

February 11, 2025

Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings

Dear Premier Eby:

On behalf of the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia (NNPBC), I would like to express our appreciation for your government's ongoing commitment to strengthening our healthcare system, as outlined in your 2025 mandate letter to Minister Josie Osborne. Your vision for an accessible, sustainable, and responsive healthcare system aligns with the work that nurses—across all designations—are doing every day to ensure British Columbians receive high-quality care when and where they need it. We commend your government's recognition of nurses and the critical role they play in healthcare delivery. The commitment to workforce development, primary care expansion, and innovative healthcare solutions underscores the essential contributions that nurses make across all settings.

While the mandate letter affirms the importance of nurses, we do wish to highlight the distinct and evolving role of nurse practitioners (NPs) within our healthcare system. As both autonomous care providers across a wide range of care settings and integral members of multidisciplinary, team-based care, NPs play a vital and steadily increasing role in health care delivery and system innovation—on the front lines of care, in communities, and at the boardroom table. NPs are skilled clinicians, advocates, researchers, educators, policymakers, and leaders. Whether in rural and remote communities, team-based primary care, mental health services, acute care, or specialized chronic disease management, NPs are not just filling gaps—they are creating solutions. It is time for BC to fully leverage NP expertise, ensuring that health human resource planning, funding models, and policy decisions and directives reflect the reality that NPs are key providers in a transformed and resilient healthcare system.

The recent federal interpretation letter on the inclusion of NP care provision as medically insured services under the *Canada Health Act* further illustrates how central NPs are to the future of Canadian healthcare. This recognition affirms that NP care provision must be insured as medically necessary services in the same way as physician care, reinforcing that patient care should never be dependent on ability to pay. As the Province works to align with these federal directives by 2028, British Columbia has an opportunity to lead by example, ensuring that NPs are fully integrated into the system and recognized for the work they do every day.

At NNPBC, we are fully committed to working with you to expand the inclusion of and role for NPs in designing and delivering solutions that enhance patient care and drive system sustainability. As the Province advances efforts to strengthen and modernize healthcare through team-based care models and primary care expansion, we urge your government to recognize NPs as an integral part of these efforts—not just in practice, but in name, in policy, and in decision-making.

We look forward to engaging with you and Minister Osborne to ensure the momentum behind NP-led care continues to grow. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how NPs and all nurses can contribute to the mandate priorities and a more sustainable and accessible BC healthcare system.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Sukhwant Jassar, DNP, MScN, NP(F)
Board Chair and NP Council President
Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia

Cc: Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health