

It's About Health. It's About Time.
APCCP Survey of Political Party Leaders & Election Candidates

1. Do you support the passage of provincial legislation to create a well-financed, dedicated and sustainable **wellness foundation** for Alberta with the goal of making Albertans the healthiest people in Canada?

Rationale: Based on the experiences of other jurisdictions, a well-designed and properly financed wellness foundation can prevent disease and promote health to transform the quality of life of Albertans and create a cultural shift toward healthy living. Adequate and stable funding is essential in order to create the fundamental social change that is required.

Yes No

Comments:

2. Do you agree that the equivalent of *at least one percent* of the healthcare budget (at least \$150 million annually) should be devoted to the wellness foundation without redirecting any funding away from the existing healthcare budget or nongovernment agencies currently funded for this work?

Rationale: The proposed funding formula has been referred to as the "one percent solution" (1989 Rainbow Report) and would effectively increase the current budget to equal less than 5% of the total health operating budget. This funding can be derived from an appropriation of the general revenue fund or by modest tax increases on liquor and tobacco without affecting the existing healthcare budget.

Yes No

Comments:

*require more information & consideration
in principle, yes*

3. Do you agree that the wellness foundation should be devoted exclusively to the **prevention of chronic disease and injury**, including mental health?

Rationale: Chronic disease and injury are the leading causes of death and disability in Alberta. The majority of these illnesses and deaths result from preventable risk factors such as physical inactivity, obesity, tobacco use, alcohol misuse, and mental illness. The Alberta Government is spending more than ever before on acute health care, and the majority (over 90%) is spent on treating and managing diseases and disability, which are largely preventable.

Yes No

Comments:

4. Do you agree that the wellness foundation should operate at **arms-length to government** and report directly to the Legislative Assembly to maintain independence, accountability and transparency?

Rationale: The wellness foundation should be an independent statutory body, established through legislation. The foundation must be able to operate independently of government to maintain accountability, transparency, and the means to mobilize and respond quickly to new research, emerging needs, and opportunities to advocate for health promotion policies. The foundation should be governed by an independent board of key stakeholders that are selected by an all-party committee of MLAs.

Yes No

Comments:

5. Do you agree that the wellness foundation should function **independently of the healthcare system** in order to maintain financial autonomy and sustainability?

Rationale: The financial pressures on the healthcare system continue to rise as the result of increased demands and various cost-drivers (e.g. an aging population). Previous efforts to increase spending on prevention and health promotion have been impaired by financial pressures for acute care services. It is important to protect the wellness foundation and its funding from the financial pressures of the acute healthcare system.

Yes No

Comments:

BRIAN WATSON
Candidate (Print Name)

[Signature]
Candidate (Signature)

NAP
Political Party

Feb 27, 2012
Date