

9 September 2019

Dear Deanna,

Thank you for writing, for providing us with the opportunity to speak to your coalition of organizations and share the Green Party of Canada's platform, and for your advocacy. Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Kat Lorimer
Policy Researcher
Green Party of Canada

Questions for Green Party of Canada

Brain health is critical to the lives of all Canadians. NHCC believes a basic right of Canadians living with brain conditions is unrestricted access to the best treatments, community and patient care supports. This right can only be fulfilled if governments commit to investing in both high quality brain health research and health and community supports, regardless of their location or community.

Q1: Where does your party stand on working with Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC) and its member organizations to establish a Canadian Brain Council to lead much needed collaboration with healthcare providers and brain health charities for research and patient care services that would benefit Canadians affected by brain conditions?

The federal government can and should lead the way in demonstrating a better model of health care. The Green Party of Canada agrees that care providers and healthcare decision-makers require better data sharing and standardization of quality indicators across provincial and territorial borders in order to optimize the quality of care being delivered to Canadians. We are committed to providing federal leadership and believe a benchmarking initiative like the Canadian Brain Council is worth pursuing, in order to ensure that the care Canadians are receiving is of the highest possible quality.



Brain conditions often lead to disability. We know, because of ground-breaking Canadian research, this means leaving a job prematurely, not being able to work at all, or requiring access to mobility equipment, expensive medications, therapies, adaptations to homes or specialized transportation. Income insecurity also affects caregivers. Nearly a quarter of parents, whose children have a brain condition, reported financial problems such as pay cuts, demotions and/or the ability to work outside the home.

Q2. Where does your party stand on supporting Canadians living with brain conditions, their families and caregivers, by improving and expanding existing income support programs and tax credits? For example, increasing the amount of caregiver tax credits, making EI sickness benefits more flexible to allow people to return to work part-time? What other supports would your party initiate?

The Green Party would establish a universal Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) program to replace the current array of income supports, such as disability payments, social assistance and income supplements for seniors. A GLI would provide a base level of livable income, set by region of the country, which would provide income security for both Canadians living with disabilities caused by a brain condition and their caregivers. Unlike existing income support programs, additional income would not be clawed back. This allows for part-time work, without a loss of benefits. Those earning above a certain total income would pay the GLI back in taxes.

Individuals with brain conditions face disjointed, fragmented care across multiple settings and care providers. Currently, there is a lack of knowledge or awareness of brain conditions among health service providers and limited availability and/or accessibility of necessary services, particularly for people living in rural areas.

Q3. Where does your party stand on the Government of Canada leading a demonstration study of an expanded chronic care model for neurological conditions that integrates health and support care services to deliver better and more coordinated care for people affected by brain conditions?

The Green Party is committed to evidence-based decision making, and we support innovation in the delivery of health care services to better meet the changing needs of Canadians. Progress tracking and inter-agency information sharing, which can take the form of formal studies, are an important way to ensure that improved health care outcomes are achieved. In addition to supporting national benchmarking programs, the Green Party will restore the federal/provincial Health Accord, basing the health transfer on demographics and real health care needs in each province, rather than the current formula based on gross domestic product (GDP) growth. This formula was introduced by the Harper Conservative government and has been retained by the Liberals.

