



**Restore Confidence.
Rebuild BC.**

BC Nurses' Union – Election 2020 Questionnaire

B.C.'s Nurses are vitally important to the operation of our healthcare system and BC Liberals value their hard work. The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt us all but especially our frontline healthcare professionals. We need to show them that they have the full support of the people of B.C. through actions that keep them, their loved ones and their patients safe. A BC Liberal Government will ensure that healthcare and healthcare professionals receives the care, attention and funding that they deserve.

1. If elected, what steps will your government take to ensure it is investing in training, education, and recruitment strategies? What will you do to urgently develop appropriate staffing strategies to protect nurses from burnout and exhaustion?

BC Liberals Response:

We must learn from the pandemic to build and train the health work force of the future – and this includes increased spaces for nurses as well as doctors and other health professions.

A BC Liberal government will work to attract health professionals overall to under-serviced areas as well as expand opportunities for international graduates in health professions to work in B.C. We will also act to protect our nurses and other health care workers, by instituting necessary system improvements to ensure all workers experience a violence-free workplace.

For further details on our plans, please see our [platform](#).

2. If elected, what will your party do to ensure nurses have immediate access to nurse-specific mental health supports that are greatly needed to assist frontline workers who are experiencing severe anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress due to the pandemic?

BC Liberals Response:

The work nurses in our healthcare system is vitally important to the quality of our public healthcare system. In 2019, we supported the post traumatic stress disorder presumption to help nurses that who suffer trauma during their work. A BC Liberal government will continue to support nurses access to mental health supports to ensure the health and safety of all healthcare workers.

3. If elected, what will your party do to ensure an effective seniors' strategy is developed, that includes properly staffing long-term care facilities in a way that reflect the appropriate skill mix of RNs, LPNs and RPNs?

BC Liberals Response:

A BC Liberal Government will ensure that seniors are looked after in BC. We will invest an additional \$1 billion over five years in new long-term care facilities to ensure every seniors in long-term care who wants a private room has one. We will also work with care home operators to address chronic worker shortages and improve the quality of care.

4. If elected, what immediate steps will your party take to create long-term addictions and mental health solutions that are aimed to help those who use drugs, and prevent more overdoses?

BC Liberals Response:

A BC Liberal government will treat the causes and prevent the harm. Our plan promises to:

- Increase addiction-treatment and recovery programs, and ensure those who need help getting off drugs have a clear pathway to treatment, unlike the NDP's approach of simply warehousing people with addictions.
- Clearly recognize that addiction is a medical disorder, and ensure a focus on public health and safety in the treatment of people suffering from addictions.
- Increase mental health supports in public secondary schools, such as registered psychiatric nurses.
- Introduce a *Safe Care Act* to safely and ethically help young people with addictions into treatment.
- End the funding discrimination that continues to disqualify abstinence-based treatment programs.
- Implement a provincial prescription-drug monitoring program to prevent addiction with early referrals to specialist care and treatment options.

5. If elected, what will your government do to continue its commitment to procuring high-quality PPE to meet the current and anticipated future needs of nurses?

BC Liberals Response:

It is critical that we ensure that B.C. has an adequate supply of PPE for our healthcare needs. A BC Liberal government will establish an emergency Pandemic Response Committee to work

with all parties and the Provincial Health Officer on a collaborative approach to managing the current and future pandemics.

6. If elected, what will your party do to ensure the appropriate safety measures are in place at all health care facilities so that nurses do not have to go to work fearing they will be the victim of an assault?

BC Liberals Response:

We must ensure the safety of all healthcare professionals. A BC Liberal Government will protect nurses and other health care workers, by instituting necessary system improvements to ensure all workers experience a violence-free workplace.

7. If elected, what will your party do to improve harm reduction capacity, public detox and rehabilitation services, while providing backup and relief for RNs, RPNs and LPNs working to address the overdose crisis?

BC Liberals Response:

We need to treat the causes, and prevent the harm. A BC Liberal Government will clearly recognize that addiction is a medical disorder and put in place adequate treatments and supports. For further details on our plans, please see our [platform](#).

8. If elected, how will your party accommodate the needs of nurses, including those pregnant and immune compromised, in order to maximize our workforce while allowing them to provide valuable health services and stay healthy?

BC Liberals Response:

Safety remains paramount in any workplace – this applies even more so to immune-compromised and pregnant nurses. We would ensure that safety is not compromised to allow everyone to fully contribute at their place of work.