

Canadian Alliance of  
Community Health Centre  
Associations



Regroupement canadien  
des associations de centres  
communautaires de santé

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2011

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

Updated Sept 29, 2011 to include additional party responses received

**SIGN ONLINE PETITION TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE IN P.E.I.**  
<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/improve-health-and-health-care-for-prince-edward-island.html>

# Liberal

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

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

I am writing in response to your letter of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 respecting election issues. Responses to your questions are addressed below.

**1. Commit to negotiating a renewed 2014 Health Accord in collaboration and convert with the other Provinces and Territories and the Government of Canada.**

A Liberal Government will champion negotiations for a 2014 Health Accord. It is our belief that the 6% annual increase in health transfers should extend for the 10-year duration of the new Accord and these annual increases should not be subtracted from existing social transfers.

The Liberal Party is fully committed to the 5 principles of the Canada Health Act.

Prince Edward Island will soon have 11 Community Health Centres and all Islanders will be within a 30 minute driving radius for one of these primary care networks. These Health Centres bring together family physicians, nurses and other health providers who collaborate to deliver first point of contact services to residents. Principle services include primary care for a full range of acute and chronic illnesses with an emphasis on diagnosis and treatment, health promotion through education, illness prevention and chronic disease management.

The Liberal Party will strive to uphold the seven principles for health system transformation as recommended by the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses Association and CACHCA. Support for the delivery of primary care will continue to be a priority for a PEI Liberal Government.

**2. Commit to developing a time-bound plan to expand access for Prince Edward Islanders to Community Health Centre (CHC) services through a combination of new resources for existing Community Health Centres in PEI 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.**

Prince Edward Island currently owns 11 Community Health Centres (including satellite locations). Also outreach and collaborative services are offered at 8 other sites. The Liberal Government has made the expansion of this network a priority. Recent announcements of Community Health Centres in Murray River and Cornwall – which will bring the total number of Community Health Centres to 13 - will ensure that all Islanders will be within a 30 minute driving radius of one of these primary care networks. Health PEI has been making great inroads in the delivery of services at these centres, including expanded programs for those with chronic illnesses, health promotion and diagnosis and treatment of illnesses.

I want to thank you for your questions and your interests in the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island. I trust that these answers are satisfactory and we look forward to further dialogue with Islanders during this election.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ghiz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Ghiz  
Leader, Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island



**The Progressive Conservative Party  
did not respond to the survey.**



## New Democratic Party of Prince Edward Island

If elected to form the next Government of Prince Edward Island, please indicate whether you and your party will:

- 1. 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 (CNA) 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.

**RESPONSE:** Yes, very much so! We believe very strongly in the principles that you've laid out here and in other sections of your material. As much as possible, the emphasis must be on preventative health care, delivered at a "grass roots" level.

In our view, spending on health care must be seen as an investment in individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities that promotes an egalitarian and fully-inclusive society and encourages the development of the productive potential of our economy's greatest asset – our people.

We have also seen first hand in Prince Edward Island how the lack of commitment to these principles by both Liberal and Conservative governments has produced a health system that falls far short of that available in most other areas of Canada. We are one of only two provinces without a catastrophic drug plan – and the other one (New Brunswick) appears to at least be moving in that direction.

We have also noticed that some seniors who wish to retire to Prince Edward Island find that the narrow range of medications included on the provincial formulary forces them to reconsider their

choice of retirement location or, in a few cases, to re-locate to other provinces after inadvertently retiring to Prince Edward Island.

- 2. Commit to developing a time-bound plan to expand access for Prince Edward Islanders to Community Health Centre (CHC) services through a combination of new resources for existing Community Health Centres in PEI 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.**

**RESPONSE:** Again, we are very much in favour of this approach. Along the same lines, we have called for the construction of a series of smaller seniors homes throughout rural P.E.I. to provide seniors with greater choice and improved access to homes that allow them to maintain connections to their communities and their families. Both of these measures, in our view, are necessary for the re-building of our rural communities and in providing community-based health services where they are most needed and effective. Similarly, we believe such health centres must be community-controlled and, wherever possible, operated on a co-operative model.



**QUESTION: 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 (CNA) 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.

**RESPONSE:** Yes, the Green Party of PEI supports all of the above actions as part of a renewed health accord. In particular, Green Party policies focus on health promotion and illness prevention. The lack of attention to this critical component of health services has caused immense anguish to families and resulted in an over-extended health care system that does not adequately meet the needs of Islanders. We spend more money every year on health care yet people are not becoming healthier.

**QUESTION: Will your party commit to developing a time-bound plan to expand access for Prince Edward Islanders to Community Health Centre (CHC) services through a combination of new resources for existing Community Health Centres in PEI 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.**

**RESPONSE:** The Green Party will establish Community Health Centres across PEI that provide holistic health care services as a top priority. One-third of the provincial budget is spent on health care and while other parties like to brag about this number, the Green Party sees this massive expenditure as evidence that much more needs to be done to prevent illness and promote health. We will commit to allocating 2% of the provincial health care budget to health promotion.

In addition to conventional services, doctors and nurses, our Community Health Centres will also include mid-wives and complimentary health services, like acupuncture, massage, chiropractic and naturopathy. We would extend the provincial health insurance plan to include the services of complimentary health practices that are proven effective. Because a significant proportion of illnesses and deaths are preventable, our Community Health Centres would focus on prevention

and health promotion. We will provide Islanders with the tools to lead healthier lives. In surveys, Islanders are shown to have some of the most unhealthy diets in the country and exercise less.

The Green Party would begin teaching children at a very young age, through the Community Health Centres, about nutrition, and cooking and growing food. Our health centres would be sources of information about the health effects of toxic chemicals, especially the agricultural pesticides and fertilizers that all Islanders are exposed to. Mental health services, including for children and youth, will be available from trained professionals. We will include programming to educate the public about the completely preventable, but under-publicized problem, of fetal alcohol syndrome.



**The Island Party  
did not respond to the survey.**