

November 26, 2025

Jeremy Valeriote, MLA
BC Green Party

Rob Botterell, MLA
BC Green Party

Delivered via email

Dear Mr. Valeriote and Mr. Botterell,

Earlier this year we wrote to you about the role of naturopathic doctors within the broader health system and the alignment between your platform commitments and the work our members do every day in communities across British Columbia. We are now writing to share a key area of concern related to the implementation of the Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA), particularly the way information about the transition is being communicated to the health-care workforce.

On September 23, the College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC announced a significant increase to naturopathic doctor registration fees. The College has linked these changes to HPOA implementation. What has been most destabilizing for our members is not simply the increase, but the absence of timely communication, advance notice, or clear explanation. Earlier messaging about amalgamation emphasized efficiencies and reduced duplication. Instead, practitioners are encountering major cost changes without foundational information about why they are occurring, how they were calculated, or what to expect next.

We know naturopathic doctors are not alone. Many professions within the amalgamated colleges are seeing similar increases, often with very limited explanation. When there is inadequate communication, short consultation periods, and no publicly shared cost modelling, it becomes difficult for professionals to understand what is driving these changes or how to plan for them. There is a growing sense of uncertainty, and the limited communication around HPOA implementation is contributing significantly to that concern.

For our members, this uncertainty is already affecting their decisions about continuing practice. Naturopathic doctors collectively see tens of thousands of patients each year, often supporting individuals who have no other accessible primary care options. When practitioners cannot anticipate regulatory costs or understand the rationale behind them, it creates avoidable anxiety for providers and potential instability for the patients they serve.

We also collaborate regularly with other health professional associations and are hearing similar themes: the lack of transparent, consistent, and proactive communication is creating fear that could be mitigated with clearer information and more predictable processes. We understand the goals of the HPOA, including modernizing regulation, strengthening accountability, and improving public protection, but the current communication gaps are making it difficult for health professionals to navigate the transition. The challenge lies in the implementation environment, where communication gaps are leaving professionals unsure of what is coming next, how decisions are being made, and how costs relate to the goals of the Act.

We believe this is addressable. With more consistent updates, earlier notice, transparent cost explanations, and adequate time for consultation, much of the current concern could be eased. These improvements would not change the government's policy direction but would significantly strengthen confidence in the regulatory transition.


We are asking for your leadership in the following ways:

- Raising this issue in the Legislature as one of communication, predictability, and workforce stability.
- Calling for transparent cost analysis so professionals and the public understand how HPOA implementation is being funded.
- Supporting requirements for early and consistent communication, reasonable consultation windows, and clear rationale before substantial cost increases are imposed.
- Encouraging an approach that brings professions into the communication loop so they are not reacting to changes with little notice or context.

BC's Greens have consistently emphasized prevention, primary care, and community-based care. Naturopathic doctors share that vision and contribute meaningfully to it. We are concerned that unless the communication strategy surrounding HPOA is strengthened, the province risks creating avoidable instability for both providers and patients during a period of significant system change.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide further detail on what our members are experiencing and to discuss how improved transparency and communication could help ensure that regulatory modernization supports, rather than unsettles, the health-care workforce.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Vanessa Lindsay, ND
President

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

Alix Arndt
CEO