

BC Naturopathic Association BC Election Candidate Questionnaire

- Province-wide polling BCNA conducted in 2018 showed that one-third of British Columbian households have at least one member who has seen a licensed naturopathic physician for treatment. Do you think naturopathic doctors are a valuable part of providing health care for British Columbians?

- At present, BC NDs can only access labs through LifeLabs and Valley Medical, which excludes patients living in rural areas and the north. Do you support equal access to labs for all BC residents accessing naturopathic services, provided there is no additional cost to taxpayers?

- Across BC, licensed NDs are providing primary care to patients. However, none of the new Primary Care Networks in BC include NDs. How do you see including naturopathic physicians in the new Primary Care Networks in BC?

- The government and medical authorities have recently acknowledged that recruitment of MDs is not sufficient to meet the primary care needs of BC residents. Would your party consider including licensed NDs as a resource to alleviate the shortage of GPs in underserved areas?

- Do you as a candidate agree with the all-party agreement that when amalgamation of regulatory colleges takes place there will be no change to scope of practice for licensed health professionals?

- Naturopathic doctors can prescribe hormones to treat female patients but not male patients, as NDs have access only to provincially scheduled medications. Do you support access to a limited schedule of federally controlled drugs to reduce this inequality in patient care?

- Naturopathic doctors cannot refer patients for diagnostic imaging, even though private clinics will accept their referral and there is no cost to government. Do you support enhancing access to diagnostic imaging for patients seeing licensed NDs?

- Naturopathic doctors certified to provide immunization cannot access vaccines, such as the flu shot. That means that they are unable to fulfil the public health responsibilities of primary care providers. Do you support permitting licensed NDs to access publicly funded vaccines?

This form has been completed and submitted by:

Please return your answered questionnaire by email to the BC Naturopathic Association
- bcna@bcna.ca Thank you!