

# ELECTION PLATFORMS: Manitoba

CARP has collected the platform promises targeted at older citizens of Manitoba by each of the three main parties. The platform proposals are taken directly from the official party documents and are organized by party to show how each is targeting older citizens.

The platforms are the 'official' vision for Manitoba of each party, as such, we omitted promises made in the media or the debates and focused instead on concrete proposals. The respective parties may have stated or elaborated promises not included in the information below and other items of interest not listed below can be found in the full party platforms.

CARP does not support any one party, and the information below is meant only as a neutral collection of policies that have been targeted by each party toward older Manitobans. Our intent is to give our readers the information they need to make informed decisions on October 4, 2011.

To read each of the party platforms, follow these links:

**NDP:** <http://todaysndp.ca/our-plan>

**Conservative Party:** [http://www.pcmantoba.com/main.asp?cat\\_ID=3](http://www.pcmantoba.com/main.asp?cat_ID=3)

**Liberal Party:** <http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Strong-Families-Healthy-Communities-Platform.pdf>

**On Healthcare:** Each of the parties proposed improvements to homecare and long-term care practices and drug access and costs. NDP are promising that every Manitoban will have primary care by 2015. The PCs promise investment in palliative care, while the Liberals are promising electronic health records.

**Elder Abuse:** The NDP are the only party who mention elder abuse in their platform, with a general promise to "crack down" on the problem.

**Housing:** Both the NDP and the PCs have senior specific proposals for housing. The NDP promise more housing for seniors and a property tax credit, while the PCs are offering a home renovation tax credit.

**Notable Omissions:** None of the three parties has proposed action on pension or income issues for seniors.

## NDP

Issue	Proposal
<b>Healthcare</b>	Will hire more doctors and nurses to get families the care they need faster Will ensure that all Manitobans can access a family doctor by 2015 Will cut wait times with more specialists and leading edge technologies Will make lifesaving investments to have the fastest cancer detection and treatment program in Canada Will provide more families in remote communities with care through new Primary Care Health Buses Will bring more services closer to your home, such as dialysis expansions in Gimli, Swan River, Berens River, Peguis and Russell Will build more personal care home beds and increasing access to home care services Will create a new tax credit for caregivers providing care to seniors at home Will expand home care to meet the needs of our growing number of seniors
<b>Housing</b>	Will create housing that supports independence and a high quality of life for seniors Will work with seniors to plan for and meet housing needs Will increase the maximum Education Property Tax Credit for seniors
<b>Elder Abuse</b>	Will crack down on elder abuse

## Progressive Conservative

Issue	Proposal
<b>Healthcare</b>	<p>Will grow Manitoba's nursing workforce by hiring a minimum of 1,700 nurses over the next six years</p> <p>Will utilize nurse practitioners more effectively in hospitals, personal care homes and in primary health care facilities and will hire an additional 75 nurse practitioners over the next six years</p> <p>Will hire at least 250 more doctors in the next six years through increased retention, recruitment and training</p> <p>Will hire at least 40 physician assistants over the next six years to ensure that Manitobans have access to health care when they need it</p> <p>Will enhance the capacity of the emergency care system by increasing the scope of care administered by paramedics, by increasing the range of care options available to patients attended to by a paramedic and by reducing ambulance offload times</p> <p>Will commit more full-time ambulances for Winnipeg to meet the rising demand for emergency medical services from our growing population</p> <p>Will make long-term care a priority. Will begin to address the serious and considerable gaps in our system by adding more health care workers and by improving safety and support for seniors in care</p> <p>Will expand home care by hiring more health professionals to provide care to Manitobans</p> <p>Will make it easier for Manitoba seniors and their families to navigate the long-term care system and to access the supports they need</p> <p>Will continue respite support for caregivers and will follow through on existing commitments in long-term care to ensure that Manitobans have access to the supports they require</p> <p>Will look at improving the way seniors are managed at emergency departments through the implementation of a pilot program with the goal of increasing efficiency, reducing wait times and improving patient care</p> <p>Will respond to the dementia crisis in this province and will make dementia care a public health priority before it overwhelms the system</p> <p>Will work together with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba to move a provincial stroke strategy forward that meets the varied needs of Manitobans throughout the province</p> <p>Will work in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation to ensure that patients have access to timely care and appropriate treatments and therapies</p> <p>Will continue respite support for caregivers and will follow through on existing commitments in long-term care</p> <p>Will ensure that the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee meets regularly to ensure that the provincial government receives recommendations regarding additions to the Manitoba drug formulary</p> <p>Will work with Hospice and Palliative Care Manitoba and rural and remote regional health authorities to improve access to hospice and palliative care supports for patients and caregivers</p>
<b>Housing</b>	We will introduce a home renovation tax credit

## **Liberal**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<p>Will set targets to increase the proportion of our citizens with access to a family physician and work with doctors to provide longer hours of care</p> <p>Will implement the use of electronic records and communication to speed access to and ensure accuracy of health care</p> <p>Will ensure same day access to family doctors during weekdays</p> <p>Will increase personal care home spaces to eliminate the need for the aged to be in ERs</p> <p>Will create a Quality Council to implement best practices and standards</p> <p>Will act quickly to add new, effective, approved drugs to our provincial Pharmacare system</p> <p>Will ensure timely and effective removal of drugs from support under Pharmacare where they have not been shown to be effective or to cause more harm than good</p> <p>Will work toward the right balance between cost to the province and cost to the individual for drugs under Pharmacare</p> <p>Will assess the actual use of expensive drugs, to ensure that cost does not prohibit an individual from using a needed drug</p> <p>Will create a Wait Times Standards Council to establish provincial standards, focusing on patient needs rather than on systems limits</p> <p>Will create a Manitoba Patient Bill of Rights with a legally enforceable guarantee to ensure that these improvements are available for future generations</p> <p>Will invest in Alzheimer's and dementia research</p> <p>Will institute effective provincial standards for care in personal care homes and monitor health outcomes</p> <p>Will assess the need for additional, affordable personal care homes, recognizing the need for care homes for immigrant groups with specific cultural practices for elder care</p> <p>Will offer increased tax credit support to families to care for their relatives</p> <p>Will make it easier to qualify for home care and provide more home care resources</p>