

November 21, 2024

Dr. Anna Kindy, MLA  
Shadow Critic for Health

*Delivered via email*

## **Congratulations on Your Appointment as Shadow Critic for Health**

Dear Dr. Kindy,

On behalf of the BC Naturopathic Doctors (BCND), I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Shadow Critic for Health. We recognize the critical role you play in ensuring that healthcare policy remains balanced, transparent, and responsive to the diverse needs of British Columbians.

Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are licensed primary care providers in BC who offer accessible, community-based care to individuals across the province. NDs contribute significantly to healthcare access by delivering patient-centered, holistic treatment options, especially in areas where conventional services may be limited. By focusing on the root causes of health issues, NDs support patients in managing chronic conditions, enhancing preventive care, and alleviating pressure on hospital and emergency services.

At BCND, we are committed to fostering a healthcare system that respects patient choice and emphasizes comprehensive, integrative care. We believe that including naturopathic medicine as a vital part of the healthcare landscape aligns with the needs of our communities and provides British Columbians with the opportunity to choose care that resonates with their values and health goals.

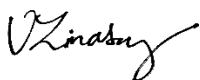
BCND recently presented to the former Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, advocating for the expanded role of NDs in addressing the mental health and toxic drug crises. Our presentation emphasized the holistic and integrated approach that NDs bring to patient care, which aligns with provincial priorities for tackling these urgent challenges. Additionally, we have engaged with the Laboratory & Blood Services Division to propose regulatory updates to the Laboratory Services Act. These changes aim to enhance continuity of care by ensuring NDs have adequate access to laboratory services, a vital component of safe and effective patient management. BCND's upcoming initiatives focus on pain management, advancing gynecological health, and supporting patients undergoing hormone replacement therapy (HRT). These efforts emphasize the unique role of naturopathic doctors in offering integrative, patient-centered care, addressing complex health needs, and collaborating with other healthcare providers to enhance outcomes in these critical areas.

Each of these initiatives underscore our commitment to advancing healthcare access and collaboration. NDs already play a crucial role in primary and community-based care, and with policy adjustments, their contributions could be further optimized to support British Columbians in areas of urgent need.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how NDs are uniquely positioned to support healthcare access and patient choice, while helping to alleviate some of the pressures faced by the public system. Your perspective as Shadow Critic is invaluable, and we would be grateful to explore how we might work together to create a more inclusive and accessible healthcare system in BC.

Congratulations once again on your appointment. We look forward to the potential of collaborating with you to support the health and well-being of all British Columbians.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Lindsay'.

Dr. Vanessa Lindsay, ND; BCND Board President