



September 29, 2008

RE: Questionnaire

Attached please find the response of Canada's New Democrats to your 2008 Election questionnaire. It is the policy of our party to respond on behalf of all New Democrat candidates.

To find out more, we encourage you to consult: www.ndp.ca

Thank you for your interest in the views of Canada's New Democrats on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jack'.

Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's New Democrats

Canadian HIV-AIDS Legal Network / Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development

1. Funding HIV prevention research

Will your party increase funding for Canadian and international research on new HIV prevention technologies, including microbicides and vaccines?

Prevention must be the cornerstone of any effective HIV/AIDS strategy and research into prevention technologies must be adequately supported. A New Democratic government will work with the research and advocacy communities to ensure that federal support for prevention research – including microbicides and vaccines - is pegged at the highest level.

2. Strengthening health systems in developing countries

Will your party set a binding timetable to deliver on this commitment?

New Democrats have consistently pressed both Liberal and Conservative governments to increase our pace toward meeting our Millennium Development Goal of 0.7% of gross national income. Under the Harper Conservatives, we have actually lost ground and are even further off target. When we had the opportunity to re-write corporate tax cuts out of the 2005 Liberal budget, we secured an additional \$500 million for international aid. We will, in government, work to ensure we meet our target. We are committed to using rigorous timelines and targets in our attack on poverty at home under our Poverty Elimination Act, and we will apply a similar system to stay on track internationally.

We will further ensure that our international development assistance is not used to force the privatization of recipient nations' public resources, assets or services.

3. Supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Will your party commit Canada to contributing, in each of the next five years, five percent of the resources needed to fund developing countries' efforts as identified by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through its technical review process?

Our New Democrat election platform commits us to tripling Canada's contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

4. Fixing Canada's Access to Medicines Regime

Will your party streamline Canada's Access to Medicines Regime to create a simple one-license process so that developing countries have access to life-saving medicines through a sustainable and straightforward process?

New Democrats find it totally unacceptable that, four years after Parliament supported the Access to Medicines initiative, medicine has just begun to trickle through. We have called on previous governments for urgent action to get this life-saving medication flowing but to little avail. We have pledged that, in government, we will move immediately to send generic, affordable drugs overseas, as ordinary Canadians intended. We will accomplish this by making whatever adjustments are necessary to overcome the obstacles that have arisen. The Harper Conservatives ignored the route out of the proprietary/bureaucratic/legal morass offered by the Canadian HIV-AIDS Legal Network and suggestions from others. We will examine these closely and act on them quickly.

5. Funding the response to HIV/AIDS in Canada

Will your party commit to restoring full funding, at the level of at least \$85 million per year, to the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada?

New Democrats have been outspoken opponents of the Harper Conservative cutbacks to AIDS funding set out in the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada both in the House and confronting the Minister of Health in Committee. We will not break this national promise to Canadians. We will ensure this money is fully restored.

6. Harm reduction services to protect and promote health

Will your party commit to supporting harm reduction services, including supervised injection facilities, as one important component of an overall federal strategy on drugs and as part of efforts to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) associated with unsafe injection drug use?

New Democrats have consistently supported harm reduction strategies – including supervised injection facilities – as a pillar of our approach to health problems arising from intravenous drug use. We have advocated for harm reduction in Parliament and beyond. This is a science-based public health position. We find the Harper Conservatives' actions in this regard embarrassing and harmful.

7. Protecting prisoners, health to protect public health

Will your party implement needle exchange programs in Canadian prisons to stop the spread of deadly viruses and to protect public health?

New Democrats view prisoner needle exchanges as a health issue. Our responsibility to protect the health of Canadians does not stop at the prison gate. We therefore join public health experts and advocates in supporting prison needle exchange programs and, as government, will implement such programs in federal institutions.