

May 21, 2025

Jeremy Valeriote, MLA
Interim Leader, BC Green Party

Rob Botterell, MLA
BC Green Party

Delivered via email

Dear Mr. Valeriote and Mr. Botterell,

The British Columbia Naturopathic Doctors (BCND) is the professional association representing naturopathic doctors (NDs) across the province. Our mission is to support NDs in delivering high-quality, whole-person care while advancing policies that improve access, collaboration, and health outcomes for British Columbians. We advocate for the profession, provide continuing education, and work closely with government and healthcare partners to ensure that NDs are part of a more equitable, responsive healthcare system.

We have reviewed the [BC Green Party's 2024 platform](#) and commend your leadership in prioritizing community wellbeing, mental health and addictions care, and access to primary care. These goals are shared by our members, who are already working toward many of the outcomes envisioned in your plan. As highly educated, regulated providers, NDs deliver patient-centred, trauma-informed care that is rooted in prevention and sustained through long-term, trusting relationships.

Although NDs are not funded through the publicly funded system, we are part of a broader allied health and primary care workforce that remains underutilized. Many British Columbians actively choose to pay out of pocket for naturopathic care, seeking services that address both prevention and treatment. With approximately 800 licensed NDs in BC, many practising in rural and underserved communities, there is a significant opportunity to improve access by enabling NDs to work to their full scope of practice.

The Dogwood Health Centre model outlined in your platform offers a powerful vision for community-based, team-oriented primary care. Many NDs already practice in this way, working alongside other healthcare professionals in collaborative care settings. NDs are well positioned to support this model by offering extended visits, relationship-based care, and clinical expertise in areas such as chronic disease management, mental health, women's health, and more. This approach complements and strengthens team-based care, particularly in communities facing access challenges.

Your platform's strong commitment to mental health and addictions aligns closely with the work NDs are doing today. Many NDs have additional education in trauma-informed care, chronic pain management, and addiction recovery. Our recent [discussion paper](#) outlines how NDs are helping patients build resilience and recover from substance use challenges, particularly in regions where stigma and service gaps persist. Expanding ND prescribing authority to include access to federally controlled substances would allow us to contribute more fully to programs like Opioid Agonist Therapy, which are essential to addressing the toxic drug crisis and improving continuity of care.

We also support your emphasis on equity and cultural safety. NDs work with patients who face multiple barriers to care, including low income, housing insecurity, systemic racism, and chronic illness. Many of our members work closely with Indigenous communities and incorporate land-based and culturally aligned practices into care. This approach mirrors the values articulated in your wellbeing framework and supports community resilience through trusted, consistent health relationships.

While outdated regulations continue to limit the extent to which NDs can contribute to provincial health priorities, these limitations do not reflect our education or the realities of modern healthcare needs. We are working with stakeholders on a clear package that presents a [modernized scope](#), expanded access to diagnostic services, and that removes barriers to integrated care. Our goals align closely with your platform's priorities of reducing system strain, expanding team-based care, and improving outcomes across the continuum.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how NDs can help bring your platform's vision into practice. We are committed to working collaboratively to build a more inclusive, connected, and effective healthcare system for British Columbians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Lindsay", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Vanessa Lindsay, ND, Board President