

# OPINION

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## What would you do to help Yukon pharmacists?

**Ed. note: this is an open letter to the territorial political party leaders.**

Re: role of pharmacists in Yukon health care continuum.

The Yukon Pharmacists Association (YPA) is a voluntary association of Yukon pharmacists that supports quality, patient-centred pharmacy services and encourages collaborative health care and interdisciplinary work.

While progress has been made in recent years to advance the role of pharmacists in Yukon's health care system, Yukon is still behind the rest of the country in modernizing pharmacists' roles.

Elsewhere in Canada, pharmacists practise under an expanded scope.

This expanded scope allows pharmacists, as the experts in medication management, to ease the burden borne by other health care professionals, reduce finan-

cial pressures on the health care system, and offers greater convenience and specialized service for patients.

These expanded scope duties include the ability to extend a prescription.

Often, it is a challenge for patients to see their doctor in a timely manner in the event that they didn't realize their prescription refills had run out or if they have to travel outside of the territory for an urgent matter.

The expanded scope also includes substituting one medication for another in the same drug class.

This is commonly done for insurance coverage purposes or for drug cost, administration or compatibility issues.

Additionally, the expanded scope includes the ability to adapt a prescription.

Examples of adaptation

include altering a prescription's dosage to match a drug strength available on the market, or to be more compatible with a patient's age, weight or health conditions, or to dispense the medication in a different form if that is more convenient for the patient.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Health care professionals and patients who have experienced health care outside of Yukon

assume and expect these services to be available to Yukoners just as they are to other Canadians.

Yukoners deserve the best health care possible and the best value for their tax dollar.

The YPA has been patient, but the system cannot sustain further delays in modernizing Yukon health care.

If your party is successful in forming government after the 2016 election, what will you do to ensure that Yukon pharmacists immediately have the profes-

sional support they require, and that Yukoners have access to the best possible pharmacy care?

We look forward to your reply, and will share your response with our membership and patients to help inform them of their choices on election day. Thank you very much for your consideration on these important matters.

**Josianne Gauthier**  
President  
Yukon Pharmacists Association  
Whitehorse

## Some parties would raise your taxes

When the federal Liberals wanted to cut debt, they off-loaded many costs onto the provinces and territories. Now, they're doing it again.

"We are the bad folks in the room, and we make you pay,

whether you like it or not," they might as well say.

The local NDP and Liberals want more taxes to have more to spend.

If the NDP or Liberals get in power, this is a gift to them,

and they would add more taxes onto Yukoners, especially anyone making over \$60,000 per year.

**Wilf Carter**  
Whitehorse

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