Santis Webinar

Post-Election 2021:
What the Liberal minority government means for your organization

October 18, 2021
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About Santis Health

Santis Health is a public affairs, strategic advisory, public policy, marketing and communication consultancy that is dedicated to providing first-class counsel and support for clients exclusively in the health care and life sciences sectors.

Insight
Our robust understanding of key actors and factors drives decisions and change.

Expertise
Our senior leaders have the experience to help navigate the most complex challenges.

Influence
Our track record delivers meaningful results.
Agenda

1. Election Wrap and Analysis
2. Consequences for Health Care
3. Federal-Provincial-Territorial Negotiations
4. What’s Next?
Election Wrap and Analysis

The Results

*Kevin Vuong was elected as a Liberal, but will sit as an independent after the Liberal Party disavowed his candidacy

**Change of seats reflects net change from before the election not 2019 election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>(% Change)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>32.6% ▼0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>33.7% ▼0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>7.6% ▲0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDP</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17.8% ▲1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.3% ▼3.4%</td>
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The Consequences for Health Care
Key Commitments on COVID-19 Response

- Bolstering incentives to get vaccinated.
- $1 billion for the provinces to set up vaccine passport systems and will mandate vaccinations for all travellers on interprovincial trains and planes, as well as federal public service workers as well as free access to booster shots.
- $100 million to study the long-term health implications of COVID-19.
- $6 billion in immediate investments - on top of the $4 billion already committed - to clear the backlog of surgeries and procedures.

Key Commitments on Mental Health and Addictions

- Refocusing efforts on mental health care following the significant challenges posed by the pandemic.
- $4.5 billion over 5 years to create a permanent Canada Mental Health Transfer tied to national standards announced in this year’s Federal Budget.
- $1.4 billion for mental health supports for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people.
- $500 million to support PTs in providing access to evidence-based treatment services for substance abuse.
- Introduce a comprehensive strategy to address problematic substance abuse.
Key Commitments on Primary Care and Virtual Care

- In their 2019 campaign the Liberals committed to providing every Canadian with a family doctor or primary care team and the 2021 platform builds off this vague commitment.
- Hire 7,500 doctors and nurse practitioners.
- Invest $6 billion to support the elimination of waitlists.
- Increase the student loan forgiveness program by 50% and expand eligibility to dentists, pharmacists, dental hygienists, midwives, social workers, and psychologists.
- $400 million over four years to expand Canada’s capacity for virtual care.

Key Commitments on Seniors and Long-Term Care

- The pandemic exposed shortfalls in Canada’s long term-care sector and the Liberal platform builds off of Budget 2021 commitments.
- $9 billion for long-term care, a significant increase from this year’s budget which called for new spending of $3 billion over five years, starting in 2022-23.
- Developing a Safe Long-Term Care Act while implementing more provincial and territorial facility inspections for long-term care homes.
- Training 50,000 PSWs and working with provinces and territories to ensure they have a set minimum wage of $25 per hour.
The Liberal platform contained significant commitments to deliver new and affordable housing across the country, including:

- More than doubling the National Housing Co-Investment Fund
- $2 billion for Indigenous housing and commitment to create a National Indigenous Housing Centre
- Appointing a new Federal Housing Advocate to ensure government’s commitments, especially on ending chronic homelessness, are fulfilled
The Liberals introduced the Bill C-35 to create a new disability benefit in the last Parliament, but it did not pass before the election. They have recommitted to their agenda in the disability services sector, promising to:

- Create direct monthly payments for low-income Canadians with disabilities between the ages of **18 and 64** by re-introducing the Disability Benefit Act,
- Draft and deliver on an employment strategy for people with disabilities
- Double the Home Accessibility Tax Credit to **$20,000**
The government is moving forward in establishing the foundational elements of national, universal pharmacare program, including:

- A new **Canadian Drug Agency** that would negotiate drug prices on behalf of all Canadians, thereby lowering costs.
- A national formulary to be developed by the **Canadian Drug Agency**.
- A **national strategy for high-cost drugs for rare diseases**, with funding of $500 million per year, ongoing, starting in 2022-23.
On the eve of an election, the Government of Canada and PEI announced an agreement to “accelerate work to implement pharmacare” that included the following:

• PEI will receive $35 million over 4 years to add new drugs to its list of covered drugs, and lower out of pocket costs for drugs covered under existing public plans.

• PEI pays some of the highest co-pays for drugs in the country, this will bring them into alignment with the Maritimes.

• The Health Minister also referenced in her comments the creation of the CDA as a means to help negotiate lower drug prices and the national rare drug program to lower the cost of high cost drugs for Canadians.
The Consequences for Health Care
Federal Liberal Platform, 2021 Election Campaign

• There was **no mention** of:
  - The Canada Drug Agency;
  - Drug pricing and/or the PMPRB
  - A National Formulary

There were only two mentions of Pharmacare in the most recent campaign platform document:

“From investing in pandemic surge capacity, public health care and the Safe Restart Agreement, to moving forward on pharmacare and procuring vaccines for every single Canadian, we have had Canadians’ backs. “
  - Liberal Party of Canada Platform, p3

“Signed the first provincial-territorial agreement to accelerate the implementation of national universal pharmacare as we continue to move forward with new partners and funded a $500 million a year national strategy for high-cost drugs for rare diseases.”
  - Liberal Party of Canada Platform, p3
Without **Government Political Will: “Pharmacare”**

- Childcare and COVID19 priorities overtook Pharmacare as the ultimate 2021-22 budget priority, and Pharmacare was not part of the most recent campaign narrative.

- Political will remains high amongst Liberal caucus and grassroots party, as well as the NDP.

- The upcoming Throne Speech and Ministerial Mandate Letters will spell out exactly where this priority sits with a re-elected government.
The Consequences for Health Care
Shared Platform Priorities

NDP
- Expanded mental health coverage
- National standards for long-term care

Areas of contention
- Commitments for universal pharmacare, dental care, and ending for-profit LTC
- Pharmacare will be an area the NDP continues to push the Liberal government for progress on

Liberal
- Expansion of domestic vaccine production
- Aligning the federal high-cost rare drugs strategy with Quebec's strategy
- Hiring more LTC workers

Areas of contention
- The Bloc will pressure the government to remove most of the strings attached to its own health care agenda. The Bloc platform called for the CST to increase unconditionally to cover up to 35% of costs.

CPC
- Domestic vaccine production
- Expanding mental health coverage
- LTC investments

Areas of contention
- The CPC platform indicated a pivot away from pharmacare
The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Negotiations
The Liberals’ health agenda will require extensive negotiations with provincial and territorial governments. Since the election, several Premiers have already signalled they will seek more health care funding from the federal government.

Prioritizing federal-provincial-territorial negotiations:

- Childcare agreements
- Long-term care and personal support workers
- Canada Mental Health Transfer
- Pharmacare
Ontario
- Immediately after the election, Premier Ford announced his attention to seek a deal with the Federal Government on $10/day childcare
- Expect more of “Ontario’s fair share” as June approaches
- Already seeing pushback from Premier Ford on some of the Trudeau Government’s “strings” for provincial funding

Quebec
- Status quo maintained
- Premier Legault remains very popular in Quebec
- Politically, Trudeau needs to maintain cordial relations despite Legault’s endorsement of O’Toole

Atlantic Provinces
- Now 3 PC led provinces following NS election, which creates potential for more political division
- The provinces are generally cash strapped and particularly in need of health care funding, so federal investments will increase cooperation

Alberta & Saskatchewan
- Priority will be resolving significant delta-driven 4th waves and huge pressure on hospitals and ICUs
- Political dynamic has changed as Premier Kenney faces challenges to his leadership

Federal Relations
What’s Next?
What’s Next?

Appointment of Cabinet (October 26) → Recall of Parliament (November 22) → Selection of the Speaker (November 22) → Speech from the Throne (November 22)

The first confidence vote (by end of November) → Mandate letters (as late as January) → Committee negotiation & membership (TBD) → Budget 2022 (February <-> May)
What’s Next
Getting on the Agenda

The Liberals have committed record funding to health priorities and there are plenty of opportunities for NHCC Members to access government support:

- Advocacy at ministerial level
- All-party approach to advocacy
- Pre-budget submissions
- Grant submissions
- Increase in research funds
Let us know how we can help you.