



Dear Diane,

Thank you for your email and for the opportunity to share some responses with your membership. First and foremost, please extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to your members across the province for their crucial role in delivering COVID-19 vaccines into the arms of Nova Scotians.

PANS has been a valued partner to government throughout the pandemic, and pharmacists deserve great credit for the work that they have done to help protect the health of Nova Scotians amid the greatest public health challenge of our time.

1. A re-elected Liberal government will continue to support further collaboration between pharmacists and other healthcare providers such as physicians, nurses, public health teams, the continuing care sector, in addition to the communities they serve. We believe that the pandemic has highlighted how various healthcare professionals can support each other while tackling unprecedented challenges, and our government is committed to ensuring that we build on that collaboration so that Nova Scotians can have maximized access to healthcare services in their communities throughout the province.
2. Our government was proud to sign agreements with PANS in 2019 which made Nova Scotia home to one of the most extensive government funded pharmacy services in Canada, providing pharmacists the ability to assess and prescribe birth control in addition to medication for UTIs and shingles, while also providing MSI coverage for pharmacists to renew prescriptions for 180 days including asthma inhalers and blood pressure medications. We know that pharmacists are looking to expand their roles in administering publicly funded vaccines such as MMR and HPV – a re-elected Liberal government will work with PANS and Public Health to explore further expansion of pharmacy services for Nova Scotians.
3. We believe that pharmacists, along with all healthcare providers, should operate at their full scope of practice and collaborate with each other to provide Nova Scotians as many access points to primary care and other healthcare services as possible. Pharmacists have a key role to play in supporting the health

of Nova Scotians as they are highly accessible, highly skilled, and community-oriented professionals. We will support pharmacists' role in the provision of care in Nova Scotia by continuing the strong relationship between our government and your membership.

4. Our government believes that the pandemic has shown the strength and flexibility of our pharmacy network, and we are very proud of the ongoing partnership between government and pharmacists in the province. The impressive upscaling and distribution of the vaccine delivery throughout Nova Scotia was the result of strong collaboration between government, public health, pharmacists, and physicians. A re-elected Liberal government will continue the positive working relationship with PANS and pharmacists throughout the province to ensure that the pharmacy network in Nova Scotia remains healthy and sustainable, and that we continue to build on the partnership that has allowed us to return to a level of normalcy in the province not yet seen in other jurisdictions. This will include discussions on how we can best support pharmacy in Nova Scotia and continuing to work together to ensure that pharmacists are able to provide care to the full extent of their scope of practice.

Thank you very much for your questions and once again, my sincerest appreciation for the ongoing work of your membership in protecting the health and safety of Nova Scotians.