

**October 6, 2025**

Christopher Bennett  
Executive Director, Professional Regulation  
Ministry of Health, Province of British Columbia

*Delivered via email*

Dear Christopher,

We are writing on behalf of BCND in the context of the ongoing pressures facing British Columbia's health system and the need for stability, collaboration, and clear planning. Against this backdrop, the recent announcement of a 25 percent increase to naturopathic doctor registration fees by the College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC is deeply concerning. It represents another disruption imposed without transparency, at a time when providers and patients are already struggling with gaps in access and uncertainty about the future.

This decision, made without notice or meaningful consultation, has generated significant distress among naturopathic doctors across the province. While we recognize that colleges have the authority to set fees, that authority cannot be exercised in isolation from accountability. Registrants are entitled to clarity on how costs are determined, assurance that funds are managed responsibly, and meaningful engagement before costs of this magnitude are imposed.

Our concern is twofold: the immediate financial impact on naturopathic doctors and the precedent this sets for other health professions as HPOA implementation proceeds. The result has been a loss of confidence in the regulatory process, with some members questioning whether they can afford to stay in practice. This risks reducing primary care capacity and undermines government's Health Human Resources Strategy at a time when stabilizing and growing the workforce is critical. Ultimately, it is patients who will feel this loss most directly. One in three households in BC choose to see an ND, and when providers question whether they can remain in practice, those patients risk losing access to care.

From an operational perspective, we are asking that Professional Regulation provide clear direction to colleges that:

- HPOA implementation must be communicated early, consistently, and with adequate lead time.
- Consultation periods must allow for meaningful review and feedback from associations and members.
- Regulatory cost increases must be supported by transparent data and shared in a way that stakeholders can understand.

BCND is committed to being a constructive partner. We want to work with Professional Regulation to ensure that future decisions strengthen, rather than destabilize, the professions that British Columbians rely on for care. The HPOA was meant to offer a path toward stability and collaboration, but without transparency and leadership there is no roadmap, and confidence in the system will erode further. Without these changes, there is a serious risk that HPOA will lose the confidence of practitioners before it is even fully in force.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss how we can build these principles into the next stages of HPOA rollout.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Vanessa Lindsay  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alix Arndt".

Alix Arndt  
CEO

Cc: Ted Patterson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Workforce Policy & Planning