



The Honourable David Eby, Premier  
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*Delivered via email:* premier@gov.bc.ca

October 29, 2024

Dear Premier Eby,

Congratulations on your election as Premier of British Columbia. We look forward to working with you and your government to strengthen and improve primary care across the province.

BC Family Doctors is the political and economic voice of family doctors in B.C. As a non-partisan, member-based organization, we represent and advocate for the more than 6000 family doctors in BC. We work closely with the Ministry of Health, Doctors of BC, and other stakeholders on key policy initiatives, such as the Longitudinal Family Physician Payment Model.

Family medicine is at a crossroads in B.C. Significant strides have been made, yet the primary healthcare crisis still looms large, with an estimated 700,000 British Columbians in need of a family doctor. Transforming primary care in B.C. to give British Columbians access to the care they need requires all of us to work together across political party lines and healthcare stakeholder groups. We hope your government is committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to find solutions to our primary care crisis.

During the election, your party promised to *make sure that everyone who wants a family doctor gets one*. Realizing that promise requires ensuring that family doctors have the support and resources they need to deliver care. This means recognizing that the conditions of work for a family doctor are the conditions of care for patients. When family doctors are well supported, patients get the care they need.

As you prepare mandate letters for your new cabinet, we're asking for your commitment in three key areas which are critical to ensuring a strong and vibrant future for B.C.'s primary care system:

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**1. Putting patients before paperwork**

Family doctors are the foundation of the healthcare system, yet many are facing unsustainable workloads due to outsized administrative burdens like filling out government forms. This takes valuable time away from caring for patients. We ask you to commit to bringing in legislation to eliminate sick notes, along with removing responsibility for Special Authority forms from family doctors. We also need a coordinated provincial approach to adopting and funding electronic medical records (EMRs) to enable the sharing of patient information across the healthcare system.

**2. Investing in team-based care**

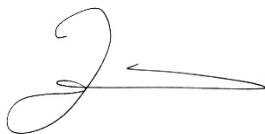
Expanding access to integrated, team-based care is essential to delivering high-quality care for all British Columbians. We're asking you to prioritize funding and support for team-based care in family medicine clinics, enabling better patient access to care through the addition of nurses, pharmacists, social workers and other allied health professionals.

**3. Addressing gaps in rural health care**

B.C.'s rural and remote communities face unique challenges in accessing primary care. We ask that your government increase funding for rural family doctors and for rural healthcare infrastructure to ensure that no British Columbian is left behind. We ask you to work with rural communities to find flexible, adaptable solutions that respond to the needs of each community.

We are eager to work with you to create a healthcare system that supports both patients and family doctors. We look forward to collaborating with your government in the months and years ahead. Together, we can build a stronger, more sustainable primary care system for everyone in B.C.

Sincerely,



Dr. Maryam Zeineddin  
President, BC Family Doctors

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