



Grey Showler, RN BA BScN
President-British Columbia Association of Community Health Centres
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Dear Mr. Showler:

We are writing in response to your April 10, 2017 letter. During their four terms in government, the BC Liberals did not seize on a significant opportunity to improve our public healthcare system through capitalizing on the community healthcare centre (CHC) model, including existing centres. This is evident from the experience of other jurisdictions, and from insufficient access to quality, timely, attached primary health care in our province.

In contrast, BC New Democrats have championed for several years expanding the CHC model through strategic investments, and making it central to BC's primary care policy framework. This is reflected in our health care platform.

If elected, John Horgan and the BC NDP intend to fully capitalize on the CHC model. The evidence clearly recognizes that this approach is patient centred, cost effective, and the best strategy for delivering on the four pillars of effective primary care: care that is comprehensive, co-ordinated, continuous, and the first point of contact with the health system. Therefore, delivering primary health care through integrated, multi-disciplinary teams across urban and rural BC is a principal part of our plan for improving access to safe timely quality care, improving health and community outcomes, and reducing pressure on ERs, acute care hospital beds, and residential care.

Supporting and sustaining existing CHCs, and replicating their successes is integral to our platform commitment to make team based primary care the standard across BC. Further to this goal we are going to expand the CHC model through the creation of Urgent Family Care Centres – a type of CHC - in all parts of the province. Through interdisciplinary teams - which will include, inter alia, doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, dietitians, health professionals specializing in mental health and addictions treatment, occupational and physical therapists - these centres will ensure one-stop shop, relationship-based, team-focused health care in communities across British Columbia. They will be open seven days a week, in the evenings, and will provide home visits when appropriate.

The Urgent Family Care Centres will also improve patient and community outcomes through providing health promotion services, including those that address the social determinants of health like food security and housing.

In relation to your specific questions/recommendations outlined in your April 10th letter and



accompanying position paper:

1. Yes, we will establish this fiscal a one-time emergency fund of \$6 million to be distributed among BC's existing CHCs.
2. Yes, we will establish a primary health care partnership table that involves BCAHC and other relevant stakeholders to work with an NDP government on plans to improve primary health care in BC. As stated above, CHCs will be a central part of the primary health care policy framework under an NDP government.
3. Yes, by next fiscal, 2018/19, we will commence with annualized global funding for existing CHCs in BC. As mentioned earlier, supporting and sustaining existing CHCs is integral to our commitment to make team based primary care the standard in BC, and these centres can be considered the backbone of the system of team based primary care centres we plan to create across the province.
4. Yes, by 2020 we will seek to invest in 20 new CHCs. This aligns with our plans to establish urgent family care centres across the province.

If elected to form government, we look forward to meeting with you as soon as possible after May 9th.

Yours sincerely,

BC New Democrats