



August 2, 2021

Diane Harpell
Chair, Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia
(PANS)
VIA EMAIL: abodnar@pans.ns.ca

Dear Ms. Harpell,

I am pleased to respond to your questionnaire as follows:

- 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?**

The PC Party wants a common-sense system to ensure that things like lab tests are always communicated from one health professional to another. A PC government is also committed to putting pressure on the Federal Government to get more information regarding drug shortages, as well as line up the operational and legal authorities for pharmacists to order blood tests.

- 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?**

Under a PC government, we are eager to enter a discussion around the expansion of pharmacy services, in and outside of publicly funded programs. We will continue pushing for more vaccinations for target groups, such as students and seniors, and explore chronic disease management programs. We have already committed to extending prescription benefit coverage for volunteer firefighters to cover the following additional forms of cancer linked to firefighting: ureter, penile, testicular, breast, esophageal, prostate, skin, digestive tract, multiple myeloma, pancreatic, ovarian, and cervical cancers.

- 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?**

A PC government is eager to work with PANS and other health professionals on what's possible in expanding the scope of practice. We believe pharmacists should be on the front lines of these efforts due to their availability and presence in the community. These community-based approaches are where

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success lies in getting our health care system to its fullest potential. We are committed to discussing what has been published on the We Need Pharmacy website, as well as the additional research attached.

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

A PC government is advocating for a clinical health services plan for each of the health regions. This plan would outline what staffing should look like in each region, overlapping staffing with the needs of each community. We have also committed to a full review of the provincial formulary and would involve the pharmacy network in those discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tara Miller', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Tara Miller
Campaign Co-Chair
PC Party of Nova Scotia