

## Questionnaire

### 1) Allergy testing and treatment

The Provincial Government recently moved to allow professionals other than medically trained allergists to perform both challenge testing to determine allergy and desensitization treatments on patients. Anaphylaxis Canada has serious reservations about these changes. For those at risk of a life-threatening allergic reaction and particularly for families of young children at risk, the accompanying anxiety can only be tempered by the fact that the tests and treatments they are given are as accurate as possible so their allergies can be successfully managed.

*a) What is your party's position on expanding the scope of practice to include the ability to test for and treat allergy? What is your party's rationale for this position?*

The Green Party of BC supports giving British Columbians a choice in their family health care needs, including the right to be covered by the provincial health care plan for visits to naturopaths. While most people with allergies, or their parents, will continue to choose to seek help from allergists for allergy problems, we support the right for people to choose their own health professionals from a wider spectrum of options.

We are committed to working with many stakeholders (policymakers, community groups, health agencies, multiple levels of government, the private sector) to reduce, eliminate, or overcome those factors that harm health or act as barriers to health enhancement. We will promote those factors that enhance the health, well-being and quality of life of all Canadians.

British Columbians will become healthier through green initiatives that reduce environmental pollutants such as pesticides, carbon emissions, and toxic chemicals.

There are many factors that contribute to allergic sensitivity. BC Greens will enforce existing laws for industrial pollution, increase pollution fines, and create a graduated pollution tax that increases with the amount of pollution. We will legislate a province-wide ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides for residential, institutional and business properties, remove chemical pesticides from retail sales and work with the agriculture and forestry industries to reduce and eliminate pesticide use and implement Right-to-Know Product labelling legislation, requiring a clear hazard symbol on products that contain carcinogens.

In terms of food safety, BC Greens will phase out chemical pesticides, make BC a Genetically Modified Organism free (GMO-free) agricultural zone and require the labelling of all foods for genetically modified organisms and other harmful products.

*b) Would your party commit to meeting with Anaphylaxis Canada to discuss patient concerns on this issue within three months of assuming office?*

Yes.

## **2) Education**

Schools must be a safe environment for all children, including those with severe allergies. The Provincial Government has, by way of Ministerial Order, instructed all school boards in the province must have a training program for school personnel to learn about all aspects of anaphylaxis. However, feedback from our members suggests the training programs in place lack consistency of approach to management and implementation of recommendations between schools and school boards.

*a) What specific steps would your party take to ensure an equitable level of training programs in schools across the province?*

BC Greens would develop a training program to be implemented equally by all of the school boards to protect our students from the danger of anaphylaxis. The program will be developed with the participation of Anaphylaxis Canada, allergists, teachers and parents to ensure that it is broad-based and effective. BC Greens will set a strict deadline for the development and in-class implementation of the training program.

*b) Would your party commit to developing and implementing an assessment tool to determine how training is being conducted in schools and whether it is effective?*

Yes.

## **3) Child Care Centres**

Perhaps even more than schools, child care centres pose huge challenges for children with severe food allergies. Some provincial governments are moving to develop a program for anaphylaxis risk management that is specific to its child care centres.

*a) Would your party commit to a specific and comprehensive risk management plan for anaphylaxis in the province's child care centres?*

Yes.

*b) What would some of the key elements of this plan be?*

As child care centres are licensed and regulated by the Health Authorities, BC Greens will develop a province-wide training program to be developed by the Ministry of Health, Anaphylaxis Canada, and allergists. The program will be implemented by all of the Health Authorities and be directed to the child care centres throughout BC. We would also require follow-up assessments to ensure that our children's health is being protected.