and Rachel Notley and the NDP believe that they should not have to choose between buying groceries and paying for their prescriptions. That is why, if reelected Rachel Notley will not only ensure the long-term sustainability of the Coverage for Seniors Benefit, she will also ensure that seniors with incomes under \$75,000 a year will have full coverage for drugs, eliminating some copayments, helping 80% of seniors. The average senior will save \$200 a year.

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

The seniors who built this province deserve to have a safe and affordable place to call home. Rachel Notley committed and achieved the construction of 2,000 new long term care and dementia beds in the last four years. Plus after decades of neglect by conservative governments, Rachel Notley and the NDP invested \$1.2 billion in affordable housing, repairing and building over 4,700 homes for seniors and Alberta families. If re-elected, Rachel Notley and the NDP will keep investing in badly needed affordable housing. She will also keep investing in long term care and dementia care beds, building an additional 2,000 spaces in the next four years.

3. How would you make ageing in place and/or Home are a more viable solution and option for our senior population?

As hard-working Albertans age, they deserve a government that supports them. Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP have made seniors a priority. In Budget 2018 alone, Rachel Notley and the NDP government invested \$691 million for home and community care to allow more Albertans, including those with complex needs like dementia, to stay in their homes. We increased funding for homecare by 27% over the last four years.

Over the last four years, we have also implemented the Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program to help seniors stay in their homes longer by making them more accessible. We created the Aging Well program, supporting initiatives to keep seniors in their homes and engaged in their communities so they can remain close to family and friends. If re-elected, Rachel Notley will create a pilot of mobile teams

who have the mandate to go to seniors' centres and drop-ins to assist seniors in accessing the services they need, making sure they are aware of eligibility for programs and helping them complete applications. Rachel Notley will keep fighting to make life better for Alberta seniors.

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

Seniors deserve a Premier that will fight for them and make them a priority. Over the last four years, Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP have taken action to protect pensions, help seniors remain in their homes and ensure they get the care they need. Starting January 1st, 2019, Rachel Notley and the NDP government made sure the Alberta Seniors Benefit will increase with inflation from now on.

If re-elected, Rachel Notley will continue to make seniors a priority. We will save the average senior \$200 a year by removing all prescription drug co-payments for seniors who earn less than \$75,000 a year. We will keep investing in new long-term care and dementia care beds and in affordable housing for seniors. We will pilot mobile teams who will provide seniors with access to provincial programs in seniors' centers and drop-ins.

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

Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP believe one of the most important things a government can do is deliver high-quality public health care when Albertans need it.

Over the last four years, the NDP government has made investing in health care a priority. We are investing in our hospitals, including building the Calgary Cancer Centre, a new hospital in Edmonton and the Red Deer hospital expansion. The investments we've made over the last 4 years, have added 1,200 doctors and 1,200 nurses to our healthcare system. We reversed the previous government's plan to charge Albertans a healthcare premium and we've cut wait times for breast cancer surgeries, stroke treatment centres and radiation therapy.

If re-elected Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP will continue to provide stable health care funding while containing administrative and managerial costs. We will lower wait times in emergency rooms and for cataract, heart and cancer surgeries. We will build 2,000 new long-term care and dementia care beds. Rachel Notley will make sure our loved ones get the health care they need.

6. 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?

Rachel Notley and the NDP have been fighting to make life affordable for Albertans. Over the last four years, the NDP government capped electricity rates to make sure families are not being gouged by power companies. We banned door-to-door sales that coerced Albertans into signing bad contracts. We introduced energy efficiency programs to help Albertans save on their utility bills.

In order to make life affordable for Alberta seniors, Rachel Notley and the NDP government increased the Alberta Seniors Benefit and indexed it to inflation, so it will go up with the cost of living. Through the Special Needs Assistance program, we are also providing support for Alberta seniors for housekeeping, nutritional beverages and podiatry. This will help seniors save money and stay in their homes. We worked with the cities of Edmonton and Calgary to provide support for the low-income transit pass. This pass provides a subsidised bus pass for low income Albertans to maintain an active and affordable lifestyle as they age.

Instead of Jason Kenney's plan to provide a \$4.5 billion tax break to the wealthiest corporation, Rachel Notley's plan will save the average senior \$200 on their prescriptions, continue to invest in healthcare and build affordable seniors homes and long-term care beds. Rachel Notley will keep fighting for Alberta seniors.

7. What does your party see as the role of the Alberta Office of the Seniors' Advocate?

Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP were proud to appoint the province's first seniors advocate. We believe that the seniors advocate plays a critical role working with seniors to resolve a wide variety of issues they face. We also appreciate the advice we receive from the Seniors Advocate on trends and systemic issues that concerns Alberta seniors and their family. Going forward, we will continue to work with the Seniors' advocate to help seniors navigate provincial programs and tackle issues such as elder abuse and ageism.

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

Seniors built this province and they deserve a government that fights for them as they age. Rachel Notley and the NDP have prioritized supporting seniors in the last four years, providing almost \$3 billion a year in services and supports. We've implemented the Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair program so that seniors can stay in their homes and communities. We've enhanced the Special Needs Assistance program to better support seniors with low income who need to travel great distances from remote and rural communities for medical appointments.

The NDP government has been committed to hearing directly from seniors and we implemented mechanism like the Seniors Advisory Forum so that we understand the needs of an aging population. If re-elected we will kept fighting for seniors.