



United Conservative Party 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?

United Conservatives believe seniors should be the most cherished citizens in any community, having served their families, friends and co-workers for a lifetime, and having built Alberta into what it is today. The United Conservatives will maintain all existing benefits for seniors.

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

United Conservatives believe that affordable housing, including specialized housing for seniors, is a critical issue for so many Albertans.

A United Conservative government would ensure that red tape and regulatory burdens for home builders are reduced so the costs of new construction decrease. We would also ensure that local municipal bylaws and rules provide flexible and affordable housing options for seniors, including unrelated seniors who want to live together and support each other in a single dwelling, as provided for in Ontario's "Golden Girls" Act.

A United Conservative government will restore the Alberta Supportive Living Initiative, which uses non-profit and independent providers. It produced the vast majority of the beds built since 2015, and at a considerably lower cost. The boomer generation will be increasing demand for safe and affordable care facilities and we cannot let ideology get in the way of effective delivery.

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

A United Conservative government believes part of the strategy for meeting the demographic shift has to be a focus on strategies to increase the viability of home care. We would expand the use of mixed housing that enables people, including seniors, to continue to reside in their communities, including allowing for the creation of innovative community options such as multi-resident personal care homes (PCHs).

A United Conservative government would also terminate the inefficient NDP Building Communities of Care grant program and restore the Alberta Supportive Living Initiative (ASLI) to build more community care facilities without undue expense.

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

A United Conservative government will maintain all existing seniors benefits. A United Conservative government will also preserve essential public services that seniors depend upon. Our Health Care Guarantee will maintain or increase healthcare spending over four years, and we will commission an audit of Alberta Health Services (AHS) to ensure efficiencies in administration do enable us to deliver more front-line services within existing budgets. Further, a United Conservative government will pursue affordable housing options so that seniors can stay in their communities.

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

A United Conservative government will maintain or increase healthcare spending over four years. A United Conservative government has committed to pursuing an audit of AHS to find efficiencies in administration so that more resources can be directed to front-line services. We are committed to ensuring that health care spending, as much as possible, is directed towards front-line services rather than layers of bureaucracy.

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?

A United Conservative government would seek to make life better for all Albertans. We will maintain all existing seniors' benefits.

Further, a United Conservative government will seek to ensure Albertans keep more of their own money in their pockets: Bill 1 of a United Conservative government would be the Carbon Tax Repeal Act, to eliminate the NDP's carbon tax, which has decreased the disposable income of seniors.

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

The United Conservative government is committed to ensuring that Alberta seniors get fair treatment from the government and of course that their care facilities meet all service standards. The Advocate can assist the government and seniors in meeting these commitments, as well as aggregate-level reporting.

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

A United Conservative government would seek to get Albertans back to work, make life better for all Albertans, and stand up for Alberta within the Canadian federation. We will protect quality health care services and ensure Alberta again prospers economically, so that the work seniors have done to build this province can be passed down to future generations.