

Canadian Alliance of
Community Health Centre
Associations



Regroupement canadien
des associations de centres
communautaires de santé

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2011

Responses to Questionnaire Submitted by CACHCA to the Leaders
of the Liberal Party, Progressive Conservative Party and New
Democratic Party

SEPTEMBER 2011

**SIGN ONLINE PETITION TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE IN
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/improve-health-and-health-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>



Scott A. Wolfe
Federal Coordinator – Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations
c/o North End community Health Centre
2165 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS B3K 3B5

16 September 2011

Re: CACHCA Questionnaire

- 1. Will your party commit to negotiating a renewed 2014 Health Accord in collaboration and concert with the other Provinces and Territories and the Government of Canada, including:**
 - a. A requirement from your government that the Government of Canada fulfill its stated commitment to a six percent increase in health transfers to the provinces and territories for the 10-year duration of the new 2014 Health Accord; and
 - b. A requirement from your government that any new health transfers to the provinces and territories within the 2014 Health Accord not be subtracted by the Government of Canada from other, existing social transfers to the provinces/territories; and
 - c. Including a provision within the Health Accord re-committing all Provinces, Territories and the Government of Canada to the five principles of the *Canada Health Act*; and
 - d. Including a provision within the Health Accord adopting the following seven principles for health system transformation, as recommended by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), the Canadian Nurses Association (CAN) and the Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations (CACHCA): "patient-centred"; "quality"; "health promotion and illness prevention"; "equitable"; "sustainable"; "accountable", and "community-oriented"; and
 - e. Including a provision within the Health Accord identifying "access to appropriate primary health care" as a priority area for federal and provincial action, along with development of federal standards for primary health care and targeted funding to help provinces and territories achieve these standards.

- 2. Will your party commit to developing a time-bound plan to expand access for Manitobans to Community Health Centre (CHC) services through a combination of new resources for existing Community Health Centres in Manitoba so that they may extend services and programs to community members most urgently in need, and funding for new CHCs in communities where needs cannot be met by an existing Community Health Centre.**

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations, as well as for highlighting the concerns you outlined therein. Health care is a major priority for Canadians, and improving delivery is a central policy goal for the Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador. In particular, the Liberal Party views improving primary and

preventative health care as a key prerequisite for advancing both the long-term health of Canadians, as well as the long-term viability and efficiency of our health care system in general.

The Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador recognizes emerging problems with regional disparity in access to specific health care services, which are increasingly apparent in our region in particular. In addition to the continuation of an annual 6% increase in health transfer payments from the federal government each year, the Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador is committed to working to ensure that health transfers are not subtracted from the value of other federal transfer payments.

The Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador is committed to the principles of the *Canada Health Act*, as well as the seven principles noted in your letter as endorsed by the CMA, CNA, and CACHCA. A New Liberal Government in Newfoundland & Labrador will work to have these principles incorporated into the 2014 Health Accord.

The Liberal Party is committed to the delivery of effective primary health care. Newfoundland & Labrador has among the highest rates of diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic diseases in the country. The Liberal Party believes that we need to start getting better value for the taxpayer's money in our health care system. Health outcomes in Newfoundland & Labrador do not reflect the doubling of health care investment that has taken place. We need smarter spending, as well as a health care system that takes a broader approach to health care issues on whole. A Liberal Government will accomplish this in part by moving medical services with multidisciplinary teams back to our communities, i.e. closer to the people they actually serve. We need a health care system that is less bureaucratic, less impersonal, and less confusing.

A major health care focus that must be taken in both Newfoundland & Labrador, and across the country is prevention of illness. A Liberal Government in Newfoundland & Labrador will focus on primary health care in our communities in order to improve individual health, and make our health care system more efficient. A New Liberal Government will work immediately to develop a primary health care strategy and invest in multidisciplinary sites in our regions and communities. We are prepared to converse with and investigate the benefits of moving forward with this process in company with the Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations.

The Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador has committed to the importance and principles of primary health care in its 2011 policy book. For more detailed information I invite you to consult this document once it becomes available during the week of September 19th.

Thank you for your letter and the questions you have raised. Should you have any follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin Aylward
Leader, Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador
Suite 205, Beothuk Building
20 Crosbie Place
St. John's, NL A1B 3YB

DUNDERDALE



The Progressive Conservative Party
did not respond to the survey.



Scott A. Wolfe, Federal Coordinator
Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations
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2165 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS B3K 3B5

September 13, 2011

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

Thank you for contacting us about the importance of community health centres across Canada. New Democrats are firmly committed to putting more resources into our public health care system.

1. Canada's New Democrats are strong advocates for a new 2014 Health Accord, one that will continue to provide a strong federal contribution to Canada's public health care system.
 - a) The federal contribution must include a six percent increase.
 - b) We will oppose any attempt to take this six percent increase from other social transfers. Such an arrangement would be detrimental to social, education and housing programs vital to the health of Canadians.
 - c) New Democrats will advocate for continued commitment—monitored and enforced—to the five *Canada Health Act* principles of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability and accessibility.
 - d) We are in agreement with the seven principles for health system transformation you have proposed—patient-centred, quality, health promotion and illness prevention, equitable, sustainable, accountable and community-oriented.
 - e) New Democrats' goal is to strengthen primary health care, home care, long-term care and pharmacare *within* Canada's public health care system, which would mean bringing these services into the Health Accord.
2. New Democrats have called for a review of our provincial health care system. The review would indicate where new community health centres and/or services should be placed in order to deal with pressing health issues. A major and costly health issue in this province—diabetes—can be effectively prevented and managed with primary health care. New Democrats will work to expand the network of primary health care teams and community health centres across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Michael'.

Lorraine Michael