



QUALITY PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

MAKING SURE HEALTH CARE WORKS FOR ALL OF US

We've seen it play out too many times. We start with a public service that's working well for people. Then right-wing governments steadily cut it back until it doesn't deliver what the public needs. When the cuts start to hurt, they have the answer: Hand over health care to for-profit corporations.

That's what's happened before with health care in Alberta. But after decades of provincial governments starving Alberta's public health-care services, Rachel Notley's government has been making the investments we've needed for so long.

Now that progress is at risk, because Jason Kenney's UCP is threatening to go back to the old ways of privatizing health care and shifting Alberta's health priorities toward profit instead of people.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?



Universal public health care has consistently proven itself as the best, most efficient and most affordable way to ensure people get quality care when they need it. It allows us to build a strong, homegrown network of expert health professionals and caregivers.

Most importantly, quality public health care means that families don't have to choose between getting needed health care and putting food on the table.

But when corporations start getting involved, priorities shift. The quality of care takes a back seat to earning bigger returns for investors. Companies look for corners - and services - to cut.

For a very small group of the wealthiest people, who can afford to buy their way into gold-plated premium health plans, that isn't an issue: They get the best care money can buy. For most of us, the upshot is shrinking services and mounting user fees.

WHERE DO THE PARTIES STAND?

While neither of the main parties has released their full party platforms, we can learn a lot from their public statements and from their records. Here's a quick rundown of where the NDP and the UCP stand on the future of health care:



JASON KENNEY AND THE UCP



RACHEL NOTLEY AND THE NDP



PRIVATIZATION

Stated in their 2018 Policy Declaration that the UCP will “give Albertans the choice of privately funded, privately delivered health services.”

HAS CONSISTENTLY PUSHED PRIVATIZATION, as early as 2000 when Kenney told the Globe and Mail: “I do support the idea of private health care.”

WOULD SLASH PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING and is on record as wanting a 20% budget cut.

CATEGORICALLY OPPOSES PRIVATIZATION, saying: “Privatizing our health-care system is absolutely not the answer” and calling it the “worst idea.” (Sources: Leaders Debate, Apr. 24, 2015; CBC News, Feb. 19, 2015)

HAS PROTECTED AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CARE to reduce wait times, expand ambulance services and improve home care.

HAS BEGUN BUILDING LONG-OVERDUE NEW PUBLIC FACILITIES like the new Calgary Cancer Centre and a new hospital in southwest Edmonton.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

It's the most important thing government does — and it's too important for us to stay silent. Let's speak out and make sure everyone knows what's at stake in this election.

HOW DO WE ENSURE QUALITY CARE FOR EVERYONE?

We definitely don't do it by creating a gold-plated health plan for the very rich and slowly starving the public health system the rest of us rely on. We don't do it by diverting more health dollars away from the health system on which the rest of us rely.

Instead, Alberta's best approach is to defend the integrity of public health care and make the investments we need to ensure the public system can deliver the care Albertans expect and deserve.

IN THIS ELECTION, LET'S NOT PUT HEALTH CARE AT RISK.

Let's elect a government that will improve and protect health care – for all us.



WATCH THE AD.



SHARE IT IN YOUR NETWORKS.



TALK TO YOUR COLLEAGUES.



TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS.



VOTE!