

## 2026 Provincial Election Candidates: **WHAT'S YOUR PLAN TO...**

### **...complete the implementation of minimum nurse-to-patient ratios across all care settings?**

Evidence shows that minimum nurse-to-patient ratios will help BC retain and recruit the nurses it needs and ensure our public health-care system has enough nurses to deliver safe patient care to everyone when they need it. Evidence shows they also result in cost savings to the system due to fewer readmissions and shorter lengths of stay for patients – more than twice the cost of the additional nurse staffing. The province has made significant progress implementing ratios in acute care settings but there is much more to do. Implementation in emergency rooms is next and will help prevent the temporary ER closures experienced by communities across BC. **Do you support nurses' call to fully implement minimum nurse-to-patient ratios across all care settings in BC?**

### **...prevent violence against nurses and other health-care workers?**

Nurses, like all British Columbians, deserve to have workplaces that are free of verbal and physical violence and abuse. Unfortunately, 2025 WorkSafeBC statistics show that every 16 hours a nurse in BC goes off work because of violence. This is not okay – violence is not part of the job. **What changes will you push for to ensure nurses and other health-care workers are provided with safe workplaces to care for their patients?**

### **...invest in effective nurse retention and recruitment strategies?**

BC needs to improve working conditions to help retain the highly skilled nurses currently working in the system, while recruiting many more to the profession. With nearly 6,000 current vacant positions and an anticipated need to fill 29,000 job openings over the next 10 years, there is much work to do to make minimum nurse-to-patient ratios a reality. **What will you do to ensure health authorities retain and recruit the nurses BC needs to provide safe care to every patient?**

### **...reduce public spending on for-profit nursing agencies?**

Public spending on private, for-profit nursing agencies has skyrocketed in recent years – more than half a billion dollars over two years, according to the latest available data – with little oversight or reporting on how the funds are being used and how much is wasted on profits to the agency owners. BC's publicly owned GoHealth program offers nurses the flexibility they seek from agency nursing employment with the transparency, accountability and spending efficiency of the public health-care system. **What will you do to reduce health authorities' use of private nursing agencies?**

### **...strengthen public health care and reject privatization?**

Improving the public health-care system means committing to ongoing financial investments that grow its capacity, particularly as BC's population increases. Cuts to the health-care budget and the expansion of private, for-profit health care will take the province in the opposite direction by pulling staff and resources away from the public system and restricting timely health-care access to the privileged few who can afford to pay – making things worse for everyone else. **Will you commit to rejecting privatization and strengthening public health care?**