

Hello,

Please find my answers below to your questions. Thank you!

Adrienne Roberts, NDP Candidate for Brantford-Brant

1. The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light infrastructural shortcomings that have affected older Canadians for far too long. New Democrats will begin addressing these on day one. We will build new, affordable, accessible housing that will increase choice for seniors. We will tackle seniors' isolation by improving access to technology to stay connected with family, provide more funding to community programs that do outreach to seniors, invest in affordable and accessible public transit, and support innovative solutions like intergenerational co-housing. New Democrats will also work collaboratively with provincial and territorial governments to develop national standards for home care to ensure consistently high levels of care across the country.
2. New Democrats will immediately begin working towards solutions that protect older Canadians. From day one we will establish partnerships and develop strategies to ensure a high quality of life for seniors. We are committed to transparency and open dialogue with all stakeholders throughout this process.
3. Every senior deserves to live in dignity, to receive appropriate care and support, and to have a say in the decisions that affect them. Human rights legislation, as well as the Charter, protect Canadians against discrimination related to age, and New Democrats will support measures which ensure that these rights are respected and enforced.
4. Despite investing their working lives to make Canada a better place, too many older Canadians end up living with financial insecurity, poverty, and isolation. Our National Senior Strategy will work with all levels of government and

with seniors to develop strategies to end neglect of older Canadians.

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7. Seniors deserve a retirement that's financially secure and dignified. And no senior should miss out on benefits they qualify for because of a paperwork oversight. We'll put in place a one-year delay to help seniors at risk of having their GIS benefits suspended for being unable to make the required income statement.

New Democrats realize that seniors are often themselves caregivers to loved ones, or rely on the caregiving of family members. In order to help make life more affordable for seniors and caregivers, we'll make the Canada Caregiver Tax Credit refundable. This will provide thousands of dollars to low-income caregivers, many of whom have given up work to care for a loved one.

5. New Democrats believe that every Canadian should be able to count on a dignified, secure retirement – and we'll fight hard to protect pensions that workers have earned. We will ensure that pensioners are paid first when a company goes bankrupt – making sure unfunded pension liabilities owed to workers, and employees' severance pay, are the top priority. We'll stop companies from paying out dividends and bonuses when pensions are under-funded, and create a mandatory, industry-financed pension insurance program to ensure no worker is deprived of the retirement benefits they've earned.

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We are committed to strengthening public pensions and improving retirement security for all Canadians and providing a basic guaranteed livable income for seniors. An NDP government will create a Pension Advisory Commission to

develop a long-term plan to enhance Old Age Security, boost the Guaranteed Income Supplement to lift all seniors out of poverty and strengthen the Canada Pension Plan. We'll also make automatic enrollment in OAS and GIS retroactive, so no retiree misses out on benefits that they should be receiving, and support efforts to make sure Canadians have good retirement financial literacy.

6. As more Canadians enter their senior years, we need to make better choices to be ready to meet their needs and ensure that everyone can age with dignity. New Democrats are committed to making sure that our institutions and public services are strong and prepared – and that every senior has access to the health care and social support they need to make life a little easier. Physical, mental, economic and social wellbeing are inextricably linked, and a New Democratic government will establish a National Seniors Strategy that will work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous governments to make seniors health care a priority, reduce isolation and tackle seniors' poverty. This will include a funded national dementia strategy, and an elder abuse prevention plan developed with seniors to put an end to abuse and neglect in our communities.

Our national pharmacare for all plan will provide prescription medicine to all seniors, saving seniors hundreds of dollars every year and ensuring that no one needs to choose between medicine and other essentials. Our dental care plan make sure that uninsured seniors can go to the dentist when they need to, without facing costly bills. A New Democrat government would also bring in mental health care for uninsured Canadians – ensuring that seniors with no coverage for mental health services could gain access to these supports without worrying about the cost.

Our affordable housing plan will increase affordable housing choices for seniors, and support innovative housing solutions, such as intergenerational co-housing, that will allow older Canadians to thrive in vibrant communities. We

will work with all levels of government to establish national standards of home care, making sure that every Canadian using these services has a consistently high level of care.

7. Canadians were horrified to see the conditions in our long-term care facilities during the pandemic. Successive Liberal and Conservative governments have underfunded health care and prioritized the profits of big corporations and their wealthy shareholders. New Democrats will end for-profit delivery and bring long-term care homes under the public umbrella. And we'll introduce a care guarantee for seniors, including national standards for care and working conditions in long-term care homes. We will also work collaboratively with patients, caregivers, and provincial and territorial governments to develop national care standards for home care and long-term care, regulated by the same principles as the Canada Health Act. By doing so, an NDP government will legally protect access to home care and long-term care services, and ensure a consistent quality of care across the country.
8. The New Democratic Party will establish National Senior Strategy that will work with all levels of government to prioritize seniors physical, mental, economic, and social wellbeing. Our investments in infrastructure and housing will ensure seniors can participate in thriving communities. Our pharmacare, dental, and mental health plans will give older Canadians the ability to live healthy lives without putting strain on their finances.
9. Our National Seniors Strategy will include an elder abuse prevention plan developed with seniors to put an end to abuse and neglect in our communities. We will develop a national standard of care by working with all levels of government, as well as patients and caregivers, to ensure that all seniors are secure and have a high quality of life.
10. A NDP government will also end private, for-profit long-term care and bring long-term care homes under public ownership, beginning with the federally-owned long term

care company Revera. This will increase scrutiny on long-term care facilities and ensure a high quality of life for residents, instead of swelling their profits at the expense of older Canadians. It will mean an increased scrutiny on care facilities, ensuring seniors are protected from mistreatment and exploitation.

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