

November 21, 2024

The Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health

Delivered via email

Re: Congratulations on Your Appointment as Minister of Health

Dear Minister Osborne,

On behalf of the Association of BC Naturopathic Doctors (BCND), we would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Health. Your leadership comes at a critical time for healthcare in British Columbia, and we are inspired by the potential for positive change under your guidance.

Naturopathic doctors (NDs) in BC are licensed primary care providers who serve patients across the province by offering accessible, patient-centered, and holistic healthcare. NDs support and enhance the public system by providing essential care, particularly in community settings from urban to rural where access to conventional healthcare services may be limited. From chronic disease management to preventive care, NDs work to address a spectrum of health needs that can help reduce strain on emergency services and hospital systems.

In addition to supporting access to healthcare, NDs offer British Columbians a choice in their healthcare journey. Their unique training in whole-person care allows them to address root causes of illness, provide individualized treatment, and offer care options that resonate with patients seeking integrated and holistic solutions.

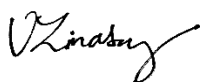
BCND has had recent engagement with government to highlight the contributions of NDs and advocate for policy changes that expand healthcare access. For example, we recently presented to the former Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, emphasizing the need for NDs to play a larger role in addressing the mental health and toxic drug crises and have advanced discussions with the Laboratory & Blood Services Division, advocating for regulatory updates to the Laboratory Services Act. These initiatives align closely with broad government goals of improving healthcare access, enhancing patient outcomes, and fostering an integrated, collaborative system.

BCND's upcoming initiatives will focus on pain management, advancing gynecological health, and supporting patients undergoing hormone replacement therapy (HRT). These efforts highlight the pivotal role naturopathic doctors play in providing integrative, patient-centered care while addressing complex health challenges and collaborating with other healthcare professionals to achieve better outcomes.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the contributions NDs make to healthcare access, patient choice, and community-based care. We are excited to support your ministry's goals in any way we can and to share how our work aligns with a collaborative and comprehensive healthcare approach for all British Columbians.

Congratulations once again on your new role. We look forward to the chance to engage with you and explore how NDs can further contribute to BC's healthcare landscape.

Best Regards,



Dr. Vanessa Lindsay, ND; BCND Board President