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Question 1

How would your government support a collaborative working relationship with PANS and other community healthcare providers to ensure more effectively utilize all healthcare providers in collaborative patient care?

An NDP government will recognize that listening to pharmacists and other community-based health care providers is essential for a good working relationship. This includes on-going discussion of the scope of practice for the various professions to make the best use of the unique skills and knowledge offered by each health profession. An NDP government will be committed to working in partnership with PANS.

Question 2

Under current government policy, limited pharmacy services are available to Nova Scotians through publicly funded programs. Would your government support expanding the funding for pharmacist-provided services for all Nova Scotians? What additional pharmacy services would your government fund?

An NDP government will expand publicly funded prescription medications and medical devices, beginning with prescription birth control, PrEP HIV prevention drugs, insulin pumps and the shingles vaccine. These are preventive pharmaceutical therapies that are delivered effectively by pharmacists. This expansion of publicly funded services relates directly to the on-going discussion of scope of practice.

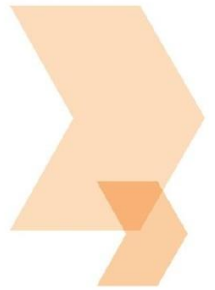


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The previous NDP government's legislation enabling pharmacists to administer vaccines has opened up vital, highly accessible services delivered by PANS members. An NDP government would include PANS in a review of the current vaccination campaign, to learn how collaboration and effective community-based care can be improved through lessons learned.

Question 3

Studies have shown that pharmacists, when working to their full scope of practice, play a significant role in improving the health of their patients while at the same time saving the health care system millions of dollars, particularly in the area of chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes. What roles do you think pharmacies and pharmacists should play in the delivery of health care in Nova Scotia and improving patient care? How would your government support this?

Pharmacists are invaluable health care providers in communities across the province and an important part of the care team for Nova Scotians. Community pharmacies provide a critical link to timely health care for many Nova Scotians, especially those living in rural areas. As a community-based collaborative approach continues to develop, an NDP government will listen for pharmacists' assessment of trends and their suggestions to improve the management of chronic diseases. Better understanding of the role of each profession within its scope of practice will guide an NDP government's decisions about the resources or support required by pharmacies.

Question 4

What initiatives would your government implement to ensure a healthy and sustainable pharmacy network in Nova Scotia?

An NDP government would be open and ready to work with the federal government to establish a national pharmacare program. Universal pan-Canadian pharmacare will inevitably spark a transition in the role of



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pharmacies. An NDP government would work closely with PANS and your members to ensure your valuable health services continue within a new framework.

