

**CARP Premiers Conference Poll Report
August 12, 2014**

Key Findings

CARP members think the most useful outcome of the upcoming First Ministers conference in PEI would be the kind of national standards for health care previously imposed by the national Health Care Accord, coupled with a comprehensive national seniors health care strategy that includes dementia care, home care and end-of-life issues.

CARP members see a role for the federal government, not only in setting national health care standards, but in overall management, ~~and~~ goal-setting, and funding of the health care file, and regret the fact the government has stepped away from the table.

Members are not confident the provinces can work together without the federal government to achieve, among other things, a national seniors health care strategy, national standards for health care, a national home care strategy, a comprehensive approach to dementia and to end-of-life issues. They do not think the arrangement of the last two years, where the federal government has provided capped funding but avoided any management role in health care, has worked well enough.

More funding for home care is seen as the best solution to the problem of seniors filling acute care beds, followed by better coordination between hospitals and home care agencies. Most members say home care in their provinces hasn't been improving. Members see creating both a national pharmacare plan and a national end-of-life care capability as extremely important.

Electoral Preference

One half of members will vote Liberal if the election were held today, while one third would vote Conservative. One eighth will vote NDP. The Liberals have gained vote share recently at the expense of the Conservatives.

Detailed Findings

Members are relatively equally likely to call for a set of national standards for health care (26%) or a national seniors strategy (21%) coming out the first ministers' conference (21%), followed by enhancing CPP or creating provincial pension plans (15%) and a national pharmacare plan (11%).

The Council of the Federation, premiers of the provinces and territories but not the Prime Minister, will be meeting in PEI at the end of August. As far as you are concerned, what is the most pressing issue they need to deal with?

National standards for health care	26%
National seniors health care strategy	21%
Enhancing CPP/creating provincial plan	15%
National universal pharmacare plan	11%
Senate reform	7%
Dementia care strategy	5%
Job training	5%
Replace OAS for those who can't wait until 67	2%
Enact PRPP legislation	*
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	8%

Two thirds of members agree that the system of the federal government stepping aside from active management of the health care file doesn't work well (65%) and as many as 3-in-10 say it doesn't work well at all (29%).

Two years ago, the federal government abandoned its role in setting and funding national health care standards and priorities leaving it solely to the provinces to manage within capped funding. How has this arrangement worked over the past two years?

WORKS WELL	10%
Works very well	2%
Works well	8%
DOESN'T WORK WELL	65%
Doesn't work very well	36%
Doesn't work at all well	29%
DON'T KNOW	26%

Two thirds disagree the provinces can accomplish a national strategy for health care without the participation of the federal government (62%).

Do you agree or disagree the provinces will work together to set national standards and priorities for health care without the participation of the federal government?

AGREE	29%
Agree strongly	6%
Agree	23%
DISAGREE	62%
Disagree	43%
Disagree strongly	19%
DON'T KNOW	9%

More funding for home care is seen as the best way to get seniors out of acute care beds (36%), followed by better coordination between hospitals and home care programs (20%), empowering nurse practitioners (13%) and doctors making house calls (12%).

The premiers created the Health Care Innovation Working Group in 2012. One suggestion was to share ideas on moving seniors out of hospital beds and into their homes. How is this best achieved?

More funding for home care	36%
Better coordination between hospitals and programs	20%
Empower nurse practitioners	13%
House calls	12%
More social/age-appropriate housing	6%
More care facilities/beds	6%
Awareness of cost of filled beds	1%
National wait times guarantees	1%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	8%

One third of members say there has been no change in home care in their province (37%), while fewer think improvement has been at least incremental (30%).

How would you describe access to home care and community based care in your province?

Improving rapidly	*
Improving	12%
Incrementally improving	28%
No change	37%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	23%

One third think drug cost savings realized so far are effective and money has been saved (37%) while an equal proportion say these savings are just a drop in the bucket (36%).

Another suggestion was to reduce generic drug prices through common price setting. To date, the provinces have reduced the cost of 10 common generic drugs, for savings of \$150 million across all participating drug plans. How would you describe this progress?

Very effective, great deal of money saved	6%
Effective, money saved	37%
Not very effective, not much money saved	15%
Just a drop in the bucket	36%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	6%

Members see both creating a national pharmacare program and building a comprehensive end-of-life strategy as important (91% and 96%, respectively) and in each case, the plurality of members say it is extremely important (37% and 48%, respectively).

How important is it that the premiers work together to create an income-tested national pharmacare plan under which all Canadians regardless of age are covered, and which provides equal access across Canada/How important is it that the premiers work together to improve end of life care, including providing comprehensive palliative care, setting standards for living wills/advanced directives, and giving patients more control at end of life?

	Pharmacare	End-of-life
IMPORTANT	91%	96%
Extremely important	37%	48%
Very important	30%	31%
Important	24%	17%
NOT IMPORTANT	6%	3%
Not very important	4%	2%
Not at all important	2%	1%
DON'T KNOW	2%	1%

The plurality of members agree it is better for a national dementia strategy to be carried out under the aegis of the federal government (43%) than for the provinces to attempt this by working together (24%).

Last year the premiers expanded the mandate of the Health Care Innovation Working Group to include seniors care, focusing on aging in place and dementia care. Is this initiative best carried out by the provinces working together in their own interests, or by the federal government taking the lead and setting a national strategy for seniors?

Provinces work together in their own interests	24%
Federal government sets a national seniors strategy	43%
Neither	2%
Both	25%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	5%

Three quarters of members are not confident that progress in dealing with dementia will be made nationwide (78%).

Are you confident or not confident that progress will be made nationally to provide support for dementia sufferers, their families and caregivers?

CONFIDENT	19%
Very confident	*
Somewhat confident	18%
NOT CONFIDENT	78%
Not very confident	56%
Not at all confident	22%
DON'T KNOW	4%

One third of members characterize first ministers conferences as “much promised, little done” (37%), followed by those who see them as pointless without the Prime Minister’s participation (22%), those who think them the best forum to discuss health care (14%) or those who see them just as photo ops (12%).

What is your reaction to premiers’ conferences?

Much promised/little achieved	37%
Pointless without Prime Minister	22%
Best forum to discuss health care reform	14%
Photo op for premiers	12%
Most important meeting in Canada	5%
Finance ministers conferences more useful	3%
Best forum to discuss pension reform	1%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	5%

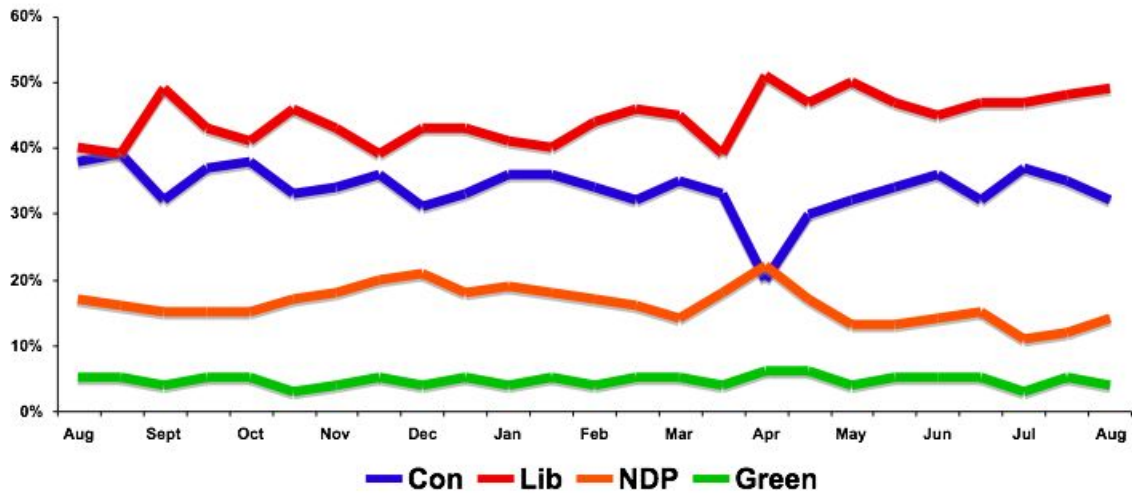
A national seniors health care strategy is seen to be the best outcome of the upcoming first ministers meeting in PEI (44%), followed by a demand from the provinces that the federal government return to the health care table (14%). No other outcome is cited by as many as one tenth.

What would be the most important outcome of the premiers' conference in PEI?

National seniors health care strategy	44%
Demand federal government return to HC table	14%
Reallocate institutional funds to home care	9%
Home care funding	9%
Bring down branded drug prices	7%
Demand more federal funding	4%
Bring down generic drug prices	3%
Fund training and support for dementia	2%
Fund dementia research	1%
Best forum to discuss pension reform	1%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	8%

Electoral Preference

The Liberals (49%) have increased their vote share at the expense of the Conservatives (32%) The NDP (14%) remain in third place. The spike in the Liberal vote in September (to 49%) came when Justin Trudeau announced the Liberal Party marijuana policy, while the spike in the Liberal vote and the corresponding drop in the Conservative vote in April came during the debate over the Fair Elections Act.



More than 1800 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between August 9 and 12, 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20