

## Progressive Canadian Party / Parti Progressiste Canadien

### ▣ PROGRESSIVE CANADIAN HEALTH CARE PLATFORM

#### Progressive Canadian Party candidate Nanaimo-Ladysmith Statement Challenges and Answers▣ PC Party leadership on Renewing Health Care, Autism, Seniors Care, National Pharmacare Purchasing Agency.

**Nanaimo-Ladysmith, BC, September 24, 2019.** On the eve of his father's 89th birthday and three years, twenty-seven days after a near-death spinal cord injury, PC Party Nanaimo-Ladysmith candidate and deputy leader Brian Marlatt is renewing the PC Party commitment to universal public health care in Canada and calls for expanded seniors care. "Autism treatment, too," he is quick to say.

"Healthcare is the "Canadian Advantage" measured by both social and economic metrics," Marlatt said. "At all levels of society and the economy, confidence that good health outcomes are available to all Canadians distinguishes Canada from other nations and shapes the world's perception of us as a people to embrace, respect, and engage. Live long and prosper isn't science fiction."

"My father spent eight months and four days in Nanaimo General ICU and Disabilities Rehab. I had to be patient advocate when overwhelmed medical teams saw only death and paralysis, no quality of life. But with their genius and caring, and family commitment, he came home on my mother's 86th birthday. Six months later he was making architectural drawings and taking an apprentice carpenter under his wing who, after attending VIU-Malaspina, is a working part of our community." All from his wheelchair. "With our support," Marlatt said, "We make miracles here. That is how we must address the health care needs of all Canadians."

#### **The Challenge and Answers:**

"Our party is committed to finding means to reduce **wait times**, to discuss proposals for a national pharmacare programme which others see as aspirational but we see as achievable," and renewed his party's long-standing commitment "to achieve the goals of the 'Medicare for Autism NOW!' campaign," Marlatt said in the May by-election. "And here is how to begin," he adds, "during the General Election."

"Wait times have organizational and delivery challenges," the PC Party deputy leader said. "We are proposing that in exchange for a period of service in remote and under-served areas of Canada at discounted incomes, we the people and Government of Canada, will fund the medical education of required service doctors, nurses and medical technicians, just like the army, navy and air force."

"Wait times for urgent care and emergency medically necessary procedures should be first class. Wait times for elective surgery, specialist access, and non-emergency services are ranked by some critics as second to middle tier."

Progressive Canadians see renewed commitment to funding health care and to goal-oriented health care delivery as needed. "Both Liberals and 'new' Conservatives have effectively defunded health care by reducing the rate of federal funding increases per annum from six per

cent to three per cent,” Marlatt said. “Rates of increase need to be restored to levels in pace with rates of inflation and the costs of new technology and as the average age of user increases.”

**National Pharmacare.** “Progressive Conservatives, at our Quebec City National Policy Convention in 2000, then as now understood that provinces jealous of jurisdiction would refuse to set up or expand ‘boutique’ programmes at a time of federal funding cuts to health care. The advantages of economies of scale from a national pharmacare programme remain unavailable while some provinces remain unavailable participants.”

Pointing to the economies of scale and better results expected when negotiating with large pharmaceutical companies in a national approach, Marlatt and PC Party Leader Hueglin have expressed willingness to work with the provinces to achieve patient-centred outcomes in a national pharmacare programme.

“As with the Canada Health Act, building bridges is better than building walls. Aspirational change is unrealized benefit. By moving forward in a progressive-conservative way, balancing progressive social policy with fiscal responsibility, incrementally to the possible, sustainable benefit can be achieved. Jurisdictional obstacles can be overcome,” the Nanaimo-Ladysmith PC Party candidate said.

The Progressive Canadian Party is proposing that the federal government establish a ‘**National Purchasing Agency**’

as a distribution network for pharmaceuticals supplied to provincial programmes. In this way, economies of scale can be achieved without jurisdictional tensions.

“We understand that some have reservations about the cost of service delivery in areas of jurisdictional challenges with the provinces but challenges are what people of good will seek to overcome for the common good, Marlatt said. The parliamentary budget officer has recently indicated that 4.2 billion dollars a year could be saved by working with the provinces to establish a national pharmacare plan, according to the National Post.”

“Progressive Canadians fully support the Canada Health Act and its principles of single-payer publicly funded and administered, comprehensive health care that is available to all Canadians equally wherever they live in Canada,” Marlatt said. “The social benefit to Canadians of all ages and circumstance is self-evident. What is less appreciated is that freedom from fear of economic ruin caused by chronic or catastrophic medical need and the availability of a healthy workforce to business unburdened by the additional costs of private primary health care plans is a significant Canadian Advantage to the economy.”

“But we have more to do,” he added.

“To achieve this, the PC Party will call for organizational re-evaluation beginning with first principles provided by the Canada Health Act and...a mission statement developed from first principles so that the provinces, as administrators of health care, can better achieve their goals...innovation requires clear goals.”

**Autism.** On the question of ABA/IBI analysis and treatment for children and families affected by autism, Marlatt was pleased to add that “Our campaign in 2008, in South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale where I was then the PC Party candidate, led to the Progressive Canadian party being the first national party to endorse the non-partisan ‘Medicare for Autism NOW!’ campaign, under the leadership of the late Hon. Sinclair Stevens, P.C., Q.C..”

“We will work with the next government national health care funding reform as an economic investment, on seniors care, national pharmacare, and autism services to build upon the Progressive Canadian initiative in Nanaimo-Ladysmith. As our M.P. I will work toward these

goals. Canadian families deserve it.”

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Source: National pharmacare could save \$4.2 billion annually, budget officer says. National Post, September 28, 2017.