



Sonia Furstenau  
Leader, BC Green Party  
*Delivered via email c/o [greencaucus@leg.bc.ca](mailto:greencaucus@leg.bc.ca)*

October 29, 2024

Dear Sonia Furstenau,

We congratulate you and your newly elected MLAs, Rob Botterell and Jeremy Valeriote. Your party is once again playing a critical role in the legislature with the ability to significantly influence the government's policies, including shaping the future of primary care to ensure all British Columbians have access to the care they need.

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 B.C. 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 without a family doctor. Transforming primary care in B.C. requires us to work together across party lines and healthcare stakeholder groups. We hope you are committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to find solutions to our primary care crisis.

During the election, your party promised to *ensure access to preventive and primary healthcare services for all citizens and strengthen and support the healthcare workforce*. 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.

With your party's critical role and influence in this upcoming Legislature, we ask that you advocate for the following three key areas, which are critical to ensuring that British Columbians receive the primary care they need:

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**1. Streamlining healthcare administration**

Family doctors 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 advocate for a reduction in unnecessary bureaucracy for family physicians, including your party's platform promise to enact 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. Your party's promised Dogwood Model is an example of what access to integrated primary care can look like. We're asking you to advocate for the funding and support of team-based care in family medicine clinics that enables patients to have better access to wrap around care.

**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 MLAs push for increased funding for rural family doctors and for rural healthcare infrastructure to ensure no British Columbian is left behind. We need to work with rural communities to find flexible, adaptable solutions that respond to the needs of each community.

We look forward to working with your party and all stakeholders to create a healthcare system that supports both patients and family doctors. 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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