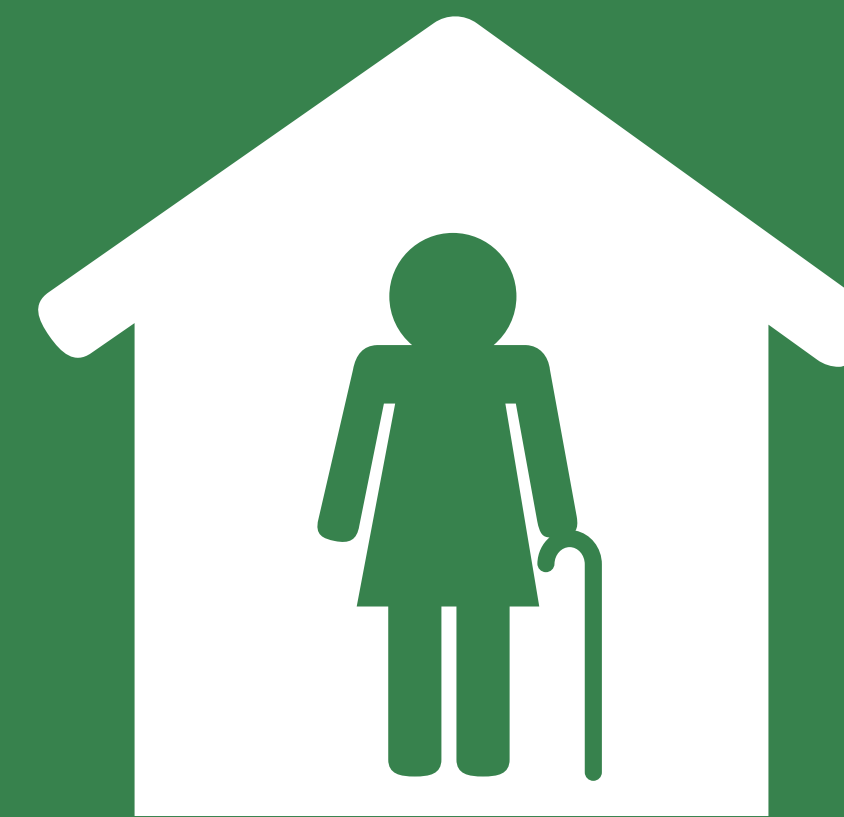


# Door Knock Questions

**When candidates or party volunteers come to your door or call you on the phone, consider asking them these questions about health care. Or you can use these as a starting point for your own questions.**

**We have also supplied a guide to help you evaluate their answers.**

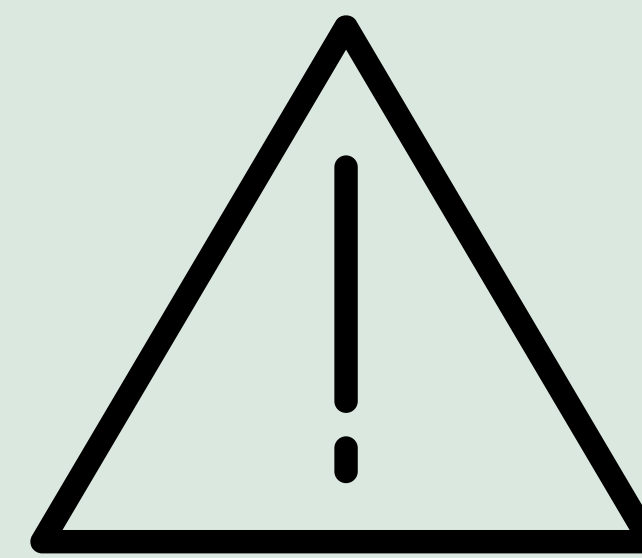


"Right now there are 1,300 Nova Scotians on the waitlist for a spot in long-term care - that number will increase as our populations ages.

At the same time, low wages and a lack of planning mean there's a staffing crisis that means residents don't get the care and attention they need.

# What will your party do to address the crisis in long-term care?"

**A bad answer might include...**



Denying that there is a crisis.

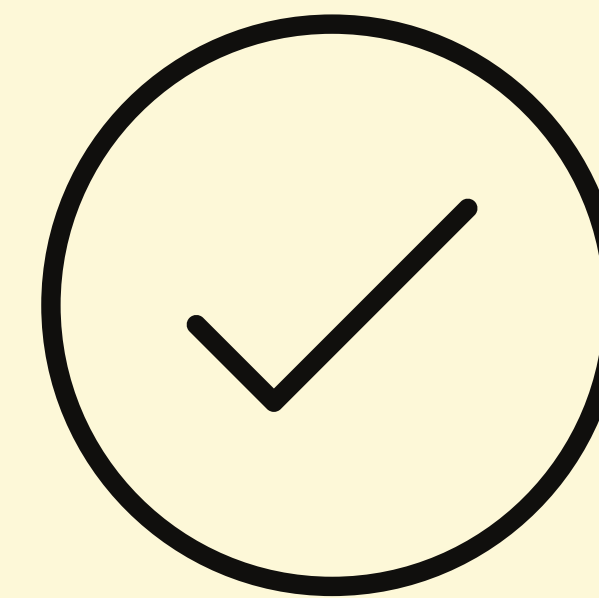
Expecting homecare and/or family members will pick up the slack.

A plan that gives public money to for-profit corporations (including vague terms like "procurement," "operators" or "private partners").



No clear plan to recruit and retain staff, ensure proper staffing ratios and to pay workers fairer wages.

**A good answer might include...**



A clear plan to build and staff at least 3,000 more LTC beds in the short-to-medium term and a long-term plan to build even more.



Funding to recruit and retain more staff, including better pay and rules mandating a staffing ratio of at least 4.1 hours of daily care per resident.

A commitment to remove for-profit corporations from our LTC system to ensure public money is spent on care, not profit.

Support for real national standards and new federal funding for longterm care.

"We are supposed to have a universal health care system, but many Nova Scotians face additional health care challenges.

African Nova Scotians, people living in rural communities, women, people with disabilities, immigrants and people with irregular migration status, working class and poor people, queer and trans people, incarcerated people, and many others face circumstances which negatively impact their health and have a harder time accessing appropriate care.

# What will your party do to ensure all Nova Scotians get the care they need regardless of who they are and where they live?"

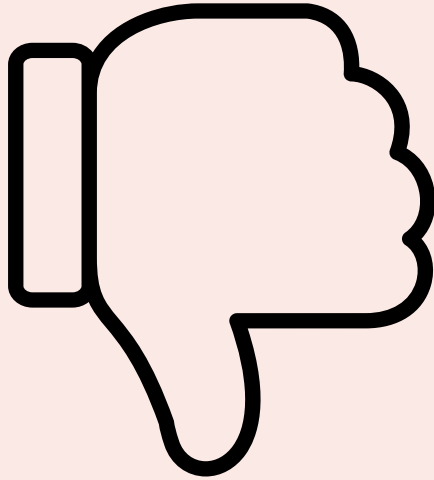
## A bad answer might include...



A lack of specifics or blaming other parties without offering a plan of their own.

Claiming we already spend too much on health care and just can't afford to take care of everyone.

Blaming individuals or communities for their own health issues, including saying things like "people need to take more personal responsibility."



Falsey claiming it can be solved with more privatization (including code words like "consumer choice" or "private sector innovation").

## A good answer might include...



Significantly more funding in health care and public services that prevent people from getting sick in the first place, including pharmacare, public housing and social assistance.

Policies to address poverty and other "social determinants of health," such as rent control, an increased minimum wage, paid sick days, justice reform and proper environmental protections.

A plan which involves the affected communities in designing and delivering solutions.



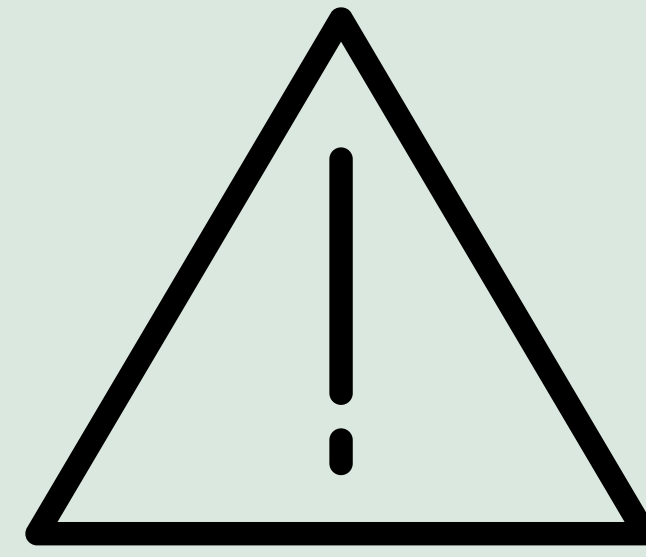


"While the pandemic has made it worse, Nova Scotia has long been in the middle of a mental health and addictions crisis.

The circumstances which so often exasperate or cause mental health problems have gotten worse and accessing care has only gotten harder.

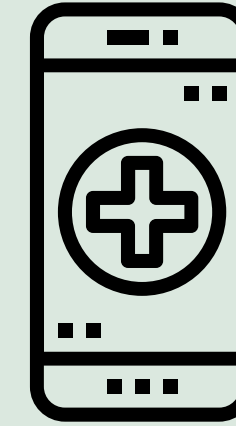
# How will your party make sure everyone has the mental health supports they need?"

**A bad answer might include...**



Denying that there is a crisis.

An over reliance on apps, websites and other technological "fixes."



A plan which further criminalizes the mentally ill and people who use drugs instead of focusing on harm reduction, treatment and social supports.

Expecting the over-extended and inaccessible private psychology system to absorb more patients.

**A good answer might include...**



A plan to address homelessness, low-wages, domestic violence and job, housing and food insecurity to fight the causes of mental illness.

A universal system of mental health services that are integrated into the public health system with no user fees, no need for private insurance and no long wait times.



Details of a comprehensive, province-wide harm reduction-based addictions strategy and the resources to support it.

A clear plan to train and hire additional psychologist, psychiatrists, social workers and other mental health and counselling professionals.