



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

OTTAWA
October 6, 2015

Hon. Mary Collins, PC
Chair, Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada

c/o Craig Larsen
Executive Director
Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada
330 Athlone Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1Z 5M4

Dear Hon. Mary Collins,

Thank you for your September 17, 2015 letter calling for increased federal investment in healthy living and chronic disease prevention. We appreciate that you highlighted three key areas for our attention.

A New Democratic government shares your belief that great strides can be made to improve Canadians' health through an increased focus on healthy living and disease prevention measures. As you point out, government programs are currently in place promoting this approach. The NDP is committed to continuing or increasing support for these programs in accordance with the evidence-based policymaking principle that will govern our entire administration.

In addition, an NDP government will invest in a wide range of healthy living initiatives including:

- an increase of \$40 million to the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy over four years and the significant commitment to introduce a plain packaging regime;
- an expanded National Diabetes Strategy;
- a prohibition on advertising junk food to children;
- an investment of \$32 million to fix and expand *Nutrition North* to include 50 isolated communities currently excluded from program subsidies by the Conservatives, and to conduct a review of *Nutrition North* in partnership with northerners to ensure fair access; and
- A comprehensive package of improvements to the social determinants of health, including:
 - Increased employment opportunities including spending up to \$100 million annually to leverage additional private sector investment in jobs for youth along with \$15 million targeted toward youth skill building through apprenticeships;
 - An affordable \$15/day early childhood education and childcare program, in addition to maintaining current federal child benefits;

- Changes to Employment Insurance so that workers who lose their jobs or who have to temporarily interrupt their work can access the benefits they deserve and an additional \$500 million/year in job training and upskilling;
- A boost to the Guaranteed Income Supplement of \$400 million and working with the provinces and territories to expand benefits under the Canada and Quebec pension plans to ensure seniors can retire in dignity;
- \$2.2 billion toward new affordable housing and reinvestments in expiring agreements while also boosting funding for homelessness initiatives.
- \$40 million in funding to restore the Shelter Enhancement Program to support women and their children fleeing violence;
- \$2.6 billion in new federal funding to initiate universal public drug coverage and a further \$80 million to improve provincial-federal capacity for drug reviews, listing, joint pricing negotiations and improving safety;
- a comprehensive Canadians with Disabilities Act to eliminate barriers and to promote accessibility, effective participation, and equality of opportunity for persons living with disabilities, while conducting a review of existing income support programs for persons living with disabilities in order to coordinate benefits and increase accessibility; and
- working collaboratively on a nation-to-nation basis with First Nations communities to develop effective strategies to address the disproportionately high poverty rates that continue to plague them.

We will also create a *Better Transit Plan* to invest over \$1.3 billion annually over 20-years in municipal public transit priorities as well as transferring \$7.2 billion in new public transit and local infrastructure funding directly to municipalities over the next four years.

New Democrats look forward to working with the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada in creating a more robust and sustainable chronic disease prevention agenda for Canada.

Thank you again for your interest.

Regards,

New Democratic Party of Canada