

November 26, 2025

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Health
Province of British Columbia

Delivered via email

Dear Minister Osborne,

Thank you for your ongoing work to strengthen the health system and support the many professionals who contribute to care across the province. As the implementation of the Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA) continues, we are writing to share observations from our members and to offer support in an area where professional associations can play a meaningful and constructive role.

BC's naturopathic doctors recognize the broad goals of the HPOA and the intent behind modernizing regulation. We also recognize that the College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC (CCHPBC) is undertaking an extraordinary volume of complex work under tight timelines. We respect our regulatory body and maintain a positive working relationship with the CCHPBC, and we know these changes require significant effort from their team.

At the same time, it has become clear that associations have a critical role to play in supporting the communication needs of this transition. Professional associations have a different relationship with practitioners than regulators do. Registrants engage with their college through a statutory and compliance lens, while associations communicate through professional, educational, and member-support channels. These complementary roles make associations an important partner in helping the workforce understand, prepare for, and navigate system change.

What we are hearing from NDs is that the lack of clear, timely, and transparent communication about the transition is adding to otherwise avoidable stress and uncertainty. Many questions arise from the difficulty of understanding what is changing, when these changes will occur, and how they will affect daily practice, costs, timelines, and obligations. These gaps in communication are contributing significantly to a sense of instability at a time when workforce retention is already a central priority for your government.

This is an area where associations can meaningfully assist. BCND regularly communicates with the profession through newsletters, briefings, webinars, and practice resources. When we receive clear, timely updates, we can translate these into practical guidance tailored for our members. We can reach practitioners quickly, help reduce confusion, and ensure that the transition to the new framework is understood as a coordinated and predictable process rather than a series of disconnected changes.

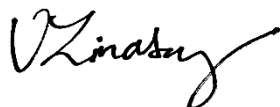
We also understand that the College cannot reasonably be expected to shoulder the full communication burden alone. They are responsible for regulatory duties, consultation, bylaw development, standards, and compliance structures. Associations are well positioned to complement this work by ensuring that practitioners receive the context, explanation, and advance preparation they need to adapt with confidence.

With this in mind, we would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the Ministry and the Office of the Superintendent to help strengthen communication channels during this transition. Clearer and more predictable communication from government, combined with the distribution capacity of associations, would significantly reduce apprehension and enhance system readiness. Improved transparency on timelines, expectations, and upcoming milestones would help stabilize the workforce and increase confidence in the regulatory modernization process.

We want to be constructive partners in this work. Our goal is to support a transition process that is clear, stable, and workable for practitioners, and to safeguard access to care for the British Columbians who rely on naturopathic doctors every day. We believe that with stronger communication structures, associations can play a vital role in reducing uncertainty and supporting the success of this significant policy shift.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how associations can be integrated more intentionally into the communication framework during this transition and to ensure that health professionals receive the clarity and guidance they need.

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 "Alix Arndt".

Alix Arndt
CEO