

## Questions for 2024 BC Election Candidates

### Continuing the implementation of minimum nurse-to-patient ratios

Evidence shows that minimum nurse-to-patient ratios will help retain and recruit the nurses BC needs and ensure our public health-care system has enough nurses to deliver high-quality care to everyone when they need it. The province has already begun implementing them but there is much more to do. **Do you support nurses' call to continue implementing minimum nurse-to-patient ratios across all care settings in BC?**

### Investing in effective nurse retention and recruitment strategies

BC's health authorities need to improve working conditions to help retain highly skilled nurses currently working in the system, while recruiting even more to the profession. With nearly 6,000 current vacant positions and an anticipated need to fill 29,000 job openings over the next 10 years, there is much work to do to make minimum nurse-to-patient ratios a reality. **What will you do to ensure health authorities retain and recruit the nurses BC needs to provide high-quality health care to everyone when they need it?**

### Strengthening public health care and rejecting privatization

Improving the public health-care system means committing to ongoing financial investments that grow its capacity, particularly as BC's population increases. Cuts to the health-care budget and the expansion of private, for-profit health care will take the province in the opposite direction by pulling staff and resources away from the public system and restricting timely health-care access to the privileged few who can afford to pay – making things worse for everyone else. **Will you commit to rejecting privatization and strengthening public health care?**

### Providing safe and healthy workplaces

Nurses, like all British Columbians, deserve to have workplaces that are free of verbal and physical violence and abuse. Unfortunately, nurses are reporting serious and ongoing occupational health and safety risks. This is not okay, and it's forcing many nurses away from the profession. **What will you do to ensure nurses are provided with safe and healthy workplaces to care for their patients?**

### Addressing the social determinants of health

Many factors beyond the state of the health-care system itself can negatively affect people's health outcomes. These include a lack of access to affordable housing, income inequality and the harms associated with systemic discrimination based on race – including Indigenous-specific racism – gender, age, ability and other protected grounds. **What will you do to take coordinated action on the social determinants of health?**