

4 Questions about the Care Economy to ask Candidates who want your Vote



1. We're not attracting and keeping enough trained workers in the Care Economy

Long term care, hospitals and health care, childcare and schools. All these sectors need more workers. But poor working conditions and burnout mean workers are leaving the Care Economy. And tens of thousands of vacancies are going unfilled. The healthcare sector also has an older workforce of doctors and nurses which will only accelerate the pressure when they retire.

- a) What's your plan and time frame to ensure there are enough workers to provide the care that's needed – when its needed?
- b) What's your plan for ensuring that workers who provide the care have the skills they need?
- c) What's your plan for improving working conditions so workers want to stay in care sector jobs?

2. Making sure we have standards of care

- a) Is the new funding that your party's promising (all parties are promising more money) tied to national standards of care that are common across the country - and enforceable?
- b) What is your view of the standards of care that should be shared and enforceable?

3. Concerns about the shift to for-profit care

- a) What is your position on the delivery of care through for-profit services in the Care Economy?
- b) Should public dollars pay for profits? If so, in what instances and why?

4. Improving the services that fail to meet public needs, as we've seen with COVID

As COVID made clear, we need to ensure we're actually providing more services, of better quality. Tax deductions won't deliver more beds or childcare spaces, good quality care or set price caps. In the 1960s, Canada and the U.S. diverged in our approaches to healthcare. We chose single payer universal public insurance, meaning residents don't need to pay for medically necessary hospital and doctors' services. The U.S. chose targeted funding, providing some services for some people, and that's led to inequality in access and the politics of envy. In Canada, whether it's Medicare or Child Care, we need to deliver better care for more people - not worse care for fewer people.

- a) Do you or your party support a national long-term care program? If not, what is your position on how to improve the quantity and quality of long-term care in Canada?
- b) Do you or your party support a federal strategy to improve early learning and childcare services, country-wide? If not, what is your position on how to improve the quantity and quality of childcare everywhere across Canada?
- c) Other than providing more money to the provinces and territories, what is your position on ensuring improvements to the quantity and quality of health care in Canada?

For more information and resources see: www.TheCareEconomy.ca