



CAND Election Guide

When will the next election be held? The 2019 federal election will be held on October 21, 2019. Until then, there is no better time to connect with the candidates, in their local campaign offices, to articulate and advance your objectives for the next parliament.

Why engage now? Wouldn't it be better to wait until the results for this election are announced?

Platform commitments outline the priorities of each party in broad strokes. Campaigns are highly volatile periods for each party's electoral fortunes, and as the campaign progresses, they will consider additional policy announcements in order to firm up support with key stakeholders and constituents.

Who will have the most influence for public policy? It is best to approach this question from whom we can predict will have the most decision-making power within parliament. There is a consensus among most political strategists that we can anticipate a minority government – either Liberal or Conservative – once all the votes are counted. If you can only meet with one or two candidates in the weeks ahead, you should reach out to these parties first. Ideally, however, you'll be able to meet with an NDP or Green candidate as well, given that these parties will play pivotal roles in holding the balance of power in a minority parliament. **You can find the candidates for your local riding at elections.ca.**

What issues should I be talking to candidates about? Key messages and candidate questions are included as part of CAND's election preparedness materials. There are core issues affecting naturopathic medicine that CAND has identified as policy priorities:

1. Appropriate prescribing authorities
2. Authorizing cannabis for medical use
3. Naturopathic care as an insured health service option for veterans and Indigenous populations

How can I most effectively engage with each party, given this opportunity? Guided by the messages and questions in the CAND leave behind, there are many ways to raise the issues important to naturopathic doctors and ask about a party's policy positions:

- Send a letter to candidates and include the prepared leave behind
- Attend an all-candidates' debate to ask a question
- Engage with a candidate or their team when they come knocking-on your door by asking about their party's position and sharing the leave behind
- Seek a meeting with individual candidates to talk about naturopathic medicine and CAND's policy proposals
- Attend other community events to meet candidates and campaign teams
- Share your views using traditional and social media



What do the individual parties stand for with healthcare? With each party now announcing their respective visions, we now know, in broad terms, what their vision for healthcare in Canada will be, if elected:

Liberal

- Ensuring that every Canadian can easily find a family doctor or primary care team.
- Setting clear national standards for access to mental health services so Canadians can get the support they need quickly, when they need it most.
- Continuing to make home care and palliative care more available to those who need it.
- Implementing universal pharmacare, so that all Canadians have the drug coverage they need at an affordable price.
- Establishing the Canada Drug Agency to make drug purchasing more effective and efficient, and implementing a national formulary with partners to set prices.
- Bringing down the cost of lifesaving high-cost drugs for families through the Rare Disease Drug Strategy.

Green Party

- End drinking water and boil water advisories by investing and upgrading critical infrastructure to ensure safe water access in every community.
- Prioritize high quality safe and affordable housing, particularly in the north, and ensure an equitable distribution of resources for energy efficiency retrofits.
- Improve food security in northern communities by consulting with residents on Arctic farming, working with non-profit groups to build greenhouses or hydroponic towers and funding education programs in nutrition and horticulture.
- Support health-care services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders.
- Together with First Ministers and Indigenous

leaders, revisit the *Blueprint on Aboriginal Health: A 10-Year Transformative Plan* abandoned in 2006.

- Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, mental health services and treatment for diabetes and tuberculosis.
- Sustain the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to continue capacity building in the health care profession for Indigenous communities.

Conservative

- Increasing health transfer payments by at least three per cent every year.
- Upholding other parts of the health accord.
- Not moving forward on a universal, national pharmacare program - will focus on those not covered provincially or through employee benefits.
- Committing \$1.5 billion to buy more MRI and CT machines in order to tackle wait times.

NDP

- Expanding medicare to include mental health, dental, eye and hearing coverage, fertility treatments.
- Proposing a “pharmacare for all” plan, including all Health Canada-approved drugs, by late 2020. It would cost an estimated \$10 billion annually.
- Affirming that they oppose any privatization of healthcare in Canada.
- Create a plan to recruit and retain doctors, nurses and other health professionals.
- Ensure equal access to abortion; develop national strategies for seniors, autism and suicide; declare the opioid epidemic a public health emergency and make investments in health care infrastructure in Indigenous communities.