

Federal Election Toolkit



BC's Naturopathic Doctors

www.bcnd.ca



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2025 Federal Election

Canada is undergoing a significant political transition following the resignation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January 2025. Subsequently, Mark Carney, former Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, was elected leader of the Liberal Party and appointed as the new Prime Minister. On March 23, 2025, just nine days after being sworn in, Carney triggered a federal election. Canadians are now set to head to the polls on **April 28, 2025**.

This leadership change occurs amidst escalating trade tensions with the United States, marked by the U.S. administration's imposition of tariffs on Canadian goods, prompting reciprocal measures from Canada. These developments have strained the historically robust U.S.-Canada relationship, raising concerns about economic stability and national sovereignty.

The healthcare sector, including naturopathic doctors operating in the private sector, may face challenges due to potential disruptions in the supply chain for medical supplies and equipment, leading to increased costs and operational complexities.

Given these circumstances, it is crucial for naturopathic doctors and other healthcare professionals to engage actively in the federal electoral process. Federal policies significantly influence provincial matters, and decisions made at the national level can directly impact healthcare delivery in British Columbia. By participating in the democratic process, NDs can advocate for policies that support their practice and the well-being of their patients.

Key Considerations:

1. **Political Transition:** Understanding the implications of new leadership on healthcare policies and funding.
2. **Trade Relations:** Assessing how international trade tensions may affect the availability and cost of medical supplies essential to naturopathic practices.
3. **Federal Engagement:** Recognizing the importance of federal elections in shaping policies that impact provincial healthcare systems and the practice environment for NDs.

By staying informed and involved, naturopathic doctors can help shape a healthcare landscape that supports their profession and meets the needs of their communities.



Federal and Provincial Roles in Canada's Healthcare System

In Canada, healthcare is primarily administered by provincial and territorial governments, as outlined in the Constitution Act of 1867. Each province and territory is responsible for the management, organization, and delivery of health services to its residents. The federal government, while not directly overseeing healthcare delivery, plays a significant role through funding mechanisms like the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and by establishing national standards via the Canada Health Act.

The Canada Health Act sets out the criteria and conditions that provincial and territorial health insurance programs must meet to receive full federal funding. These include principles such as public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility. By adhering to these principles, provinces and territories ensure that all eligible residents have reasonable access to insured health services without direct charges at the point of service.

Recent collaborative efforts between federal and provincial governments have led to initiatives like the pharmacare agreement signed on March 6, 2025, between the Government of Canada and British Columbia. This four-year, \$670 million agreement aims to provide universal access to contraceptives and diabetes medications for residents of British Columbia, demonstrating how federal funding can support provincial healthcare initiatives.

Given the shared responsibilities in healthcare, it's crucial to consider both federal and provincial perspectives when discussing healthcare policies. While provinces manage the delivery of health services, the federal government

influences healthcare through funding, legislation, and national initiatives. This dual framework requires continuous collaboration to ensure that healthcare policies effectively address the needs of all Canadians.

Are you registered to vote?

To vote in a federal election you must be at least 18 years of age and a Citizen of Canada. Elections Canada is great resource to check to see if you are registered and/or to register to vote.

[Check out Elections Canada.](#)

Important Dates

Date	Event / Action	Details
March 23	Elections Canada offices open	Vote early at any Elections Canada office until April 22, 6 p.m. Find your nearest office online.
April 9	Candidate list available	Use the Voter Information Service to find candidates running in your riding.
April 11	Voter registration updates	If you didn't receive your voter information card or need to update your info, use the Online Voter Registration Service or call Elections Canada.
April 13–16	Vote on Campus	Available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at participating campuses.
April 14	Federal election guide mailed	Guide to the federal election sent to all households. Contains all the information you need to vote.
April 14–19	Military voting	Canadian Armed Forces electors can vote at the military poll set up for their base or unit.
April 16	Voting in correctional facilities	Incarcerated electors can vote at the place where they are serving their sentence.
April 18–21	Advance voting	Advance polling stations open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Check your voter information card or Voter Information Service for your polling station.
April 20–22	Special ballot voting in hospitals	Special ballot voting is available in acute care facilities such as hospitals.
April 22 (6 p.m.)	Deadline to vote by special ballot at Elections Canada offices	Last chance to vote by special ballot at local Elections Canada offices.
April 22	Deadline to apply to vote by mail	Apply to vote by mail. You will vote using the special ballot process.
April 22	Deadline to request sign language interpretation services	Fill out the online form or call Elections Canada to request interpretation services.

April 28	Election Day	Bring accepted ID. Register at your polling station if needed. Mobile polls serve long-term care facilities and seniors' residences (times vary).
After April 28	Validation of election results	Returning officers validate results within two to three days. Results are posted online.

Your Electoral District & Candidates

The [Voter Information Service](#) (VIS) is an online tool provided by Elections Canada that allows you to access detailed information about your electoral district. By entering your postal code, you can find:

- **Electoral District Details:** Information about your current and future electoral districts, including maps and profiles.
- **Polling Locations:** During elections, VIS provides the locations of your advance and election day polling stations.
- **Candidates:** Access the list of candidates running in your district during an election period.
- **Election Results:** View results from past elections in your district.
- **Local Elections Canada Office:** Find the address and contact information for your local Elections Canada office.

Please note that due to the decennial redistribution process completed in 2023, the boundaries and names of many electoral districts have changed.

For more information and to access the Voter Information Service, visit the [Elections Canada website](#).

Where and How to Vote

On election day, Canadians can cast their vote at their assigned polling stations. For those unable to vote on election day, alternative options include advance polling, early voting at Elections Canada offices, and voting by mail.

- **Election Day Voting:** Cast your ballot at your assigned polling station on election day.
- **Advance Voting:** Vote at designated advance polling stations during specified dates before election day.
- **Early Voting at Elections Canada Offices:** Vote in person at any Elections Canada office from the start of the election period until the 6th day before election day.
- **Mail-in Voting (Special Ballot):** Apply to vote by mail before the specified deadline; you'll receive a special ballot voting kit to return by mail.

For comprehensive information on all voting methods, please visit Elections Canada's [official website](#).

Major Party Websites

As we approach the upcoming federal election, it's essential to familiarize yourself with the major political parties in Canada and their platforms. During the election cycle, each party will release detailed policy proposals outlining their visions for the country's future. We encourage you to review these platforms to make an informed decision.

Please note that the Bloc Québécois, a party advocating for Quebec sovereignty and primarily active in Quebec, does not field candidates in British Columbia and is therefore not included as a separate link below.

Conservative Party of Canada

<https://www.conservative.ca/>

Green Party of Canada

<https://www.greenparty.ca>

Liberal Party of Canada

<https://liberal.ca/>

New Democratic Party of Canada

<https://www.ndp.ca/>



[Full list of current registered political parties.](#)

Polls

While there are many polls that can be easily found by doing a quick Google search, 338 Canada is regarded as a balanced, non-partisan, source. This website is a model of projections based on polls, electoral history, and other data.

[Check it out.](#)

Other polls include but are not limited to:

- [CBC Poll Tracker](#) (with aggregate data collected from Ipsos, Angus Reid Institute, Nanos Research, EKOS Research, Innovative Research Group, Mainstreet Research and Abacus Data)
- [Ipsos](#)
- [Angus Reid](#)

Advocacy Tips

Key Messages. A key message is a great way to deliver a consistent set of short messages that speak to the issues that matter most to you. A good key message is short and not open for misinterpretation. If there are specific issues related to a topic you want political and healthcare leaders to hear, write a series of key messages and ask yourself if you were to have ten seconds with that person, would they be clear about your issue. Pick one or two issues that matter to you or impact your work as a naturopathic doctor. A well-defined message is not only clear and concise, it defines the issues on your terms and in your words. Your message will be much more meaningful if you express it from your position – whether you are for or against an issue, your emotion is fair to express.

Getting the Attention of Policy Makers. It's challenging to know how to be included and invited to share your opinion with those who can best affect change. Nevertheless, there are certainly ways to become involved, and become the type of person whose presence and opinion is valued. During an election, political leaders hear from a lot of people. Some come with concerns about injustices or problems, others come forward with solutions and suggestions that are well thought out and considered. No question, most of us would rather listen to the individual who comes with a plan and ideas. You have every right to connect with political leaders. They have offices, office staff, social media accounts etc. Make a point of talking to them. Don't consume their time. Be clear and to the point – share your well-thought-out ideas and opinions and move on. Plan your questions and key messages, introduce yourself, pass them your (virtual) card and engage in a short conversation with them.

Asking Relevant Questions. We have some suggestions to help you ask relevant and important questions.

- a) Think about the health policy issues that are affecting your work, your well-being and ask the sort of questions you feel health and political leaders should be answering.
- b) Split the questions up among colleagues - only one question per person.

- c) Keep your question short and succinct. Stay away from questions that can be 'yes or no' answers, but don't ask complicated, compound questions.
- d) Focus on asking open questions like "What do you think about...?" or "How do you feel about...?" Or "How would you handle this process?" or "How would you implement the steps you discussed?"

A Word About Petitions. In the era of online petitions and GoFundMe accounts it's easy to focus on using these avenues to make a point or to ask for change. The reality, however, is that rarely, if ever, things change because people have signed a petition. That is not to say they always fail, but politicians may be inclined to take up a petitioned cause only if it's easy and something they might agree with anyway. For example, online petitioners claimed their petition led to the banning of plastic bags in Victoria, BC. The truth is though this was well underway and an 'easy' win, meaning that the petition was not the reason for the change. If you love petitions, please go ahead and use them but there are other more constructive ways to ensure that your important issues become part of the public dialogue. And there are times that petitions can damage your cause, because they create a sense of 'ganging up' against an individual rather than advocating in favour of a position.

Using Social Media Platforms. Most organizations, political leaders, healthcare leaders and people in general are using at least one social media platform, and most of us use multiple platforms. Follow these leaders and organizations. Check out what they say. Respond (politely), post, share it, or like it. Or, use it as a space to ask that person questions. Respond to them using some of the tips above with respect to key messages. Ask them focused questions and engage them.

Keep in mind though that for many people social media is a tool to 'needle' or criticize in large part because you get to be anonymous and hide behind a computer. Don't fall for this idea that all social media interactions should be contentious or fraught to be effective. Social media is a powerful tool that is about engagement, a way to make connections and build bridges and as opposed to tearing them down. Don't shy away but be constructive.

Understand Partisan, Non-Partisan, Bi-Partisan and understand when NOT to be partisan: BCND is a non-partisan organization. Non-partisan is defined as 'objective' or not being controlled or unduly influenced by a political party or special interest group. In other words, we have no bias towards any political party and do not endorse or support one political party over another. Instead, we are interested in talking to and hearing all perspectives on issues that impact the profession and working towards a solutions-oriented approach.

On the flip side, sometimes organizations (or individuals) are partisan, which is defined as something that is partial to a particular person, party or outcome. There's nothing wrong with this, and many NDs have very good reason to be partisan, perhaps they tend to have conservative or liberal views or feel particularly strongly about one party or another. BCND welcomes the involvement of NDs who have a partisan viewpoint, but just note that we won't publish or support anything overly partisan. To represent the profession effectively in the province, we need to be able to work with governments across the political spectrum and to maintain constructive relationships with decision makers.

Ironically, the third term, bi-partisan, is probably the most problematic, and maybe most frequently used term of the three. Technically, bi-partisan is defined as 'composed of members from both parties'.

As a non-partisan organization, BCND welcomes all NDs to bring issues to the forefront, particularly during times of public health crisis. However, these issues should stand on their own and not be directly associated with a particular party or their position. Taking them into one political camp or another can potentially harm the profession's capacity for influence as a shaper of public and health policy. If you as an individual wish to take a position on anything a political leader or party shares or notes during a crisis such as this, ask yourself if your politics will help or hurt the situation? It's ok to be critical of the decisions or actions of political leaders, but it is unprofessional and never acceptable to attack them personally and doing so reflects badly not just on the individual but the entire profession. You should however

express your outrage on behalf of populations not being well served by current policies but be sure you come to the table with a solution for the issue about which you are being critical.

Engagement Opportunities

Getting involved is empowering. By taking the time to help candidates understand key issues, you can have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of all Canadians. When candidates see large numbers of people voicing the same concerns and desires, they pay attention. Below are some ideas for how you might use this opportunity to make sure NDs voices are heard loud and clear by all candidates.

Please note, if you'd like BCND to support you with preparing for a meeting, reach out to us at bcnd@bcnd.ca and we're happy to discuss.

Public Zoom/Online Meeting Sessions

There's nothing like personal interaction to help start a dialogue with federal candidates and bring a human face to the issues that are important to BC NDs. Meetings that are open to the public usually have reporters in attendance and may even be televised. This makes them great opportunities to get your points across, find out what the candidates are really thinking about, and share your ND perspective with the media and the public. Here are a few handy tips to consider before you head to a public (or online) meeting:



- **Invite your colleagues:** Make it a team effort - post public meeting information in group chats, text or in your clinics. Remind your fellow NDs of how important it is that the next government understands that naturopathic doctors are an important part of the healthcare discussion and can bring unlimited solutions to policy discussions.
- **Prepare questions:** Prepare some questions to ask candidates at the meeting. And don't forget to divvy up the questions so each of your colleagues can ask one - chances are good the moderator of the session won't let any attendees ask more than one.
- **Question preamble:** When asking a question, first take a moment to thank or acknowledge the candidates, introduce yourself as an ND, and then ask your question.
- **Follow-up:** Follow up once the meeting is over. E-mail the candidates and thank them for their participation. Remind them of any questions that were discussed and offer to send them additional material or information.

Social Media

Nowadays, most candidates use social media to get the word out about their platforms, ideas and appearances. Whether you are an avid user of social media, check your Facebook page occasionally, or plug your ears whenever you hear the term X or 'Insta', these platforms can be a critical source of information and discussion.

Here are some social media tips to help you embrace the digital space:

- 1) The main political parties have social media accounts and so do the party leaders. Follow them and use this medium to 'hear' from those candidates and parties. You'd be surprised how much information about a political platform can be shared in very few characters! Keep in mind that local MPs may also be online. Check the website of your local candidate to see which social media platforms they use.
- 2) If you're on social media already and have utilized # (hashtags - or a type of filing system) search for and use #bcpoli or #FederalElection & #FederalElection2025. These #'s are already in use and you can see all posts with this tag by doing a quick search.

Ask for a Meeting

Candidates love to meet with constituents during elections and will want to hear from you about the issues that matter to you in your region. Seek out your MP candidates and request a meeting, ask to talk to them about the issues impacting your profession.

Remember, if you'd like BCND to support you with preparing for a meeting, reach out to us at bcnd@bcnd.ca and we're happy to discuss.

Write Letters or Email

Take the time to contact the campaign offices of the politicians you're interested in and write personalized letters that outline your points of view. Be clear and concise (see above sections for tips on key messages) and avoid 'over-issuing' your letter. Pick one or two issues that really matter and outline your argument in a clear and factual way.

Engage with Advocacy Groups

There are many advocacy organizations that work to influence politicians on specific issues. By partnering with groups who share your values, you can amplify your voice.

Connect with Media Outlets

Write op-eds or letters to the editor in local newspapers to publicly share your views. Politicians often pay attention to media coverage in their districts and op-eds are a great way to highlight a point of view.

Key Tips for Writing Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

- **Stay Concise:** Most op-eds are between 500-700 words, while letters to the editor are shorter (around 150-250 words). Stick to one or two key points.
- **Be Timely:** Tie your piece to a recent news event, policy debate, or election issue to make it relevant.
- **Back Your Argument with Facts:** Use data or real-world examples to support your claims.
- **Use a Clear Call to Action:** State what you believe should happen or what the public or politicians should support.
- **Maintain a Professional and Respectful Tone:** Even when disagreeing with policies or politicians, keep your tone respectful and constructive.

Sample Op-Ed

Title: It's Time to Fully Integrate Naturopathic Medicine into Canada's Healthcare System

By Dr. [Your Full Name]

As a naturopathic doctor practicing in [Your City], I witness firsthand the challenges patients face in accessing comprehensive healthcare. Our national healthcare system is under immense pressure, with long wait times, limited access to primary care, and a rising demand for preventive and integrative approaches. With a federal election on the horizon, now is the time to discuss how naturopathic medicine can play a crucial role in alleviating these burdens.

Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are extensively trained in both conventional and natural medicine, offering safe, effective, and holistic care to patients. However, the scope of practice for NDs varies across Canada due to differing provincial regulations, leading to inconsistencies in patient access to naturopathic care.

Many Canadians are already seeking alternative forms of care, but limitations on our practice create unnecessary bottlenecks in the system. When patients cannot access preventive care or holistic treatments, they often end up in overcrowded clinics or emergency rooms, contributing to the very healthcare crisis we are all striving to resolve.



Currently, naturopathic medicine is regulated or semi-regulated in six of Canada's ten provinces, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. However, there remains a lack of uniformity in regulation across the country, leading to inconsistencies in the services NDs can provide and the public's access to naturopathic care.

There are over 3,000 naturopathic doctors practicing across Canada. Formal recognition of these professionals as primary care providers would not only help meet demand but also improve patient outcomes. Imagine a system where patients have more options, shorter wait times, and personalized healthcare that emphasizes prevention.

With healthcare as a key election issue, I urge both candidates and voters to consider the benefits of fully integrating naturopathic medicine into the public healthcare framework. This is a practical, cost-effective solution that would lead to better health outcomes for all Canadians.

Dr. [Your Full Name]
Naturopathic Doctor
[Your Clinic/Practice Name]
[Your City/Region]

Sample Letter to the Editor

Subject: Integrating Naturopathic Medicine for Enhanced Healthcare Across Canada

Dear Editor,

I am writing as a naturopathic doctor in [Your City] to highlight an issue that should be at the forefront of healthcare discussions this federal election season: the role of naturopathic medicine in improving patient care nationwide. Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are trained to deliver safe, effective healthcare that can help reduce the load on Canada's overburdened healthcare system.

There are over 3,000 naturopathic doctors practicing across Canada, with regulation in six provinces and one territory, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and the Northwest Territories. However, the scope of practice for NDs varies significantly between these jurisdictions, leading to inconsistencies in patient access to naturopathic care. Formal recognition of NDs as primary care providers and integration of their practice into the national healthcare system would provide patients with more accessible healthcare options. This integration would ease the pressure on emergency rooms and clinics while meeting the public demand for more holistic, preventive care.

It's time to fully integrate naturopathic medicine into Canada's healthcare system, benefiting both patients and providers.

Sincerely,

Dr. [Your Full Name]
Naturopathic Doctor
[Your City/Region]

Submission Process:

- Follow submission guidelines: Check your local newspaper's website for submission rules, word count limits, and formatting requirements.
- Include your credentials: Mention your title (e.g., naturopathic doctor) and any relevant affiliations.
- Stay timely: Submit your letter or op-ed when the topic is most relevant (e.g., during the election or after healthcare news).

Templates

Meeting Request

Sample 1

Dear [MP or MP Candidate's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am a constituent from [Your City/Region]. As [Your Profession, e.g., a naturopathic doctor], I am deeply invested in the well-being of our community and the quality of healthcare services available to residents.

With the upcoming election, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss some important issues affecting our profession and the broader healthcare landscape across Canada and in British Columbia. I believe that by working together, we can address key challenges and enhance healthcare outcomes for our constituents.

Please let me know a convenient time for you to meet, either virtually or in person, at your earliest availability. I look forward to the chance to speak with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]



Sample 2

Subject: Important Issues Affecting [Your Profession] – Request for Your Support

Dear [Candidate's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City/Region]. As a [Your Profession, e.g., naturopathic doctor], I am writing to share my concerns about a few critical issues impacting both my profession and the overall healthcare system across our country.

I understand that your platform is focused on improving healthcare services, and I would like to bring attention to the following key points:

Issue 1: Expansion of Naturopathic Services Across Canada

Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are extensively trained in both conventional and natural medicine, focusing on health promotion and disease prevention by treating the whole person. Despite their comprehensive training, NDs face significant barriers to fully utilizing their skills due to varying scopes of practice across provinces. For instance, while NDs in British Columbia can prescribe most primary care medications and order diagnostic imaging, their counterparts in other provinces may have more restricted scopes. Standardizing and expanding the scope of naturopathic practice nationwide could enhance access to integrative healthcare services, reduce the burden on the public healthcare system, and improve patient outcomes.

Issue 2: Recognition of Naturopathic Doctors as Primary Care Providers

The Canadian healthcare system is experiencing significant strain, with many Canadians lacking access to primary care providers. Naturopathic doctors are trained as primary care physicians in four-year, accredited doctoral-level naturopathic medical schools. Recognizing and integrating NDs as primary care providers at the federal level would alleviate pressure on emergency rooms and general practitioners. This integration would also address the growing patient demand for alternative and preventive care approaches, offering Canadians more options in managing their health.

I urge you to consider these issues as you move forward with your campaign and, if elected, to advocate for policies that support the broader inclusion of naturopathic medicine in our healthcare system.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these points in more detail and look forward to hearing your views on these matters. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

[Your Professional Title/Organization, if applicable]

Advocacy Letter

Subject: Advocating for Enhanced Support for Naturopathic Medicine Across Canada

Dear [Candidate's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Dr. [Your Full Name], and I am a licensed naturopathic doctor practicing in [Your City/Region]. As a healthcare professional dedicated to improving patient outcomes and supporting the broader healthcare system across Canada, I am reaching out to advocate for greater recognition and support for naturopathic medicine nationwide.

Our healthcare system is currently under significant strain, characterized by long wait times, limited access to primary care, and an increasing demand for preventive and integrative healthcare approaches. Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are well-positioned to help address these challenges, and I would like to bring to your attention two key areas where policy changes could make a meaningful impact:

Enhancing the Scope of Practice for Naturopathic Doctors Across Canada

NDs are highly trained primary healthcare providers with expertise in both conventional and natural medicine. However, limitations on our scope of practice, which vary by province and territory, prevent us from fully contributing to the healthcare system. For instance, while NDs in British Columbia have the authority to prescribe certain medications and order diagnostic tests, such privileges are not uniformly available across all provinces and territories. Standardizing and expanding our scope of practice nationwide would allow NDs to provide a wider range of services—thereby reducing the burden on overextended general practitioners and emergency rooms.

Recognizing Naturopathic Doctors as Primary Care Providers

By formally recognizing and integrating NDs as primary care providers at the federal level, the government can increase patient access to preventive and holistic care. This recognition would align with the growing demand from Canadians for more diverse healthcare options and help alleviate the pressure on our traditional medical system, which is struggling to meet demand.

I am hopeful that, with your leadership, we can explore policies that better integrate naturopathic medicine into Canada's healthcare framework. This integration would provide patients with greater choice and contribute to a more sustainable and accessible healthcare system.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss these issues further and invite you to reach out if you are open to a meeting or a conversation about how naturopathic medicine can support the healthcare needs of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. [Your Full Name]
 Naturopathic Doctor
 [Your Clinic/Practice Name]
 [Your Contact Information]
 [Your City/Region]

Sample Questions for Candidates

Please note, these are just samples of questions that could be asked.

Scope of Practice/Primary Care

1. Considering that healthcare delivery is under provincial jurisdiction, how would you, as a federal representative, collaborate with provinces like British Columbia to support the integration of naturopathic doctors (NDs) into primary care frameworks?
2. What federal initiatives would you propose to ensure that NDs across Canada receive adequate support, enabling their patients to access necessary treatments, while respecting provincial authority over healthcare delivery?



3. How do you envision the role of naturopathic medicine in addressing national public health challenges such as chronic diseases, mental health issues, and preventive care, considering the provincial administration of healthcare services?
4. With the shortage of primary care providers affecting many provinces, how would you, at the federal level, support provinces in incorporating NDs into the broader healthcare solution?
5. What strategies would you implement federally to improve access to primary care services in rural and underserved areas, and how can NDs be integrated into these plans in collaboration with provincial authorities?

Pharmacare and Medication Access

1. The recent pharmacare agreement between the federal government and British Columbia aims to enhance access to essential medications, including contraceptives and diabetes treatments. How will you ensure that such agreements include provisions for NDs to prescribe and manage these therapies, thereby offering patients comprehensive care options?
2. As pharmacare programs expand, what measures would you support to include NDs in the list of recognized prescribers, ensuring patients have access to a broader range of healthcare professionals for their medication needs?
3. How do you plan to work with provincial governments to ensure that pharmacare initiatives align with the services provided by NDs, particularly in managing chronic conditions and preventive care?

Women's Health

1. With the pharmacare agreement set to improve access to hormone and diabetes medications, how will you advocate for policies that allow NDs to utilize publicly funded lab tests and prescribe necessary medications, ensuring integrated and cost-effective care for individuals, including those managing menopausal symptoms?
2. Considering the holistic approach NDs offer in managing women's health, how would you support their inclusion in pharmacare programs to provide patients with comprehensive care options?

Private Care in a Public System

1. What is your stance on the integration of private healthcare services within Canada's publicly funded system? How do you propose to balance private sector involvement while maintaining the principles of universality and accessibility outlined in the Canada Health Act?
2. Do you believe that expanding private healthcare services poses risks to the integrity of Canada's universal healthcare system? If so, what measures would you implement to mitigate these risks?
3. How would you support patient choice between private and public care options while ensuring high standards of quality and equitable access in both sectors?
4. Given that certain services, such as dental and vision care, are often provided privately, what is your position on the regulation and oversight of private clinics to ensure they complement the public system without compromising care quality?
5. In light of the fact that private insurance for medically necessary hospital and physician services is prohibited in some provinces, would you support a review of these policies to address current healthcare challenges?
6. Considering the ongoing issues with wait times in the public system, what role do you see for private healthcare providers in alleviating these pressures without undermining the public system?
7. How would you encourage collaboration between public and private healthcare providers to enhance overall healthcare delivery while safeguarding the principles of Canada's public system?
8. What is your perspective on the potential impact of private healthcare expansion on overall healthcare costs for Canadians, and how would you address any associated challenges?

Natural Health Product (NHP) Regulation

- 1) Recent regulatory changes under the Protecting Canadians from Unsafe Drugs Act (Vanessa's Law) have introduced new compliance requirements for Natural Health Products (NHPs) which may increase costs and limit

access. How would you ensure that federal regulations appropriately balance public safety with affordability and access to NHPs for Canadians?

- 2) Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent over 80% of the NHP industry and are struggling with the financial burden of new compliance costs. What measures would you support to help SMEs remain viable under the updated regulatory framework?
- 3) Many Canadians, including those in rural and Indigenous communities, rely on NHPs and traditional medicines as part of their healthcare. How would you advocate for the protection of access to these products, particularly for communities that may face additional barriers to care?
- 4) Naturopathic doctors, traditional medicine practitioners, and other licensed professionals depend on access to NHPs to provide safe, evidence-informed care. How would you ensure that federal policies do not undermine holistic, preventive healthcare approaches while also balancing product safety?
- 5) What steps would you take to ensure meaningful and ongoing stakeholder engagement—including healthcare professionals, industry, and consumers—in the development of NHP policy?
- 6) Considering the increased costs associated with compliance, labeling, and reporting, what specific actions would you take to protect consumer safety, choice and affordability in the NHP market?