

Date

Mr/Ms Candidate Name

Campaign Address

Via: Email

Dear Ms/Mr [Candidate's Last Name]:

As a BC supporter of naturopathic medicine living in this riding, I want to thank you for offering your candidacy for public service in this B.C. election – the health of our democracy depends on it.

I write today as a member of your community to provide you with a brief overview of the role that over 600 naturopathic doctors across our province play in providing primary and complementary health care to tens of thousands of British Columbians, including patients in the riding you are contesting.

I would also like to receive your views on eight key health care issues of great importance to those British Columbians.

I know this is a very busy time for all candidates – but I hope you agree with me that health care is of paramount concern to voters – especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. So, I hope you will take just a few minutes to provide me with answers that I can share with others who support naturopathic medicine. The questions are all on the following page.

Briefly, naturopathic physicians have been a licensed health profession in B.C. since 1923, making them one of the longest-standing health professions to be regulated by government. And their services are well received: province-wide polling conducted for BCNA in 2018 showed that one-third of British Columbian households have at least one member who has recently seen a licensed naturopathic physician for treatment.

As you may know, naturopathic physicians' services are not covered under the Medical Services Plan (except for a small minority that qualify for Premium Assistance); patients either pay directly or through their workplace benefit plans, so there is no cost to government.

However, patients who use naturopathic medicine are not treated equally throughout the province. Patients outside areas served by privately run lab companies, such as LifeLabs, can not have important lab tests requested by naturopathic physicians. In addition, patients cannot access diagnostic imaging ordered by a naturopathic physician, even though X-rays and ultrasounds are within their scope of practice.

Finally, naturopathic physicians are unable to treat male hormone imbalances due to their prescription restrictions, leading to inequality of access depending on gender.

The questions attached reflect these concerns and ask for your commitment to improved and equal access for all British Columbians who choose naturopathic medicine.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and answer the questions following.

Sincerely yours