

HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE

Dear Community Member,

If you have reached out to my office in the last little while regarding health care, I encourage you to read on and share this update with others who have concerns. It is a top priority for the BC Government to support and strengthen our healthcare system so everyone in BC can access the quality care they need. I'd like to share the innovative approaches that BC is taking, that put people first - both those who work in the healthcare system and those who use it.

How BC tackles the health care worker shortage



Expand pharmacists', paramedics' and first responders' scopes of practice



Recognize credentials for foreign-trained health care workers



New programs to train health care workers on the job



Free education to become a health care assistant



Make the health care system culturally safer with system-wide reforms



Increase spots for future doctors at UBC



Develop a pool of nurses ready to travel to rural and remote places



Scale up virtual care in BC to increase access



Build BC a second medical school at Simon Fraser University to train future doctors

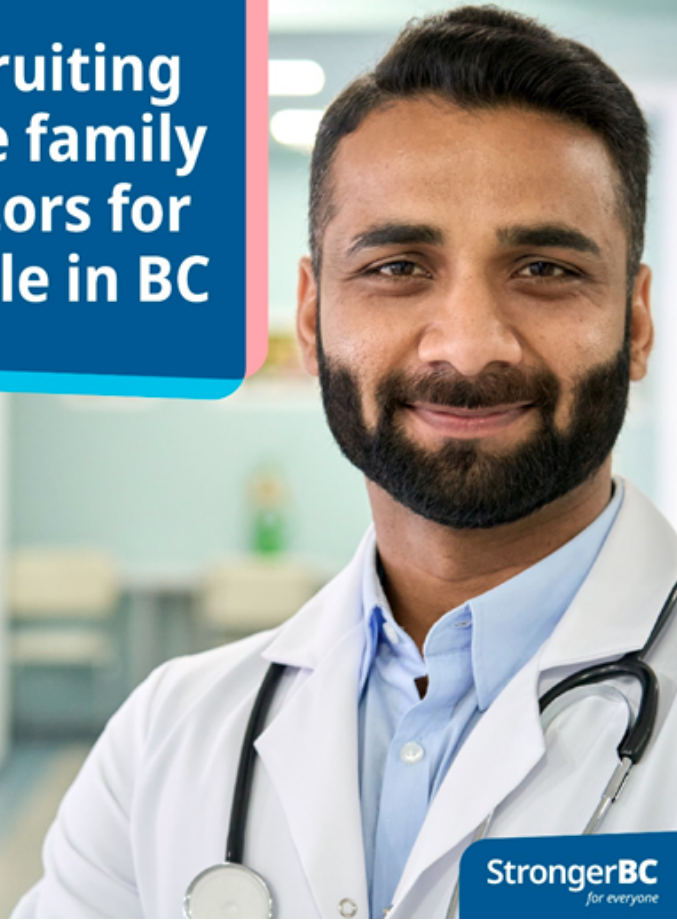


Make sure family doctors have the support needed to start and maintain their practices

Doctors

Our government has produced incentives for recent family medicine graduates, encouraging them to practice primary care in our communities. Things like signing bonuses and student debt forgiveness, have already resulted in 50 doctors signing contracts to provide full-service family practice in communities across B.C., with many more expressing interest or in discussions about contract terms. Learn more about this work here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/27574>

Recruiting more family doctors for people in BC



Health Human Resources Strategy

This recently announced HR plan aims to support our healthcare providers.

The strategy includes;

- 1) steps to expand medical residency seats at UBC's Faculty of Medicine,
- 2) allowing pharmacists to adapt and renew an extended range of prescriptions and administer prescribed drugs beginning Oct. 14, and
- 3) in spring 2023, expanding pharmacists' scope to prescribe medications for minor ailments and contraceptives.

Read more about our strategy here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/27538>

There is still much work to do. That's why I wanted to highlight the steps that are happening right now. Progress is happening. And when you encounter these large or small changes in pharmacy care, or meet a doctor virtually, or encounter a new healthcare professional from another country, be reminded that access to healthcare is for everyone.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Is someone in your life, your workplace, or church celebrating a Milestone birthday or anniversary? Make sure to put in a request for a letter from your MLA. [Requests are made online here.](#)

SEEKING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Want to have your voice heard? There are many topics that the Government of BC is seeking your opinion on. [See the full list of topics here and leave your mark](#)

GET IN TOUCH

AS ALWAYS, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT ANY PROVINCIAL ISSUE, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU. WE CAN HELP YOU FIND THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, HELP WITH QUESTIONS AROUND YOUR SPECIFIC SITUATION, LISTEN TO THE ISSUES THAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY FACING THAT FALL UNDER PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION.

MY OFFICE CAN BE REACHED AT 250.703.2410 OR RONNA-RAE.LEONARD.MLA@LEG.BC.CA OUR OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY TO THURSDAY 10AM-4PM. IF THE DOOR IS LOCKED, SIMPLY KNOCK OR CALL 250.703.2410 TO GET OUR ATTENTION. FRIDAYS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THESE UPDATES PLEASE REPLY TO THIS EMAIL WITH: UNSUBSCRIBE