



FIRST LOOK
FIRST LOOK
FIRST LOOK

FUTURE OF **HEALTH CARE**

Transforming health care so that Albertans
can get care when they need it most.

We don't need to tell Albertans that over the last seven years, the UCP government has broken health care. They see it and experience it every day when they try to see a doctor, go to the emergency room, call an ambulance, or get surgery.

The UCP's answer has been more chaos and more privatization. They've built an American-style, two-tier system where people with money can pay for faster access to health care, while everyone else waits longer. At the same time, surgery wait times have exploded, emergency rooms are stretched beyond capacity, Indigenous peoples continue to face worse health outcomes, and Albertans can't count on an ambulance arriving when they need one.

Alberta's NDP is announcing the first look at the Future of Health Care. After seven years of UCP mismanagement, we have a plan to transform health care and deliver the care Albertans deserve.

Future of Health Care

Alberta's NDP believes in a future where every Albertan can get the care they need, when they need it. A future where a strong public health care system delivers world-class care, supports health care workers, and works seamlessly across the province.

The Future of Health Care is our plan to make that future a reality. It is a plan to restore confidence in public health care, and ensure Albertans can count on the care they need.

Within three years, Alberta's NDP will deliver shorter wait times, timely access to a family doctor or primary care provider, integrated and connected care, and a better health care system that works for all Albertans.

Our Commitments

Under the Future of Health Care, Alberta's NDP will save lives by:

Cutting emergency department wait times.

No Albertan should have to wait hours for emergency care, let alone risk their life waiting for it. The UCP broke a health care system that Albertans once relied on, leaving emergency departments overcrowded and overwhelmed. Too many Albertans end up in the ED because they can't access care elsewhere, while others are left occupying hospital beds because they can't get the community care and supports they need.

Alberta's NDP will reduce emergency department wait times by:

- freeing up hospital beds by ensuring patients can move more quickly to home care, assisted living, and continuing care
- expanding hospital capacity
- expanding access to care outside of hospitals
- investing in public health, prevention, early intervention, better management of chronic illness, and mental health and addictions supports
- ensuring reliable emergency room coverage and readiness for periods of high demand

Guaranteeing access to an ambulance when and where Albertans need it.

Albertans no longer have confidence that help will be on the way when they call 911. Years of UCP mismanagement have left ambulances delayed at hospitals instead of responding to emergencies. At the same time, the UCP has failed to recruit and retain enough paramedics to keep pace with growing demand.

Alberta's NDP will improve ambulance response times by:

- growing the paramedic workforce through training, recruitment, health and safety supports and retention
- integrating fire and other emergency services to take the burden off of paramedics
- reducing delays that keep ambulances off the road

We will also ensure every Albertan can access the care they need by:

Cutting surgical, diagnostic and specialist wait times by 30% within three years.

Too many Albertans are living with pain, uncertainty, and unnecessary delays as they wait longer than medically recommended timelines for surgeries, diagnostic tests and specialist appointments. These waits are the direct result of the UCP breaking Alberta's health care system, leaving the province with health care worker shortages, limited and underfunded infrastructure, poor coordination across the system, and a disconnected referral process.

Alberta's NDP will reduce wait times for diagnostics, specialist care, and surgery by:

- expanding the workforce and supporting team based care to increase the capacity needed to deliver care faster
- creating centralized referral systems to connect patients with care sooner
- increasing utilization of operating-rooms and investing in diagnostic services, infrastructure and staffing

Guaranteeing all Albertans access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner.

Almost one million Albertans are unable to see a regular primary care provider when they need to. Years of UCP mismanagement have left Alberta facing health care worker shortages and limited appointment availability, making it harder for Albertans to get the care they need. Without timely access to primary care, minor health concerns can become health emergencies, chronic conditions go unmanaged, and more Albertans are forced to seek care in emergency departments.

Alberta's NDP will improve access to primary care by:

- growing the family doctor and nurse practitioner workforce
- expanding connected team-based care and integrating primary care with mental health, addictions, home care, and continuing care services
- improving access to same-day, after-hours, virtual, and in-person care reducing the administrative burden on primary care providers so they can focus on patient care

Creating one integrated Ministry of Health.

Seven years of UCP mismanagement have split responsibility for health care across multiple ministries, agencies, and programs. Albertans often need care from multiple providers and services, but instead of experiencing one connected system, they face delays, repeated assessments, and the frustration of navigating a broken health care system on their own.

Alberta's NDP will make it easier to access the right care by:

- bringing health care back under one Minister of Health with clear accountability for health care outcomes
- bringing primary care, acute care, hospitals, surgical services, specialist care, mental health and addictions services, home care and continuing care together so Albertans experience seamless care

How are we going to do it?

Delivering on these commitments will not happen overnight - years of the UCP's chaos, confusion, and corruption in Alberta's health care system have made sure of that.

But Alberta's NDP are committed and ready to immediately start transforming our health care system better by rebuilding trust, strengthening the workforce, and integrating care across the province.

We're going to rebuild trust.

Albertans need confidence that health care decisions are being made in their best interests. After years of UCP chaos and corruption, trust in Alberta's health care system has been shaken.

Rebuilding trust is critical to delivering on the commitments in The Future of Health Care. Albertans deserve to know how decisions are made, how health care dollars are spent, and whether the system is delivering results.

To rebuild trust, Alberta's NDP will:

- uphold and protect the Canada Health Act
- launch a judiciary-led public inquiry into CorruptCare
- introduce whistleblower protections for health care workers
- report publicly on wait times, access to care, and health system performance
- put patients, health care workers, and communities at the centre of health care planning
- work directly with front-line health care workers to improve health care delivery and patient care

We're going to strengthen the workforce.

Better access to primary care, shorter wait times, stronger emergency services, and expanded home and continuing care all depend on health care workers. But after years of UCP disruption and uncertainty, health care professionals have been asked to do more with less while their voices have been silenced and their solutions disregarded.

Health care workers are the foundation of every commitment in The Future of Health Care. That's why Alberta's NDP have worked with front-line health care professionals throughout its development and will continue working alongside them to empower, recruit, train, retain, and support the workforce Alberta needs.

To strengthen the workforce, Alberta's NDP will:

- repeal Bill 11 and other legislation to put an end to dual-practice and privatization efforts
- develop a made-in-Alberta workforce strategy in partnership with Alberta's health care professionals
- recruit, train, and retain more doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, paramedics, technologists, and all health workers
- work with post-secondary institutions, professional associations, and unions to address workforce shortages
- expand training and education opportunities in areas facing critical shortages
- ensure front-line expertise helps guide health care decisions

We're going to integrate care across the province.

Seven years of UCP decisions have split responsibility for health care across multiple ministries, agencies, and programs, making it harder for patients to access care and harder for providers to deliver it. Instead of a health care system that works together, the UCP has created silos that leave patients struggling to navigate their care and make it harder for health care workers to work collaboratively across the system.

Through the Future of Health Care, Alberta's NDP will rebuild health care better by creating a system that is coordinated, accountable, and centred on patients.

To integrate health care, Alberta's NDP will:

- create one Ministry of Health with one Minister accountable for health care outcomes
- coordinate workforce, infrastructure, and service planning across the province
- develop a comprehensive health workforce strategy to ensure Alberta has the health professionals needed to meet current and future demand
- connect health information systems so providers can better coordinate care, improve safety, and reduce duplication
- connect health care and social services to address the factors that have the biggest impact on health and well-being
- work with patients, communities, and health care workers to design services that reflect local needs. For example, Indigenous health care leaders will lead the development of Indigenous health care and rural health care leaders will lead development of rural health care.

Alberta's NDP will unveil more policy commitments in the coming months to add to the Future of Health Care.