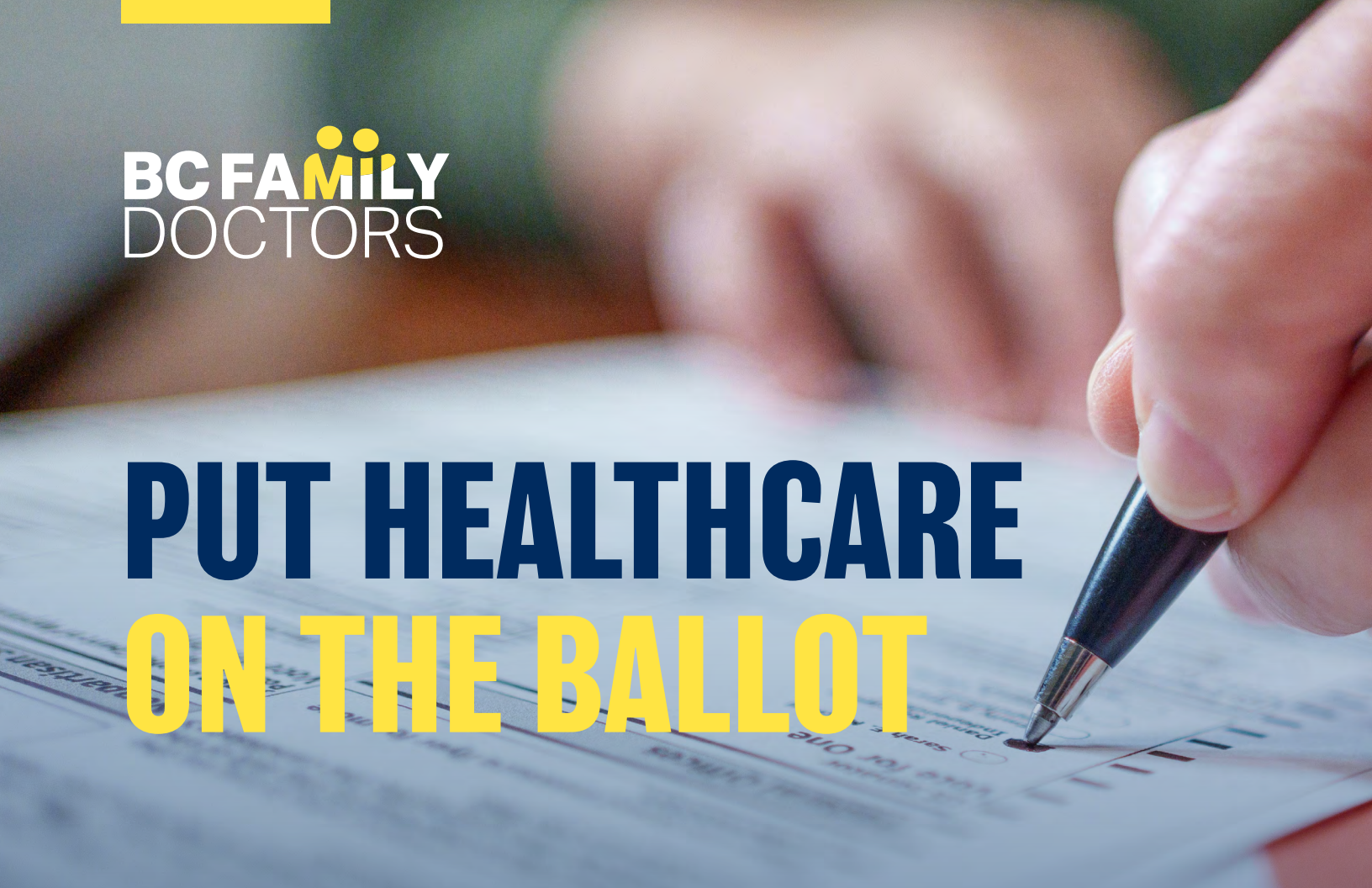




PUT HEALTHCARE ON THE BALLOT

With a provincial election set for October 24th, we're asking family doctors to call for action and investment to improve access to care and build a stronger healthcare system.

As family doctors, you know the challenges facing our health system are urgent and complex. While progress has been made in recruiting and retaining family doctors and attaching more patients to primary care, there's more work to do!

SHARE YOUR STORY. RAISE YOUR CONCERNS. CALL FOR ACTION.

Your voice matters. This provincial election, tell your local candidates what you and your patients need for a stronger health care system—one that enables you to deliver the care your patients deserve—and lets you succeed as a family physician.

Together, we can push for meaningful action to strengthen healthcare for all British Columbians.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR A STRONGER PRIMARY CARE SYSTEM

Explore BC Family Doctors' shared priorities that you told us were important to you. Use them to guide your conversations.

Working alongside our [Doctors of BC](#) and [BC College of Family Physician](#) partners, let's make healthcare a priority in this election!

1 REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS

Family physicians are drowning under administrative burdens, spending too much time on paperwork, navigating fragmented digital systems and unnecessary administrative tasks.

From referral forms and insurance paperwork to disconnected electronic medical records (EMRs) and duplicate investigative results sent to multiple places of work, these growing administrative loads are taking time away from patient care.

We need a connected, streamlined healthcare system that puts patient care first. By making digital systems work together, eliminating unnecessary paperwork and investing in tools that reduce administrative tasks, we can free up physicians' time, improve information sharing and deliver safer, more coordinated care.

WE'RE ASKING FOR:

Develop a coordinated provincial plan for interoperability among EMRs and other provincial digital health systems to enable secure, seamless information sharing, and implement thoughtfully to support clinical workflows.

Invest in initiatives to reduce or eliminate redundant and unnecessary forms from private insurers, workplaces and health authorities.

Establish a province-wide solution for reports distribution to enable physicians to access the right results for the right patient in the right location, reducing wasteful and duplicative efforts.

2 MAKE TEAM-BASED CARE A REALITY

BC's population is growing and aging, and the demand for care is outpacing our capacity to deliver it, even with expanded training for family physicians.

The future of primary care depends on building strong, family physician-led teams. When family doctors work alongside skilled colleagues, including nurses and physician assistants, more people can be attached to a family doctor and access improves for urgent and routine care needs. Well-supported, high-functioning teams will ensure every British Columbian receives comprehensive, high-quality care from their family doctor close to home.

We need to invest in a range of team-based primary care models that are shaped by the needs of local communities, from family physician-led clinics to community health centres. Doing so will build a more resilient, equitable and sustainable health system that is better able to serve the diverse populations of BC.

WE'RE ASKING FOR:

Implement a BC Primary Care Act that provides a framework for the design and support of primary care teams and outlines what British Columbians can expect when accessing primary care services.

Expand programs that fund and support the integration of nurses, nurse practitioners, and psychologists into physician clinics.

Support the integration of physician assistants in BC, enabling them to work in family physician-led practices to improve patients' access to care.

Improve BC's physician payment models to allow physicians to bill for care provided by nurses and other health professionals.





3 IMPROVE SUPPORT FOR RURAL PHYSICIANS AND RURAL HEALTHCARE

One of the biggest challenges is the lack of timely, reliable emergency and critical care transportation. Once a rural physician stabilizes a patient, there are often dangerous delays in getting the patient to the higher level of care they need. Rural British Columbians deserve access to sustainable, appropriate healthcare close to home — and when they need a higher level of care, they must be able to access it in a reasonable timeframe.

Addressing the healthcare issues facing our rural communities involves more than recruiting physicians. It requires a coordinated approach that recognizes the unique needs of rural communities, supports the physicians and teams who serve them, and ensures reliable connections to regional and specialized care.

WE'RE ASKING FOR:

Enact Brayden's Law and amend BC's Emergency Health Services Act to invest in and modernize our emergency transport systems to ensure rural patients have equitable access to timely care.

Protect the rural healthcare services that are already working, including the Real-Time Virtual Support (RTVS) service.

Provide immediate support, including improved compensation and financial incentives, for emergency, critical care, maternity and pediatric physicians working in rural communities.

Invest in the recruitment and retention of a robust rural physician and allied healthcare workforce, including support for rural training, team-based care and reliable locum support.

4 RESPECT PHYSICIAN'S PROFESSIONAL AUTONOMY

Increasing government oversight is eroding physician's professional autonomy in the delivery of patient care. From the increased provincial control introduced with the Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA) to government policy directions that remove a physician's clinical discretion in caring for a patient, growing government oversight has the potential to exacerbate physician burnout, discourage new family doctors from practicing in BC and decrease patients access to care.

Healthcare regulations must be free from politicization and doctors must be afforded professional autonomy to use their training, clinical expertise, therapeutic relationships and experience to care for their patients without interference.

WE'RE ASKING FOR:

Enact a pause and instigate a further review of the HPOA to support a regulatory approach that respects the expertise and professional autonomy of physicians and upholds public safety and accountability.

Uphold physician's clinical discretion for individual patient care decisions within evidence-based, guideline-informed frameworks.

Respect the established role of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC in regulating medical practice and ensure that decisions affecting clinical practice remain grounded in professional standards and regulatory oversight.

THERE'S MORE.

Improving our healthcare system requires more than attention to these four priorities. Other critical issues need to be tackled, including support for family physicians providing after-hours care, a coordinated, provincial approach to reducing specialist waitlists, improving access to emergency care, and supporting physician safety and well-being.

SPEAK OUT.

MAKE HEALTH CARE AN ELECTION PRIORITY.

When we invest in primary care, we invest in better health for British Columbians and a stronger, more sustainable health system for everyone.

This provincial election, make your voice heard as a family physician and let candidates know that patients come first.

#BCFAMILYDOCSCARE
#ILOVEBCFAMILYDOCS

WHO WE ARE

BC Family Doctors is a member-driven organization representing family doctors across British Columbia. We advocate for sustainable, patient-centred primary care and work with healthcare partners to strengthen family medicine.

BC FAMILY
DOCTORS