

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 2:31 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: quit smoking program B.C. Home Ministry Home Legislation Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
S22 on Friday, March 18, 2011 at 01:13:17

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realname: S22

email: S22

subject: Health concerns (controlled substances, marihuana and tobacco)

url: <http://www>.

message: Hello - I am 60 yrs old, have smoked since I was 15, have had 6 failed attempts at quitting over the years.

I am on a PWD disability income with Social Services. I do want to quit smoking, and even have a Rx for Champix waiting to pick up, but I cannot afford the \$60 every 2 weeks and tobacco to cut back on, for the interim period of a few weeks or so until the Rx takes full effect.

If I were a Heroin addict I would have an incredible amount of support for treatment with FREE drugs, even a safe injection site with needles provided and overseen by a paid Registered Nurse, and possibly a FREE facility to live in throughout my recovery.

A smoker in my position wanting to quit has no financial help, no facility to access, no community intervention. I do get my Rx covered through Medicare, that treat my medical needs, which I am grateful for but the Champix is not covered. The one drug that could possibly postpone my death.

There has been may millions of dollars spent on Cancer research over the past 40 yrs, and we are no closer to a cure of any kind or so we are told. If a fraction of that money was used for prevention, by way of helping smokers quit, would be at least an effort with some tangible results.

If you can suggest how I can get financial help, at least with the start of the process with the Rx, I would be very grateful. I DO want to be a non smoker.

I found this section #70 in the PWD Regulations, a financial supplement for Alcohol OR Drug Treatment, not to exceed \$ 500.00. I thought with Nicotine being an addictive drug, would I be eligible for a portion of that money to help me with the cost of the Champix medication treatments so I can make another, and hopefully successful attempt at quitting? Thanks for your attn.

Sincerely, S22

Supplement for alcohol or drug treatment

70 (1) The minister may provide a supplement for the cost of treatment, counselling or related services for an alcohol or drug problem that is provided to a person in a family unit who is a recipient of disability assistance or a dependent child of a recipient of disability assistance, if (a) the minister considers that the recipient or dependent child needs the treatment, counselling or related services and there are no resources available to the family unit to cover the costs, and (b) the recipient or dependent child receives the minister's approval before incurring those costs. (2) The amount of the supplement under this section is limited to a total of not more than \$500 for all treatment, counselling and related services provided to any one person over the previous 12 consecutive calendar months.

- B.C. Home
- Ministry Home
- Legislation
- Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation

Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation

- B.C. Home
- Ministry Home
- Legislation
- Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation

Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2011 3:55 PM

To: S22

Cc: Minister, SD SD:EX

Subject: RE: quit smoking program B.C. Home Ministry Home Legislation Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation

Thank you for email. We have asked the Honourable Harry Bloy, Minister of Social Development, to review your comments regarding your desire to quit smoking and follow up with you directly in this regard. You will be hearing from Minister Bloy, or a member of his staff, in the coming weeks.

QuitNow Services are operated by the BC Lung Association and funded by the Ministry of Health Services. They provide a variety of smoking cessation services, at no cost, to all British Columbians. If you are interested, more information is available at the following web pages:

<http://www.quitnow.ca>

[http://www.bc.lung.ca/smoking\\_and\\_tobacco/quit\\_now.html](http://www.bc.lung.ca/smoking_and_tobacco/quit_now.html)

[http://www.quitnow.ca/quit\\_stories/index.php](http://www.quitnow.ca/quit_stories/index.php)

We hope you will find this information helpful and wish you every success with your efforts to stop smoking.

pc: Honourable Harry Bloy

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 4:00 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: April 13, 2011  
To the Province of British Columbia  
Premier, Ms. Christy Clark,

First of all I'd like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Premier of British Columbia. I am proud to say that I live in a province where women can take on leadership roles in politics but I hope you can also be a leader in social responsibility and health too. I'm writing in response to your discussion of the provision of free tobacco cessation medications to British Columbians in recent months. Although I don't know the details of your plan I hope to see success in this matter.

I am a nurse currently working in Chronic Disease Management and formerly working in the specialties of Oncology and Emergency. I am also the daughter, granddaughter, and niece of former smokers. I've not only lost loved ones to the effects of tobacco but I've watched countless individuals and families struggle with the effects of tobacco. In the emergency department I saw toddlers struggling with respiratory infections and asthma, which can affect their health and development into adulthood. At the Cancer Agency I watched people struggle and too often lose the battle to cancer, and today I tended to three clients in their late 30's struggling to breathe after walking just a few steps, all due to tobacco use.

In my current role as a CDM Nurse I work with clients from all walks of life struggling with the burdens of their health conditions. I work to ensure that clients and their supporters receive care that increases their understanding of health conditions as well as various treatments and the trajectories of their illnesses. My colleagues and I encourage and reinforce clients' ability to manage their own health by engaging them and their support systems in planning and coordinating their care as well as connecting them with resources and tools to do so. I am often overwhelmed by the number of resources and services available to clients with diseases such as Diabetes or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease but I am underwhelmed and disappointed by the lack of supports available for people who smoke and want to quit.

This brings me to the point of my letter. While public policies have pushed smoking to the forefront of most people's minds and funding for programs such as QUIT NOW and regional



tobacco cessation programs have made cessation counseling more available to clients who want to quit, national and provincial smoking rates have not decreased in recent years. Perhaps this lack of change in smoking prevalence reflects an oversight in our approach.

I work in a clinic in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside where the rates of tobacco smoking stand out in comparison to other areas in Vancouver. I spend much of my time there treating clients for health concerns directly related to smoking and have too often spoken to clients about quitting smoking with little to offer them in the way of support. Recently some colleagues and I met to create and deliver a smoking cessation program. Before the program was organized or staff trained we had clients and professionals referring to the program and within a month of starting we had more clients than we were able to support with medication and counseling. We have been utterly overwhelmed by the number of clients who have insisted on joining and determined in their efforts. This project, despite the incredible challenges involved in starting and continuing, has been the most rewarding thing I've done as a nurse but we would not have the uptake or success we are seeing so far without th!

e ability to provide smoking cessation medications as part of our program.

Remaining smokers are highly addicted and counseling alone is not effective for all addicts. Why is equitable access to tobacco cessation medications lacking when medications such as methadone for heroin treatment is provided as a standard of care? I cannot comprehend how, in the face of overwhelming evidence that smoking underlies the majority of our healthcare costs it is still the leading cause of preventable death and morbidity. Most Canadians have a sense of how costly healthcare is, like any user or healthcare professional in the system, I am acutely aware of the inefficiencies and constraints associated with it. This is why I believe it makes more sense to spend money on helping people quit rather than to spend money on treating the devastating and costly effects of smoking in both smokers and second hand smokers. The government of Quebec has already acknowledged the potential benefits to this approach as Quebec has been funding these medications and, as you know, oth! er provinces are following suit. Why is BC behind these provinces?

I chose to become a nurse because I wanted to do something meaningful and because I wanted to help others achieve their goals for health and wellness. After 5 years in the healthcare profession I realize that in order to actualize my goals as a healthcare professional I must step beyond my job description and into society as an advocate and example for others.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I sincerely hope you will consider the important role you can play in helping British Columbians achieve better health and in decreasing the burden on our healthcare system by making these medications more accessible for all British Columbians.

Sincerely,

S22

Chronic Disease Nurse

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:10 AM

To: S22

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Hello

S22

S22 It is input such as yours about things like this  
that help us make these types of important announcements. I appreciate your bringing your  
suggestion forward.

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 8:45 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 8:30 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: Hello!  
>  
> I think a better idea on the 'Help people quit smoking'  
> campaign would be to outlaw smoking in public just like they did  
> in Saskatoon.  
>  
> Last year I finally had my surgery after waiting on the semi  
> urgent list for a full year, spent 2 1/2 days in hospital. When  
> I was discharged, I had to walk through a crowd of smokers to  
> get to my car. So your plan makes all of the non-smokers who try  
> to live a healthy lifestyle pay for people who decide to live an  
> unhealthy lifestyle.  
>  
> I was seriously considering voting for your party, now I might  
> reconsider. Ask anyone who knows me and smoking is my  
> biggest pet peeve. The best thing that happened in BC is  
> the smoking ban in Restaurants and bars.  
>  
> I want everyone to quit smoking, but I don't want to pay for it.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> A proud S22 and British Columbian,  
> S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:34 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Your comments are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health so that he is aware of them as well.

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views. We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 1:34 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Preventative measures

Good afternoon,

The announcement that nicotine replacement therapies will be more affordable for those who want to quit is great news.

Finally the BC government is helping people to take measures to prevent or delay the onset of conditions caused by smoking. I am happy to see my tax dollars working in a positive direction.

I would like to see the same opportunity made available to those who are struggling with weight loss. Obesity also causes so many health issues that are costly to tax payers. I would like to see weight loss surgery made available at no cost to British Columbians.

S22



From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:55 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Preventative measures

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. As a government, we want to support individuals and families across the province in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and delay the onset of diseases like heart attacks and cancer. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Thank you for being in touch. Your comments regarding bariatric surgery will be shared with the Minister of Health for his review as well.

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 11:37 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: Polak, Mary ABR:EX; Coleman.MLA, Rich LASS:EX  
Subject: Nicotine patches for smokers

As a BC Liberal I'm disappointed to learn that BC PharmaCare will now be providing free nicotine patches to smokers, but will not fund my insulin and other diabetic supplies, despite a special order from my doctor.

I pay a fortune out of pocket to keep my diabetes under tight control, stay healthy and save our healthcare system the costs associated with diabetic complications. Diabetes was hereditary for me and smoking is a choice. I think our priorities as a government are a bit uneven with this decision. I am very disappointed with it.

Best regards,

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:57 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Nicotine patches for smokers

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Your comments regarding diabetic supplies are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health so that he is aware of them as well.

Tobacco is the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views. We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 7:38 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for your decision to support people to quit smoking

----- Original Message -----

From: "Haggerstone, James" <James.Haggerstone@northernhealth.ca>  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 7:00 pm  
Subject: Thank you for your decision to support people to quit smoking  
To: "christy@christyclark.ca" <christy@christyclark.ca>

- > Thank you Premier Clark for supporting British Columbians in
- > their efforts to quit smoking
- >
- > We have Tobacco on our radar screen in a big way in Northern BC
- >
- > This is a link to our Community Health Information
- >
- Portal<<http://chip.northernhealth.ca/CommunityHealthInformationPortal/DeterminantsofHealth/IllnessandInjuryPrevention.aspx>> - here you'll see my CEO immunizing Michael McMillan who is one of our COOs.
- >
- > If you look under the highlights - you'll see an entry called
- > "Who is selling Tobacco to Children in Northern
- >
- BC<<http://chip.northernhealth.ca/Portals/2/Document%20Repository/2011%20Updates/TobaccoSales/Tobacco%20Sales%20to%20Minors.pdf>>."
- > Its intended to be provocative and enlightening so we can take
- > the conversation back to the communities where most of
- > solutions to Tobacco use exist.
- >
- > Your decision to support British Columbians to stop smoking puts
- > yet another set of solutions into citizen' s hands
- >
- > Thank you for making this investment.
- >
- > PS: If you have a moment, I think you'll also get a smile from
- > the True North Strong and Smoke Free Video Clips - (about 15
- > seconds each)
- >
- > James Haggerstone
- > Regional Manager - Health Information Analysis
- > Northern Health
- > 600 - 299 Victoria Street
- > Prince George, BC, V2L 5B8
- > Tel:250-565-2081
- > Fax: 250-565-2640

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:35 PM  
To: XT:HLTH Haggerstone, James  
Subject: FW: Thank you for your decision to support people to quit smoking

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. As a government, we want to support individuals and families across the province in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and delay the onset of diseases like heart attacks and cancer.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.



From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 7:38 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 6:58 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: Hi Christy  
> If the province is going to offer FREE nicotine replacement  
> therapies & prescription drugs for smokers Why can't senior's  
> who have ED receive a similar benefit Those little \"magic  
> pills\" are worth \$15.00 a piece & they are not covered by the  
> province I know you'd find equal or better beneficial health  
> care savings if you did If you're all for the FAMILY don't  
> forget the Senior's  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-09-2011 6:58 pm  
>  
>  
>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:37 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Your comments are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health so that he is aware of them as well. Tobacco is the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views. We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 7:31 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 6:23 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: Smoking is entirely a personal choice like drinking. If  
> the person takes responsibility and has determination. they can  
> quit smoking. Giving out nicorette FREE will be another example  
> that government wasting money (without consulting taxpayers). I  
> have been working in various hospitals, and community  
> Pharmacies; anything giving out free is going to be abused by  
> some individuals. If they can afford to buy cigarette,,I am sure  
> they can pay for their nicorette.Only if you pay for it, you  
> will treasure it and do not restart it easily. There are chances  
> that some people will obtain the free nicorette but do not use  
> it or even sell it to others and make a profit.  
>  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-09-2011 6:23 pm  
>  
>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:38 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Your comments are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health so that he is aware of them as well.

Tobacco is the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views. We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 6:51 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: SMOKING

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 5:11 pm  
Subject: SMOKING  
To: "Christy@ChristyClark.ca" <Christy@ChristyClark.ca>

> Hello Christy,  
>  
> I have just read the article in The Vancouver Sun about our 25  
> million dollars you are going to spend to help smokers quit. I  
> applaud you for trying to help smokers quit and while I know my  
> suggestion won't make any money for the anti-smoking companies I  
> will make one anyway. There are 14 people that I personally know  
> of (including myself a 25 years 1 pack to 2 pack's a day habit)  
> that have read a book written by Alan Carr called Easy Way To  
> Quit Smoking. Out of those 14 people 13 including myself  
> (about 20 months now) have quit. I would say that is pretty good  
> odds! At \$25.00 a book it might save us some tax dollars.  
>  
> <http://allencarr.com/>  
>  
> Thank-you for your time,  
>  
>  
>  
> S22  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>



From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:49 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: SMOKING

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. As a government, we want to support individuals and families across the province in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and delay the onset of diseases like heart attacks and cancer.

Thank you for being in touch. I will share your comments about Alan Carr's book with the Minister of Health for his review as well.

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 6:28 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 2:26 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: HI CHRISTY,I just want to thank you for all  
> you have done and the things your going to do.My husband and I  
> live in 100 mile house b.c,We are on disability,its really hard  
> to live on the little money we get.We use food banks.closed  
> during summer time.I will be signing up for your quit smoking  
> Idea! ; ) ,my husband has S22 ,we wanna quit  
> smoking ,great Idea Chrity it will help him alot.the disease is  
> severe enough .I have S22 .for our  
> future and health ,more money in our pockets.KEEP SMILING!  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-09-2011 2:26 pm  
>  
>  
>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:50 PM

To: S22

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. As a government, we want to support individuals and families across the province in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and delay the onset of diseases like heart attacks and cancer. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 6:19 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: marvin.wesenberg@vch.ca  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 1:44 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: Marvin Wesenberg  
>  
> Email Address: marvin.wesenberg@vch.ca  
>  
> Message: Providing free nicotine therapy has been the biggest  
> hurdle in running the tobacco dependence clinics in Vancouver  
> Coastal Health. The clients that we work with in the  
> Downtown Eastside usually purchase black market tobacco which is  
> significantly cheaper than nicotine replacement therapy or  
> \"pick butts\". They also want to quit smoking but need  
> significant support.  
> Those with mental illness and addictions are disproportionately  
> affected by tobacco related disease and we see the evidence of  
> this daily. Many have been clean from other addictions for  
> several years only to suffer and eventually die from COPD or  
> other tobacco related disease. Our tobacco programs provide  
> nicotine therapy free (Health Canada grant) as long as clients  
> attend 1 hour of group counselling. Both of which have  
> been shown to improve quit rates. Nicotine replacement  
> therapy will ensure continued success of our evidence based  
> treatment program.  
>  
> Thank you for agreeing to cover nicotine therapy.  
>  
> Marvin Wesenberg  
> Community Respiratory Therapist.  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-09-2011 1:44 pm

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:51 PM  
To: 'marvin.wesenberg@vch.ca'  
Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. As a government, we want to support individuals and families across the province in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and delay the onset of diseases like heart attacks and cancer. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.



From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 6:02 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: correspondence from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon and the BC Lung Association re subsidized NRT and cessation medications

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 1:11 pm  
Subject: correspondence from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon and the BC Lung Association re subsidized NRT and cessation medications  
To: Christy@ChristyClark.ca  
Cc: mike.dejong.mla@leg.bc.ca, "Marchese, Diego" <dmarchese@hsf.bc.ca>, 'Scott McDonald' <mcdonald@bc.lung.ca>, "Collison, Mark" <mcollison@hsf.bc.ca>

> Dear Premier Clark:  
>  
> Please find attached correspondence from Diego Marchese of the  
> Heart and  
> Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon and Scott McDonald of the BC Lung  
> Association regarding your announcement today to provide  
> subsidized NRT and  
> cessation medications to British Columbians.

> Sincerely,  
> S22

>  
> \_\_\_\_\_  
>

>  
>  
>  
>  
> S22

> <<http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com/>>  
> A coalition of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon and  
> the BC Lung  
> Association  
> telephone/fax: S22  
> email: S22

> <[http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com/imagine\\_campaign.html](http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com/imagine_campaign.html)>  
>  
>



HEART &  
STROKE  
FOUNDATION  
OF BC & YUKON

*Finding answers. For life.*

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May 9, 2011

Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier  
Province of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark:

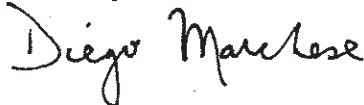
We are very excited by today's announcement that your government will be providing subsidies to British Columbians who want to quit smoking or using other tobacco products for nicotine replacement therapies (NRT) and prescription cessation products.

The negative health effects of tobacco use are well known. Most British Columbians who smoke cigarettes or chew tobacco want to quit, but need supports in doing so. Purchasing NRT or other proven cessation products is unaffordable for many British Columbians. The government's announcement will not only help those who want to quit actually be able to do so, but will also save the taxpayer from heavy future costs to the health care system and the economy as a whole from issues associated with tobacco use.

We want to thank you for making the decision to subsidize these products and for following up on the commitment you made to do so in your *Families First Agenda for Change* document.

We look forward to working with you and your government on other tobacco control related issues.

Sincerely,



Diego Marchese  
Chief Operating Officer  
Heart and Stroke Foundation  
of B.C. & Yukon



Scott McDonald  
President & CEO  
BC Lung Association

cc. Honourable Mike de Jong, Minister of Health

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 4:12 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Smoking Cessation Program

Dear Ms. Clark

I am listening to you on CKNW announce that money will be available for people who want to stop smoking.

Smoking is a choice.

They should not have started in the first place whether or not their parents smoked or not. My parents smoked and I did not become a smoker!

How about helping people who are trying to have children and need financial assistance for their in vitro treatments which cost up to \$10,000. These children are our future taxpayers.

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:53 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Smoking Cessation Program

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Your comments are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health so that he is aware of them as well.

Tobacco is the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views. We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 7:33 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 12:05 am  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address:  
>  
> Message: Regarding: Free nicotine-replacement therapies.  
>  
> Great idea!  
>  
> Other ideas to consider:  
> -require any store selling cigarettes to also sell gum/patches  
> in visible proximity to the cigarette cabinets. Some  
> people say cigarettes are more accessible to purchase than  
> gum/patches.-no HST on quit smoking products  
>  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-11-2011 12:05 am  
>  
>  
>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 2:18 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email. Your comments regarding smoking cessation are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration.

We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 12:12 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 11:43 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message:  
> Congratulations on your free quit snmoking program for all  
> British Columbians. I am a recovering nicotine addict. I have  
> been clean for 6 years now. I know this sounds like a drug  
> addicts rhetoric, but that is exactly what smoking and nicotine  
> is. A drug. I quit when I was told that I had a black spot on my  
> lungs. I turned out not to be CANCER, but helped me quit cold  
> turkey in one day. I know that there are many businesses that,  
> without cigarette sales, would falter and some may fall. These  
> businesses need to get out of the poison ( nicotine and tobacco)  
> business. If you legislate the sale of tobacco and tobacco  
> products to licensed premises only, ie: cold beer and wine  
> stores and liquor outlets, sales would drop. This will curtail  
> the sales of these products to minors and save the lives of many  
> young British Columbians as well as make it hareder for current  
> addicts to obtain thier fix. This will help many current tobacco  
> users to quit with the aid of this wonderful Government  
> program. Please give it some thought.  
>  
> S22  
>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 4:00 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding the sale of tobacco products will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong



From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 7:54 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 7:07 am  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: i was wondering, i am actively following your progress  
> in the bc mla election, could you please let me know if the plan  
> for giving out quit smoking remedies will include the pill  
> champex, as i am really wanting to quit, i just can not afford  
> the pill, i tried the gum, it made my throat swell up, the patch  
> i got a rash, now i am interested in the pill. could you please  
> help me out and provide me with some more information if you do  
> not mind and you are able to find the time, i understand you are  
> a very busy woman..  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-11-2011 7:07 am  
>  
>  
>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 4:04 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email. We have forwarded your query relating to smoking cessation therapies to the Ministry of Health. Ministry staff will provide you with a response to your specific question at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for being in touch.

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 7:07 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 7:32 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: Hello Premier Christy Clark,  
> I just heard on the news what you are doing for the many smokers  
> in BC and wanted to say thank you. You have no idea at all how  
> grateful I am and I cannot express my immense appreciation to  
> you in just one word.  
> I am a single parent who went through many upheavels in my life  
> which led me to smoking as a means to stress relief (now  
> ofcourse i know better but cannot stop). I have tried anything  
> and everything but cannot seem to go past 3 months of no smoking  
> and go right back to it. Some people feel winning a lottery is  
> the best thing that could happen to them but i know quitting  
> smoking is my lottery win and my son Aarons, it will extend my  
> life and be a part of his life a lot longer. not just that alone  
> but also enable me to be an awesome healthy role model. It is so  
> hard hiding from him to smoke and feeling guilty each time. The  
> guilt just eats me alive. when i have had a smoke i have to rush  
> to brush my teeth or use mouth wash as i do not want him to  
> smell it on me or even be exposed to second hand smoke. from the  
> bottom of my heart thank you may you be blessed for wanting to  
> make such crucial changes, sticking to your word and just being  
> wonderful you. best wishes to you may you be  
> blessed. healed and made whole in every aspect of your  
> life. S22  
>

> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-10-2011 7:32 pm

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 11:51 AM

To: S22

Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind email. I appreciate your taking the time to provide me with some feedback on our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia.

It was good to hear from you.

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 5:38 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:15 am  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: So i just read a message on castanet.net about how  
> quitting smoking will be free of charge for those that want to  
> kick the habit. This is a big deal for me because i have just  
> spent 300 dollars on laser treatment to kick the habit after ten  
> years, would i get reimbursed for the money i spent? i am a  
> taxpayer and if i am going to pay for others to quit smoking why  
> havent they paid for mine now?  
> Dont get me wrong, this is a great idea for people quitting  
> smoking but the people pay for it.  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-10-2011 10:15 am  
>  
>  
>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 11:56 AM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your correspondence with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong. He will ensure that you receive a response to your specific question at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 12:49 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: smoking cessation...cigarette butts littering... Diet allowancce for welfare ...abuses of disability forms

Hon. Ms Clark,

I have sent numerous emails to Mayor Robertson, MLA Coleman, MLA MacDonald over the years re issues , and minimal responses. MLA McDonald apologized for not getting my query and then never heard back )

As a physician, I am a bit ambivalent about your decision to fund nicotine replacement as along with the 'drug' there is also need for counselling and follow -up.. But that is not my big concern. I am fed up with smokers who fling their butts on roads/sidewalks/highways, and are not fined for littering.

Your response to that would be appreciated.

Also the misuse and abuse of provincially funded programs such as 'diet allowances'. I get an abundance of patients coming in to my office - being sent by social workers - asking for diet allowance funding forms to be completed. This is a GREAT program for the right patient. - stricter criteria needs to be enforced.. It is for HIV/Hepatitis/ Celiacs/ Crohns...not for depression/ arthritis/ addictions/...

and so many people get these forms done - get an extra 40-200 dollars a month , and DO NOT spend their money on healthy food and supplements.

Furethermore BC has AMAZING healthy drinking water and there are NO studies to support prescribing bollted water for HIV or any other condition - and yet it still remains on the forms. There needs to some tightening on these funding programs to ensure they go to the needy - and not the breedy. I have heard TONS of firsrt hand experience of patients getting prescriptions for Boost/Ensure - then selling that for funds for their drugs..

Then there is the whole aspect of 'disabled'... Many people in the province are... and we are fortunate to have a ministry and tax payer support - and medical teams to look after them.. BUT again - I get many patients seeking me to complete forms for them to go on disability when they are DEFINITELY employable.

These programs are critical for our province an dthe many people that need them . But you need to look into the abuses of them and those who find it easier to just sign a form without the correct lab work or diagnosis to support it. Otherwise we will run out of funds for those who legitimately need them

Yours truly

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2011 4:17 PM

To: S22

Cc: Minister, MSD MSD:EX

Subject: RE: smoking cessation...cigarette butts littering... Diet allowancce for welfare ...abuses of disability forms

Thank you for your email. These are exciting times for British Columbia as we change the way government works and focus on reconnecting with the public. I am encouraging a two-way dialogue between British Columbians and government, and I appreciate that you have written to share with me your views on various matters.

As you may be aware, the unauthorized disposal of any waste, including cigarettes, constitutes littering. However, enforcement varies from region to region. You may wish to contact your local city hall or police department to learn more about how littering is dealt with in your area.

Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve programs and services for individuals in need across the province. In that light, I have shared your comments with the Minister of Social Development, the Honourable Harry Bloy. I have asked him to ensure that your feedback is included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Harry Bloy



From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:11 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 8:16 am  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: Premier Clark,  
> Re: Nicotine replacement therapy  
> What kind of crap is this?  
> This is all fine and dandy. People choose to smoke.  
> They make a conscious decision to do so. On the other  
> hand, my wife suffers from Diabetes. Does she get free  
> insulin for her condition? NO! What is this  
> country becoming? A bunch of bleeding hearts for the  
> idiots who make bad decisions? This is crap! Take  
> care of the people who have the misfortune of getting a disease  
> not the people who screw up their life by making bad  
> decisions. Get a grip Canada and wake up. This  
> bleeding heart crap has gone on too long.  
> S22  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-10-2011 8:16 am  
>  
>  
>  
>

From: Brenda Bedford [mailto:BBedford@bchealthyliving.ca]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 1:16 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: BCHLA Letter re NRT Announcement

Dear Premier Clark,

On behalf of the BC Healthy Living Alliance, attached is a letter commending you on the recent announcement re NRTs.

Kind regards,

Brenda Bedford  
Executive Assistant  
BC Healthy Living Alliance Secretariat  
#310 - 1212 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3V2  
Tel: 604-629-1630  
Fax: 604-629-1633  
Join us on Facebook! or follow us on Twitter

The BC Healthy Living Alliance: Improving the health of British Columbians through leadership that enhances collaborative action to promote physical activity, healthy eating and living smoke free.

Visit us at [www.bchealthyliving.ca](http://www.bchealthyliving.ca)



## BC Healthy Living Alliance

Working together to improve the health of British Columbians

Phone: 604-671-2211 (Toll-free: 1-800-663-6868)  
Fax: 604-671-2211 (Toll-free: 1-800-663-6868)

Phone: 604-671-2211  
Fax: 604-671-2211  
www.bchealthyliving.ca

May 10, 2011

Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
Room 156, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Clark,

Members of the BC Healthy Living Alliance (BCHLA) are pleased to commend your recent announcement making Nicotine Replacement Therapies freely available to smoking British Columbians.

This policy is an important step in the journey to reduce smoking prevalence and prevent chronic disease in BC. The Alliance has been advancing the subsidization of NRTs since 2005, when we first developed our 'Winning Legacy' policy platform to address the common risks of chronic disease.

This is also a recommendation in our Healthy Families Agenda which we will be sending to you shortly. We look forward to future discussions with you and your cabinet about how we can work together to reduce chronic disease and improve the health of British Columbians.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kaminsky  
Chair, BC Healthy Living Alliance  
and CEO, Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon

Mary Collins  
Director, BC Healthy Living Alliance Secretariat

Copy: Hon. Michael de Jong, Minister of Health  
Graham Whitmarsh, Deputy Minister of Health  
Andrew Hazlewood, Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Population and Public Health, Ministry of Health

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 9:48 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 9:00 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: Christy,  
> I totally disagree with the 25 million spent on smokers.  
> EVERYONE KNOWS IT CAUSES CANCER AND IF THAT IS NOT ENOUGH  
> INCENTIVE FOR SMOKERS TO QUIT, ALMOST ALL OF THEM WILL NEVER  
> QUIT--FOREVER.  
> It is having the DESIRE to quit that works.  
> Are you trying to help family or friends?  
> That 25 million could go to help seniors and disabled people,  
> rather than rude people who smoke outside of stores and  
> restaurants with no respect for others.  
> The fact is that drug addicts, alcohols, and tobacco addicts can  
> only successfully quit if THEY TRULY WANT TO.  
> I could give many examples but if you don't know this you HAVE  
> NOT DONE YOUR RESEARCH and have just WASTED MUCH VALUABLE MONEY.  
> We can hardly believe such squandering of money. Totally  
> irresponsible and absurd.  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-09-2011 9:00 pm  
>  
>  
>  
>

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 1:45 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Meeting

This is to inform you that I would like to have a face to face meeting with you to discuss the government's decision to start covering costs for people who are trying to quit smoking. My name is S22 my email address is S22 and my phone number is S22  
S22 I live in Kelowna but will meet you anywhere to discuss this as I feel it is not fair to cover these costs but not the cost of other medications and drugs, for example, CPAP machines for people with sleep apnea.  
Please call me to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

Thank you  
S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 12:20 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Meeting

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong. He will ensure that you receive a response, specific to your concerns, at the earliest opportunity.

Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your comments will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:18 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: Foster.MLA, Eric LASS:EX; deJong.MLA, Mike LASS:EX;  
S22  
Subject: Who called it "Fair PharmaCare"?

Attached:

Honorable MLA, Premier, Minister of Health, Editor;  
It hardly seems fair that our B.C. PharmaCare will be covering the cost of "anti-smoking" therapies but will not cover PSA tests for men in B.C. for prostate cancer. British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec are the only Canadian Provinces or Territory which do not cover the PSA test with Medical Insurance.

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 3:49 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: Who called it "Fair PharmaCare"?

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Tobacco is the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

Your comments regarding funding for PSA testing are noted and will be included in any related discussions.

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views.



From: S22  
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 7:37 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject:

Dear Ms. Clark: I am a resident of B.C. I am agitated over the lack of thought that has been put into the plan of spending up to 25 million dollars on smokers to assist them to stop smoking. If you and your cabinet had of asked us the citizens of British Columbia the majority would say: "What are you going to do to make smokers responsible for second hand smoke they produce and force the rest of us to swallow and breathe". Further, we are tired of paying the penalty for the few who speed, drink and drive, and smoke while hurting our health and enjoyment of life. As it stands, today, I have to drive to Surrey to sit in a bus stop where smoking is not allowed or drive to a beach where smoking is disallowed on the sand. I cannot walk into my Mall without inhaling second hand smoke, nor can I walk down the sidewalk to Safeway without being forced to inhale some ones second hand smoke. Affordable housing is a complete joke as many of the tenants who reside in recent acquisitions to Affordable Housing are seniors on oxygen, most are over 70 years of age, suffer from COPD, allergies, heart conditions, and common hallways and lobbies are full of smoke from tenants who are NOT responsible for the second hand smoke they create when they smoke. Of course, smokers have a right to smoke in their homes HOWEVER, they should also recognize they have the responsibility to ensure that their second hand smoke stays within the home they rent. The Residential Tenancy Act is a joke when it pertains to second hand smoke and the effort and witnesses it takes to prove that ones health is being taken advantage of or that their health condition is exacerbated by second hand smoke.

IF you are going to spend 25 million of taxpayers dollars irregardless of what fun is comes out of it is time the majority had some benefit by making sure that there are rules and laws enforcing the air we breathe is free from second hand smoke thereby making smokers responsible and giving them a monetary reason to spend the 25 million of taxpayers dollars. Heck, imagine the savings already from second hand smoke casualties among Adults, Seniors and moreso CHILDREN.

Changing Park parking rules is great but it does nothing for the health of those who are forced to breathe second hand smoke. It is time to stand up and make smokers responsible.

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 12:59 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE:

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Your comments are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health so that he is aware of them as well. Tobacco is the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do.

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views. We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 2:01 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Views on smoking cessation plan

Hello Ms. Clark

I want to thank you for the move to assist people to stop smoking ... however, the support of the pharmaceutical industry is not necessary the only or the best way.

For example: Hypnosis has proved to be very effective in this endeavour. How about allowing people to use hypnosis under the plan ... it works and will not add poison to a person system, and I might add is much more cost effective than drugs.

Sincerely,

Website: <http://www.archcanada.ca>

☐ Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:04 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Views on smoking cessation plan

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 9:34 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Re: FW: Who called it "Fair PharmaCare"?

Like most things related to B.C. Liberals, the point I was trying to make went over your head! I was not saying to not cover stopping smoking, I was saying it would only be fair to also cover PSA tests like 10 out of 13 other Canadian Provinces and Territories. If you add up all the user fees that have been added or increased since Gordy was first elected Premier, it would only be fair to give back something as small as a PSA test.

S22

Quoting "OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX" <Premier@gov.bc.ca>:

> Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking  
> cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Tobacco is  
> the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and  
> while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do. You may  
> find the related News Release of interest:  
>  
> [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)  
>  
> Your comments regarding funding for PSA testing are noted and will be  
> included in any related discussions.  
>  
> Thanks again for taking the time to express your views.  
>  
>  
> From:  
> Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:18 AM  
> To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
> Cc: Foster.MLA, Eric LASS:EX; deJong.MLA, Mike LASS:EX;  
> letters@vernonmorningstar.com  
> Subject: Who called it "Fair PharmaCare"?  
>  
>  
>

From:

S22

Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 1:04 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Health, HLTH HLTH:EX; McNeil.MLA, Mary LASS:EX

Subject: Pharmacist's Recommendation - Re: Smoking Cessation Announcement

Dear Honorable Premier Clark and Honorable Ministers de Jong and McNeil,

As a pharmacist of 20 years who has always been passionate about helping patients quit smoking, I am thrilled about the BC Government's recent announcement to begin covering smoking cessation products for BC residents this September. Thank you!

However, I have some suggestions that I think are very important for you to consider when deciding the benefit coverages for rollout:

#### 1. Cover All the Products

Please, please ensure that all nicotine based smoking cessation aids, including lozenges, Nicorette Combo (patch plus gum) and especially the Nicorette Inhaler, are also included in the free 12 week trial and as eligible PharmaCare benefits, along with Nicorette Gum and patches. Please also ensure all the different brands of products are covered.

I have assisted many patients over the years to quit smoking and found that different products work for different people and not all patients tolerate or are successful with the gum or patch, and sometimes may even better tolerate one brand over another.

The Nicorette Inhaler particularly has been the key to success for many of my patients, including my own mother. The inhaler is safe and does not deliver drug or smoke to the lung--nicotine is absorbed through the mouth as it is with the gum and lozenge. But, unlike the gum or patch, it better satisfies the "hand to mouth" habit that is as difficult to overcome as the nicotine addiction itself for some.

For example...Here is a link to the Nicorette line of products including the inhaler, lozenges and Combo if you are not familiar, keeping in mind there are a variety of brands other than the Nicorette line available:

<http://www.nicorette.ca/?WT.medium=cpc&WT.term=nicorette&WT.campaign=Nicorette+-+Smoking+Test&WT.content=text&WT.source=google&WT.srch=1&gclid=CJSYhbD84qgCF SU6gwodaDnuCQ>

#### 2. Allow Coverage for Multiple Products

Please allow patients to have free trials and/or coverage of more than one product, either simultaneously, or at different times for add on therapy, change of therapy or for a subsequent attempt.

The majority of my patients who have used the patch to quit smoking, also need the gum, lozenge or inhaler for occasional "break-through" withdrawal symptoms to prevent them from smoking while using the patch or prescription medication such as Zyban or Champix, or for short-term maintenance after discontinuing the patch or medication. Using a nicotine gum, lozenge or inhaler is safer than smoking while on the patch or on medication as the delivery of nicotine is slower and helps avoid overdose, and of course avoids the toxic substances getting to the lung that come with smoking.

Since patients may not tolerate, or be successful with, the first product they try, they also often have to trial and error their way through different products and/or medications to find the regimen that works for them. And for many patients, it often takes more than one attempt before they are finally successful at quitting for good.

### 3. Allow Coverage for Smoking Cessation Counselling With Pharmacist to Increase Success, Monitor Health Conditions and Prevent Drug Interactions

As you may know, the success rate for quitting is significantly improved if patients have access to counselling sessions, particularly in the initial stages of their quit process. On-line programs and literature such as offered through QuitNow are useful tools, but alone are usually not enough, and are not a replacement for a personal counselling session. For a little extra investment in health dollars up front for counselling, the money spent on the coverage of products may translate to greater success and less health care expense in the end.

Pharmacists are ideally situated to provide this counselling as we are the most accessible health care professional and see our patients regularly, and already have a breadth of experience in smoking cessation and knowledge of the products (many like myself have already completed Smoking Cessation Consultant programs). We can help patients choose which product(s) are best for them and help them with problems and changes of regimen along the way if needed. We are also ideally situated to help monitor and manage those more complex patients who have other health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, etc.

And, since smoking affects the metabolism of a variety of medications, we are also ideally positioned to monitor for these types of drug interactions and the potential need for any dosage adjustments to medications as patients quit.

The Bonus:...Easy Implementation! With the recent rollout of the Pharmaceutical Services Division's Medication Management Clinical Services program, the framework and billing procedures to PharmaCare that could be used for smoking cessation counselling services by pharmacists are already in place so it would be very easy to implement in September along with the coverage changes.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to helping many more patients be smoke-free under this great new program by our Government!

Sincerely,

S22

Community Pharmacist (not a pharmacy owner)





-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 8:42 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: May 16, 2011

The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

I would like to thank you for the program that you announced on May 9, 2011, providing assistance for B.C. residents that would like assistance toward smoking cessation. This incentive to encourage change is a wonderful thing.

I am sure that a lot of thought went into this decision to support smoking cessation but I would like to make mention that Hypnotherapy, Laser treatments, Acupuncture, Naturopathic medicine and other methods for treating smoking cessation were not included in your announcement.

As a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist that has helped many people quit smoking, I am very disappointed that your research did not show how effective hypnotherapy is.

Many people choose hypnotherapy over medication because:

- Hypnotherapy is non-evasive treatment
- Hypnotherapy has no negative side effects
- Hypnotherapy is cost effective
- Hypnotherapy is fast and efficient
- Hypnotherapy studies show no weight gain with smoking cessation

A recent study done by The University of Alberta (using the Sherry M. Hood M.H., C.C.Ht Single Session, Fifteen Phase Smoking Cessation Hypnotherapy Intervention), showed that this method is at least as effective as patients using the prescription smoking cessation drug, Champix. This is remarkable data because patients using Champix usually are on this prescription regime for a twelve week period, where as this hypnotherapy intervention is completed in one session.

I would also like to mention that many British Columbian Hypnotherapists have a practice that is based on the work that they do in smoking cessation. By giving a financial incentive to smokers to use prescription therapy, you are essentially cutting out all of the very viable therapies that I have listed above. You also eliminate the public's choice to quit by whatever method they prefer.

Respectfully,

S22

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-16-2011 8:42 am

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:06 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 8:23 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: I am impressed by what you are doing so far for families in BC, and although I normally vote NDP, I am considering switching my vote to you because of the perspective you are following.

I have a question. I see you have a program in place, set to begin on Sept 30th, to help smokers quit smoking... this is an excellent move! However, coverage for hypnosis and/or laser for stopping smoking has a stronger success rate than stop smoking aids such as patches and gum, or prescription meds, with lots of side effects. Will you not include hypnosis and/or laser in your free support? The Seaside Hypnosis clinic, in Sidney, for instance offers a guarantee, for their stop smoking one-session service.

Another question is what other changes are your going to make to our healthcare system? Bringing back the inclusion of chiropractic services for all would be a healthy move for all in the province, as well as for the government, as it will save costs by keeping people on the job instead of becoming crippled by back problems, which doctors cannot help with, but chiropractors can. I know for sure that without regular chiropractic care, I would have had to stop working (and probably even walking) years ago, and instead of working and paying income taxes, I would instead most likely be on the disability roles of this province... something to think about... Thanks for listening... would appreciate a reply.

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-16-2011 8:23 am

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:10 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Minister de Jong will ensure that you receive a response to your specific question about funding for chiropractic services at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 6:03 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Views

Dear Premier Clark,

As a former long time smoker (and long time quitter of 31 years) I am opposed to providing free patches etc. to assist smokers to quit. I realize it is expensive but so are cigarettes. If a person is desirous of quitting then don't buy cigarettes, buy the patch instead. I expect the price is about the same. Taxpayers money could be spent far better.

Also, you should think about providing some relief to seniors and other people on low income as you are tolling bridges and making it impossible for them to go anywhere. I have a brother out in Abbotsford who is also a senior and will not be able to afford to cross the Port Mann from Coquitlam in order to visit him.

Thank you.

S22

Senior

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:17 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX  
Subject: RE: Views

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to British Columbian smokers. Your comments are noted and will be shared with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. In addition, we have provided a copy of your correspondence to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Blair Lekstrom. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve programs and services for individuals and families across the province. In that light, the Ministers and their staff will ensure that your views are included in any related discussions.

Thanks again for taking the time to express your views. We appreciate your input.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong  
Honourable Blair Lekstrom

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2011 10:05 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: May 15, 2011

The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

I would like to thank you for the program that you announced on May 9, 2011, providing assistance for B.C. residents that would like assistance toward smoking cessation. This incentive to encourage change is a wonderful thing.

I am sure that a lot of thought went into this decision to support smoking cessation but I would like to make mention that Hypnotherapy, Laser treatments, Acupuncture, Naturopathic medicine and other methods for treating smoking cessation were not included in your announcement.

As a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist that has helped many people quit smoking, I am very disappointed that your research did not show how effective hypnotherapy is.

Many people choose hypnotherapy over medication because:

- Hypnotherapy is non-evasive treatment
- Hypnotherapy has no negative side effects
- Hypnotherapy is cost effective
- Hypnotherapy is fast and efficient
- Hypnotherapy shows no weight gain with smoking cessation

A recent study done by The University of Alberta (using the Sherry M. Hood M.H., C.C.Ht Single Session, Fifteen Phase Smoking Cessation Hypnotherapy Intervention), showed that this method is at least as effective as patients using the prescription smoking cessation drug, Champix. This is remarkable data because patients using Champix usually are on this prescription regime for a twelve week period, where as this hypnotherapy intervention is completed in one session.



I would also like to mention that many British Columbian Hypnotherapists have a practice that is based on the work that they do in smoking cessation. By giving a financial incentive to smokers to use prescription therapy, you are essentially cutting out all of the very viable therapies that I have listed above. You also eliminate the public's choice to quit by whatever method they prefer.

Respectfully,

S22

Captcha code: . S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-15-2011 10:05 am

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:24 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2011 10:25 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject:

To Premier Christy Clark:

I would like to voice my concern about the recent decision to pay for all nicotine replacement therapies for smokers in BC rather than base this on income. When the motivation to stop smoking is present the degree of success increases. The savings could be better used for health care in the province and for those who are marginalized.

I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.  
Sin, BC cerey,

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:32 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE:

Thank you for your email regarding our announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health care service delivery for individuals and families across the province. In that light, I have shared your concerns with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong. Minister de Jong and his staff will ensure that your views are included in their related discussions.

Thank you for sending in your comments.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2011 8:07 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: May 14, 2011

The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

I would like to thank you for the program that you announced on May 9, 2011, providing assistance for B.C. residents that would like assistance toward smoking cessation. This incentive to encourage change is a wonderful thing.

I am sure that a lot of thought went into this decision to support smoking cessation but I would like to make mention that Hypnotherapy, Laser treatments, Acupuncture, Naturopathic medicine and other methods for treating smoking cessation were not included in your announcement.

As a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist that has helped many people quit smoking, I am very disappointed that your research did not show how effective hypnotherapy is.

Many people choose hypnotherapy over medication because:

- Hypnotherapy is non-evasive treatment
- Hypnotherapy has no negative side effects
- Hypnotherapy is cost effective

- Hypnotherapy is fast and efficient
- Hypnotherapy studies show no weight gain with smoking cessation

A recent study done by The University of Alberta (using my Single Session, Fifteen Phase Smoking Cessation Hypnotherapy Intervention), showed that this method is at least as effective as patients using the prescription smoking cessation drug, Champix. This is remarkable data because patients using Champix usually are on this prescription regime for a twelve week period, where as this hypnotherapy intervention is completed in one session.

I would also like to mention that many British Columbian Hypnotherapists have a practice that is based on the work that they do in smoking cessation. By giving a financial incentive to smokers to use prescription therapy, you are essentially cutting out all of the very viable therapies that I have listed above. You also eliminate the public's choice to quit by whatever method they prefer.

I respectfully request that Hypnotherapy Smoking Cessation be added to the list of approved treatments for smokers.

Respectfully,

S22

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-14-2011 8:07 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:35 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy, laser treatment, acupuncture and naturopathic medicine will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong



-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2011 6:09 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: May 14, 2011

The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

I am writing in regard to your announcement on May 9, 2011, providing assistance for B.C. residents that would like assistance toward smoking cessation. This incentive to encourage healthier citizens is to be applauded.

I am sure that a lot of thought went into this decision to support smoking cessation but I would like to point out that one of the most effective methods for smoking cessation WITHOUT SIDE EFFECTS was not included in your announcement: hypnotherapy!

As a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist that has helped people quit smoking, I am very disappointed that your offer to smokers did not include support to access hypnotherapy, but focused on medications instead.

Many people choose hypnotherapy over medication because:

- Hypnotherapy is non-evasive treatment
- Hypnotherapy has no negative side effects
- Hypnotherapy is cost effective
- Hypnotherapy is fast and efficient
- Hypnotherapy studies show no weight gain with smoking cessation

A recent study done by The University of Alberta using the Single Session, Fifteen Phase Smoking Cessation Hypnotherapy Intervention Method (developed by Sherry M. Hood M.H., C.Cht of the Pacific Institute of Advanced Hypnotherapy in BC) showed that this hypnotherapy method is as effective the prescription smoking cessation drug, Champix. This is remarkable data because patients using Champix usually are on this prescription regime for a twelve week period, where as this hypnotherapy intervention is completed in ONE SESSION.

I would also like to mention that many British Columbian Hypnotherapists have a practice that is based on the work that they do in smoking cessation. By giving a financial incentive to smokers to use prescription therapy, it further encourages reliance on costly drugs and does not provide the public with an informed choice to quit by whatever method they prefer.

I respectfully request that your program be expanded to include Hypnotherapy - a cost effective treatment without side effects.

Respectfully,

S22

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-14-2011 6:09 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:36 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 7:33 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: Dear Premier

Not Responsive

I would also like to say that I think we should be paying for \\\\"Diabetics\\\\" needles and not needles for the so called law breaking drug addicts. ( by the way, I am not a diabetic myself) I disagree with paying for patches etc to help smokers stop. I think that money could also be better spent. I guess the government will be paying for slimming classes for the overweight next!

I know I am not alone in my thinking on these issues, please listen to the people of BC.

Thank you  
S22

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 10:19 AM

To: S22

Cc: Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding education and health in British Columbia. Listening to the concerns of the residents of our province will continue to be a priority for members of our Cabinet and Caucus in the months ahead and you can be assured that your feedback will be included in our future related discussions.

We have shared your correspondence with the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Education, and the Honourable Mike de Jong, Minister of Health, so that they, too, may have the opportunity to review your concerns.

Again, thank you for writing.

pc: Honourable George Abbott  
Honourable Mike de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 7:07 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: diagnosed with severe COPD dec 2010 cant wait til oct 2011 to quit smoking will there be any reinbursements as pharmacare does not cover CHAMPIX as perscribed by doctor?????

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S15

Date Submitted: May-16-2011 7:06 am

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:40 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your correspondence with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong. He will ensure that you receive a response to your specific question about reimbursement at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 7:08 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Thursday, May 12, 2011 1:43 pm  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier  
> website. Below are the details.  
>  
> Senders Name: S22  
>  
> Email Address: S22  
>  
> Message: I disagree with funding smokers to quit. This is a huge  
> expense to us non smokers, raise the cost of cigarettes till  
> they can no longer buy them rather then use our tax dollars to  
> fund them to try to quit. Most smokers that I know have tried  
> the patch, gum, zyban and quit for a month or two then start  
> again. I don't want to pay for this and I don't believe that  
> other non smokers do either I made my choice to not smoke, and  
> they made their choice to smoke, so now they can make the choice  
> to stop with out my tax dollars. That money could do more good  
> in our schools and hospitals. I don't think that offering  
> smokers free gum is going to stop them from smoking, if 5% of  
> them actually quit I would be surprised. The most likely thing  
> to happen is to see people take advantage of the program and  
> sell the patches,gum and drugs in the US or in other provinces.  
>  
> Captcha code: S15  
>  
> User IP Address: S22  
>  
> Date Submitted: May-12-2011 1:43 pm  
>  
>  
>  
>



From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:48 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: FW: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 1:12 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Views

I just want to comment on the patches for the smoking public.

It appears you are willing to supplement the people who buy cigarettes and could use that money to pay for the own patches, yet my husband who is on Spiriva because he has Emphysema and asthma, is now having to submit forms to (Pharmacare) to sanction his prescriptions being filled even though he has been on this medication for a few years, and without it he would become very ill if not die, it seems strange don't you think.

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:52 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Views

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. Your comments are noted and we will share them with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong, for his review as well. He and his staff will include your feedback in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 12:20 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: Thank you for wanting to help smokers to quit. I am in awe that the government is finally taking some action, and the fact that you are re-distributing some of the profit from the taxes gained from smoking makes it even sweeter! I am very surprised however that you would choose drug treatment therapies only and exclude the highly successful methods of hypnosis and acupuncture. I have been on all the smoking cessation drugs and none of them had worked. Only hypnosis did. This unexpected success actually prompted me to seek an education in Clinical Hypnotherapy myself, and am now in the position to help many others with my training. Please consider including hypnosis in your smoking cessation plan. With hypnosis, the success rate of the people you are intending to help will actually get it. Thank you for your time.

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-17-2011 12:20 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:54 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 9:53 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: Premier Clark,

You have said that you will spend money to help people stop smoking. I think it a good idea. Please take it one step further and join at least 8 other provinces that do not allow cigarettes to be sold in pharmacies. According to a news release last week, only B.C. and Man. still allow this practice.

Sincerely,  
S22

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-17-2011 9:53 am

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:56 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 2:42 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: Smoking Cessation Proposal

----- Original Message -----

From: S22  
Date: Saturday, May 14, 2011 4:49 pm  
Subject: Smoking Cessation Proposal  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

> Please read my letter regarding the changes proposed for smoking  
> cessationprograms.

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S22

May 14, 2011  
The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

I would like to thank you for the program that you announced on May 9, 2011, providing assistance for B.C. residents that would like assistance toward smoking cessation. This incentive to encourage change is a wonderful thing.

I am sure that a lot of thought went into this decision to support smoking cessation but I would like to make mention that Hypnotherapy, Laser treatments, Acupuncture, Naturopathic medicine and other methods for treating smoking cessation were not included in your announcement.

As a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist that has helped many people quit smoking, I am very disappointed that your research did not show how effective hypnotherapy is.

Many people choose hypnotherapy over medication because:

- Hypnotherapy is non-evasive treatment
- Hypnotherapy has no negative side effects
- Hypnotherapy is cost effective
- Hypnotherapy is fast and efficient
- Hypnotherapy studies show no weight gain with smoking cessation



A recent study done by The University of Alberta (using the Sherry M. Hood M.H., C.CHT Single Session, Fifteen Phase Smoking Cessation Hypnotherapy Intervention), showed that this method is at least as effective as patients using the prescription smoking cessation drug, Champix. This is remarkable data because patients using Champix usually are on this prescription regime for a twelve week period, where as this hypnotherapy intervention is completed in one session.

I would also like to mention that many British Columbian Hypnotherapists have a practice that is based on the work that they do in smoking cessation. By giving a financial incentive to smokers to use prescription therapy, you are essentially cutting out all of the very viable therapies that I have listed above. You also eliminate the public's choice to quit by whatever method they prefer.

Respectfully,

S22

>  
>

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:57 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: Smoking Cessation Proposal

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 10:34 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Fwd: Directions for quitting smoking

----- Original Message -----

From:  
Date: Monday, May 16, 2011 9:52 pm  
Subject: Directions for quitting smoking  
To: christy@christyclark.ca

>  
>  
> S22  
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>  
> Premier Christy Clark  
> I am sending you by Attachment a partial Document for Quitting  
> Smoking and other Addictions  
> I have presented the completed document to several Doctors  
> and Medical Clinics and  
> they are all apprecistive of this Document believing as I that  
> anyone who really wants to quit smoking  
> may do so if they follow this document  
> I have Registered this Document and expect you to pay a certain  
> amount for the information I will send you a complete Document  
> Providing You pay me 4 Cents per Document you copy and send out  
> to prospective Customers  
> I consider this a better procedure than just supplying them  
> patches or gum  
> At any rate give it some thought and I will send you the  
> full Document  
>  
> . Yours truly  
>  
> S22  
>  
>  
>

Attached:

S22 PROCEDURE

Directions for Quitting Smoking & Other Addictions  
No drugs, No patches, No Acupuncture, No Hypnosis

### Six Easy Steps

Step 1: When you get up in the morning you do not have a cigarette before breakfast  
You tell yourself that you can smoke as much as you want after Breakfast  
You do this for two weeks and when you feel you do not require a cigarette before  
Breakfast go to Step 2

First Make sure that you do not want a cigarette before breakfast

Step 2: The next step is to not have a smoke after breakfast but tell yourself you can smoke as  
much as you want after Ten A.M. If you find you cannot, then go back to step  
One Tell yourself at least I have quit smoking before breakfast. Then try step 2 again  
Until you are successful for at least two weeks. Then go to Step 3

### Missing Steps (Require Approval )

You will be completely cured of the desire to smoke  
I smoked for thirty years before successfully completing this program  
I NOW HAVE NOT SMOKED FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS

You Can Too

Registered Document

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 3:05 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: Directions for quitting smoking

Thank you for providing us with information relating to your Directions for Quitting Smoking and Other Addictions. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your correspondence with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong, for his review. Should the Minister require further information on the S22 Procedure, a member of his staff will contact you directly.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 9:29 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

We would like to thank you and express our support for the program announced May 9, 2011 providing assistance toward smoking cessation. Any incentives that provide encouragement for positive behaviour change are insightful and much needed.

We are sure that much study and discussion laid the foundation for the decision to support smoking cessation in such a large way. Nicotine is an extremely strong addiction and smoking cessation is a complex issue that often requires more support than simple nicotine replacement or pharmaceutical intervention. This is one reason why many individuals are not successful with initial attempts. Research shows that the more times an individual attempts to quit smoking, the more likely they are to succeed. Research also shows that supports provided outside of pharmaceutical intervention add to the success rate of quitting.

Complimentary approaches to smoking cessation, such as acupuncture and hypnotherapy are not included in the proposed program, despite evidence indicating the effectiveness of such approaches. without the side effects experienced with medications like Zyban or Champix. In a recent pilot study reviewing the effectiveness of a single session hypnotherapy protocol presented at the Alberta Scientific Assembly last February, this technique was shown to be at least as effective as any pharmaceutical intervention (36%) for 18 month quit rates without negative side effects and other positive effects experienced such as a decrease in stress and anxiety.

The proposed program, to provide assistance for medication intervention seems to be quite weighted to support the pharmaceutical industry. This financial support is likely to benefit large corporations outside of British Columbia whereas the inclusion of alternative therapies such as

hypnotherapy and acupuncture is more likely to benefit small businesses residing in British Columbia.

We would ask you to consider including complimentary therapies in the proposed assistance program to benefit a broader community of residents in British Columbia.

Respectfully,

S22

cc. Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Health

Honourable Dawn Black, MLA for New Westminster

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-23-2011 9:29 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 3:10 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words of support regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy, and other complimentary therapies, will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong



-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 3:59 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: I read an article about the BC Government will be covering quit smoking aids come September 30th. I think this is GREAT! I really really do ... I have been a smoker for 17 years (i\m only 28 years old) and have tried Hypnotherapy, patches, acupuncture, inhalers, and now champix. I have spent a few thousand dollars on stop smoking treatments, though nothing compared to what I have spent on smokes.

I would like to ask though, I am spending 60\$ a week on my Champix, and have 10 weeks left, so I will be quit (God willing) by the September 30th start date. Is there any way we can maybe include our reciepts in on our taxes or something to get a break on smoking aids? Just asking, I almost asked my husband if I could quit in a few months! haha ... but he probably wouldn\'t like that too much, and I hope to NEVER go through these first 4 days ever again!

I really think you have made such great changes in BC already! (please consider my previous email regarding adding HST in price tags! i\ve run it by everyone I know, they all agree it would be great, mentally - for when you see a price on a menu, or clothing tag, it includes taxes) Like the UK! :)

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-20-2011 3:58 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 4:00 PM  
To: Christy@christyclark.ca  
Subject: Quit smoking Aids :) - Question!

I read an article about the BC Government will be covering quit smoking aids come September 30th. I think this is GREAT! I really really do ... I have been a smoker for 17 years (i'm only 28 years old) and have tried Hypnotherapy, patches, acupuncture, inhalers, and now champix. I have spent a few thousand dollars on stop smoking treatments, though nothing compared to what I have spent on smokes.

I would like to ask though, I am spending 60\$ a week on my Champix, and have 10 weeks left, so I will be quit (God willing) by the September 30th start date. Is there any way we can maybe include our receipts in on our taxes or something to get a break on smoking aids? Just asking, I almost asked my husband if I could quit in a few months! haha ... but he probably wouldn't like that too much, and I hope to NEVER go through these first 4 days ever again!

I really think you have made such great changes in BC already! (please consider my previous email regarding adding HST in price tags! i've run it by everyone I know, they all agree it would be great, mentally - for when you see a price on a menu, or clothing tag, it includes taxes) Like the UK! :)

S22

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 3:16 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX

Subject: RE: Quit smoking Aids :) - Question!

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. Tobacco is the largest single cause of premature death and disease in our province and while a lot of progress has been made, there is still more we can do. You may find the related News Release of interest:

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PREM0049-000518.pdf)

We have shared your comments with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance for their review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve programs and services for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback in regards to including the HST on price tags and providing tax relief on smoking cessation therapies will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong  
Honourable Kevin Falcon

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 11:20 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: Hello Premier Clark,

I just read about your government dedicating millions of dollars in a preventative health measure for those who are smokers and obese. The proactive approach is valid although why is that our society and governments regularly take my tax dollars to help those who choose to engage in these activities yet for the many people like myself we fund our own preventative measures without any provincial or federal tax breaks for our health club fees? Will you and your gov. boarden your proactive perspective to include tax breaks for health club fees?

Thank you

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-25-2011 11:19 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 10:25 AM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email. I am encouraging a two-way dialogue between British Columbians and government, and I appreciate that you have written to express your views.

Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve programs and services for individuals and families across the province. In that light, I have shared your correspondence with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance. I have asked the Ministers to include your comments regarding tax breaks for health club memberships in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong  
Honourable Kevin Falcon



From: S22  
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2011 7:43 AM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: RE: Meeting

I obviously was not specific enough in my statement of it not being fair. I honestly believe it is outright wrong to pay for this when smokers made a choice to start smoking and continue to make a choice every time they light up.

My wife suffers from sleep apnea which has lead to heart problems and has been told by both our family doctor and her cardiologist that she needs to be using a CPAP machine.

My wife DID NOT EVER CHOOSE to suffer from these health problems but we do not get any assistance from the government to pay for her medications ( around a hundred dollars a month ) or to pay for the CPAP machine which cost in excess of \$2000.00 to buy it outright or you can rent it for \$150.00 a month.

Before anybody ( like the Ministry of Social Services employees have already done) gets on their high horse about us choosing to cut out other items from our budget, neither one of us smokes and if we took all the money that we spend on alcohol and used it to pay for the medical needs of my wife it still would not even come close to paying just for her prescriptions every month.

I do know what it is like to quit smoking as I started smoking when I was 14 yrs old and quite in March of 1990 when I was smoking at least a 25 pack a day of cigarettes.

Last night as I left work in downtown Kelowna I passed appoxiamately 15 different people ( in different groups) standing around in the alley behind restaurants CHOOSING to smoke ( these people appeared to be employees of the restaurants on a smoke break). Almost all of them were in their twenties.

NOW you want me and everybody else to help them to quit while at the same time I have to pay for my wife's medical needs.

DOE'S that even REMOTELY seem FAIR to YOU? I know it does not to be but then I may be biased.

As far as I am concerned the provincial government should keep the \$175.00 per child and low and moderate income senior ( which is something else that my wife and I have to pay for but not receive any benefit of ) and use it for what they said the HST would be used for, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION.

Instead of paying these people to quit doing something that everybody has known for DECADES causes health problems maybe we should be charging smokers more money for health insurance or taxes to pay for their future healthcare needs. They need to be responsible for their OWN choices.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX [mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca]  
Sent: May 25, 2011 12:20 PM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: Meeting

Thank you for your email regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong. He will ensure that you receive a response, specific to your concerns, at the earliest opportunity.

Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your comments will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 1:45 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Meeting

This is to inform you that I would like to have a face to face meeting with you to discuss the government's decision to start covering costs for people who are trying to quit smoking. My name is S22, my email address is S22 and my phone number is S22

S22 I live in Kelowna but will meet you anywhere to discuss this as I feel it is not fair to cover these costs but not the cost of other medications and drugs, for example, CPAP machines for people with sleep apnea.

Please call me to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

Thank you

S22

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2011 11:26 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: Hi.

I really like your \"stop smoking\" initiative. I am looking forward to September as my Q date. I have one suggestion. Why not suggest that current smokers get registered from their doctors. They then have a licence to \"smoke\" up to 2 packs a day. (some maybe three...but they won't last long) Then we can stop the \"new smokers\" It breaks my heart that young people are still smoking. Without a licence you will have to go to the black market and eventually that will become too expensive for the young. Besides being dumb.

tk.

Signed, a 40 year smoker.

S22

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-28-2011 11:26 pm



-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 2:05 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email. I am encouraging a two-way dialogue between British Columbians and government, and I appreciate that you have written to share your suggestion regarding smoking cessation. I have provided a copy to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael de Jong, for his review as well. I have asked him to consider your comments in any related discussions.

Thank you again for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2011 11:21 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: Free Tobacco Dependence Medications - Great decision! I'd like to help.

To The Honorable Christy Clark,

My name is S22 I'm a Registered Nurse with 33 years of experience in the field of Psychiatry. For the past 5-6 years, as a member of the S22 staff, I have designed and run the 'Tobacco Fighters and Survivors Club,' an increasingly well known VIHA smoking reduction and cessation group for people living with mental illnesses. My group has been very successful, which is particularly notable when one considers that people living with mental illnesses are known to consume approximately 44% of all tobacco products sold in North America and are identified as one of the most difficult populations to treat. The difficulty providing adequate services to this population has been, at least in the past (I'm not sure about now), an acknowledged problem faced by QuitNow Services. That is significant given the greatly increased incidence of tobacco addiction among the homeless and mentally ill compared to the general population. The homeless and mentally ill need to be part of our solutions. I have seen first hand and repeatedly the impact on self esteem and self efficacy that accompanies successful smoking cessation. Such feelings of accomplishment lead to other successes in life and ultimately contribute to a better and healthier world - with decreased health care costs.

In January, 2008 I began keeping track of self reported numbers of cigarettes not smoked by my clients (and the resultant packs not purchased, money saved, butts not in the environment, tar not in human lungs, and trees not logged). My clients are able to add to these numbers immediately upon starting to cut down, even before they have achieved complete cessation, which is key to providing much needed encouragement and motivation to continue trying. Each person keeps track of and reports the money they've saved, which is impactful for a population living on limited incomes. In late April we reached a milestone of over half a million cigarettes not smoked. We're already moving quickly forward towards a million. We have many people who have quit smoking and moved on in their lives. I only record the numbers of group members with whom I am still in contact, so there are actually many more cigarettes not smoked that could be added.

Our group acknowledges the fact that tobacco addiction is usually a chronic, relapsing pediatric condition (most smokers begin experimenting with smoking as children, not planning to be addicted. Addiction occurs much more quickly than most people realize - due to the careful engineering of tobacco products for rapid, long term addiction). Our motto, reflecting this reality, is 'Quitting smoking is a process, not necessarily an event,' and we approach slips not as failures but as learning experiences.

I would like to help make sure that your proposed Free Tobacco Dependence Medication program is backed up by the right kind of counseling/cheerleading to maximize its effectiveness. Tobacco addiction usually begins in a social context and so does smoking cessation, which means that we can enhance the effectiveness of your free Tobacco Dependence Medication program with the right kind of social approach, which I would love to be involved in.

The Tobacco Fighters and Survivors Club believes in using art to help examine and change our smoking stories. Since December of last year we have produced two very well attended and

successful theatre productions, both of them written, devised and acted in by people from my group. 'Mixed Messages,' which was covered on CBC Radio and on Shaw Daily TV, just closed last week, and was powerful not only for its messages about tobacco and its relation to mental illness, but for the message conveyed about the mentally ill by the very fact that the whole production was created and presented by people living with mental illnesses. The actors have enjoyed working with S22 a UVic Masters level student from UVic, and have presented the plays as entertaining educational tools for health care professionals, other clients, and the general public. S.22

S22 of QuitNow services attended the first production but regrettably not the second one, which was even better than the first. I would love, and so would the clients, an opportunity to present the play to them, to you and to any other MLA's and government employees who might enjoy it and benefit from it, so if you are interested in seeing it and meeting the actors please say the word.

I am certified by the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, having completed their Training Enhancement in Applied Cessation and Health Program in 2008. I am heading to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota on June 6th, at considerable personal expense, to take their Tobacco Treatment Specialist course, so I will soon be certified by the Mayo Clinic as well. Their program is one of only four programs accredited by ATTUD, the respected Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence, an international organization centered in the USA.

I know from experience that your decision to provide free Tobacco Dependence Treatment Medications to British Columbians is a wise one that will ultimately save a great deal of money in health care costs. It will also give the right message to people - that tobacco is a toxic and highly addictive product that unfairly enslaves people, and that we as a society care enough to help them break free. I applaud your decision.

As a 58 year old RN I am getting closer to retirement, but I very much want to continue working in a field about which I have become very passionate, so if it seems there might be a place for me in the upcoming plans please let me know.

Thank-you for your sensible decision to help people in such an important and foundational way, S22

[www.outsmarttobacco.ca](http://www.outsmarttobacco.ca)

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 4:26 PM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: Free Tobacco Dependence Medications - Great decision! I'd like to help.

Thank you for your email. These are exciting times for British Columbia as we change the way government works and focus on reconnecting with the public. I am encouraging a two-way dialogue between British Columbians and government, and I do appreciate that you have written to make me aware of your work with the Tobacco Fighters and Survivors Club—VIHA's smoking reduction and cessation program for people living with mental illness.

I am pleased to hear of the success of the program and appreciate your kind offer of support. I have shared a copy of your correspondence with the Minister of Health for his review as well. I have asked the Honourable Michael de Jong to ensure that the appropriate ministry official follows up with you directly in this regard. You will be hearing from the Minister's office at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Friday, May 27, 2011 2:23 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: Hello,

I am sorry to bother you and / or staff. I am a long time smoker and am desperate for help. Champix prescription is the only thing that has worked in the past. I can't go on smoking, I feel I am becoming ill from the addiction. Is there any way to expedite the non-smoking aids that I need. I need help and can not afford the medication.

Thank You for your time.

S22

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-27-2011 2:23 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 10:17 AM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your email regarding government's announcement to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers. We have asked staff at the Ministry of Health to ensure that you receive a response to your specific question at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2011 6:05 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: Christy i like what you did with the policy on quitting smoking \*NICE\* ..... can you take it one more step. children selling cigarettes to children..... take tobacco products out of stores and gas stations and have them sold in liqueur stores. increase the fines for providing alcohol and tobacco products to minors. the longer we can keep access away from children the better chance they wont smoke or abuse alcohol.

thank you

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: May-30-2011 6:04 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 10:29 AM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong



Pfizer Canada Inc.  
P.O. Box 800  
Pointe-Claire/Dorval, Quebec  
H9R 4V2  
Tel (514) 426-7417  
Fax (514) 426-7084



## Pfizer Canada

Paul Lévesque  
President

May 12, 2011

Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier  
Province of British Columbia  
740 – 999 Canada Place  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1

Dear Premier,

I would like to express my congratulations to you on your May 9, 2011 announcement regarding the coverage of therapies for people wanting to quit smoking. British Columbia has a strong record of progressive health policy in smoking cessation and your recent announcement reaffirms your government's leadership in this important public health issue.

Pfizer Canada is the proud manufacturer of one of the leading pharmaco therapies in smoking cessation (Champix™), and we look forward to working with the Ministry of Health in the implementation of your comprehensive program to help support smokers overcome their addiction to nicotine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Paul", written in a cursive style.

PL/gs

cc :  
Hon. Michael DeJong, Minister of Health, British Columbia Liberal Party  
Bob Dawson, Pfizer Canada  
Chris Smith, Pfizer Canada

-----Original Message-----

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2011 12:29 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Someone has filled out the form on the Christy Clark Premier website. Below are the details.

Message for: premier@gov.bc.ca

Senders Name: S22

Email Address: S22

Message: May 14, 2011

S22

The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

I would like to thank you for the program that you announced on May 9, 2011, providing assistance for B.C. residents that would like assistance toward smoking cessation. This incentive to encourage change is a wonderful thing.

I am sure that a lot of thought went into this decision to support smoking cessation but I would like to make mention that Hypnotherapy, Laser treatments, Acupuncture, Naturopathic medicine and other methods for treating smoking cessation were not included in your announcement.

As a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist that has helped many people quit smoking, I am very disappointed that your research did not show how effective hypnotherapy is.

Many people choose hypnotherapy over medication because:

- Hypnotherapy is non-evasive treatment
- Hypnotherapy has no negative side effects
- Hypnotherapy is cost effective
- Hypnotherapy is fast and efficient
- Hypnotherapy studies show no weight gain with smoking cessation

A recent study done by The University of Alberta (using the Sherry M. Hood M.H., C.C.Ht Single Session, Fifteen Phase Smoking Cessation Hypnotherapy Intervention), showed that this method is at least as effective as patients using the prescription smoking cessation drug, Champix. This is remarkable data because patients using Champix usually are on this prescription regime for a twelve week period, where as this hypnotherapy intervention is completed in one session.

I would also like to mention that many British Columbian Hypnotherapists have a practice that is based on the work that they do in smoking cessation. By giving a financial incentive to smokers to use prescription therapy, you are essentially cutting out all of the very viable therapies that I have listed above. You also eliminate the public's choice to quit by whatever method they prefer.

Respectfully,

S22

Captcha code: S15

User IP Address: S22

Date Submitted: Jun-03-2011 12:29 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 10:41 AM

To: S22

Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: New Message from Christy Clark Premier website

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2011 11:06 AM  
To: christy@christyclark.ca  
Subject: free assistance for BC smokers

June 3, 2011

The Honourable Christy Clark

Dear Premier:

I would like to congratulate you on your accomplishment so far since you became the premier of B.C..

I also would like to thank you for the program that you announced on May 9, 2011, providing assistance for B.C. residents that would like assistance toward smoking cessation. This incentive to encourage change is a wonderful thing.

I am sure that a lot of thought went into this decision to support smoking cessation but I would like to make mention that Hypnotherapy, Laser treatments, Acupuncture, Naturopathic medicine and other methods for treating smoking cessation were not included in your announcement.

I would like to request you to consider giving B.C. residents fair opportunities and options for a variety of treatments that are as effective as the pharmaceutical method as mentioned above. I believe that doing so will make this program even more successful as it would reach and move more people and give more opportunities for the practitioners.

As I have been studying to become a clinical hypnotherapist, I have learned that they have helped many people quit smoking naturally without any danger of side effect.

Many people choose hypnotherapy over medication because:

- Hypnotherapy is non-evasive treatment
- Hypnotherapy has no negative side effects
- Hypnotherapy is cost effective
- Hypnotherapy is fast and efficient
- Hypnotherapy studies show no weight gain with smoking cessation

A recent study done by The University of Alberta (using the Sherry M. Hood M.H., C.CHT Single Session, Fifteen Phase Smoking Cessation Hypnotherapy Intervention), showed that this method is at least as effective as patients using the prescription smoking cessation drug, Champix. This is remarkable data because patients using Champix usually are on this prescription regime for a twelve week period, where as this hypnotherapy intervention is completed in one session.

I would also like to mention that many British Columbian Hypnotherapists have a practice that is based on the work that they do in smoking cessation. By giving a financial incentive to smokers to use prescription therapy, you are essentially cutting out all of the very viable therapies that I have listed above. You also eliminate the public's choice to quit by whatever method they prefer. Sincerely,

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 10:42 AM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: free assistance for BC smokers

Thank you for your kind words regarding our decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong

From: S22  
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2011 7:08 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Subject: aid to smokers

To Whom this may concern,

Please consider hypnotherapy as a part of your team in regards to the fight against smoking. Relieving a smoker from cessation by hypnosis has been proven to be a successful treatment for years. There are many practicing hypnotherapist's in Canada who have excellent track records and I believe using their services would benefit your fight against smoking.

Sincerely yours,

S22

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 10:44 AM  
To: S22  
Cc: Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
Subject: RE: aid to smokers

Thank you for your email regarding government's decision to provide smoking cessation therapies and medication to smokers in British Columbia. This is just a short note to let you know that we have shared your comments with the Minister of Health for his review and consideration. Public input is playing an important role in our efforts to improve health outcomes for individuals and families across the province. In that light, your feedback regarding hypnotherapy will be included in any related discussions.

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong



The Honorable, Christy Clark, Premier

May 24, 2011

Dear Ms. Clark,

### SMOKING

In June of 1999, I wrote to then Premier, Glen Clark, about some counter-productive aspects of anti-smoking advertising in BC. My comments were taken to heart and there have never been any anti-smoking ads that show cigarettes, cigars, the packages they come in, and, never, ever, do they show a lit smoke. The rationale for this attitude is very sound and I am pleased that others learned from what I had observed and communicated to them.

I have also developed a quit-smoking program that I offered to the Ministry of Health and *BCTel* for consideration. My timing could not have been worse. This was in the middle of Mr. Clark's problems which resulted in him leaving office.

Now, a dozen years later, I see that you also have an interest in this addiction and, perhaps your government might be amenable to running this quit-smoking program.

It is called:

S22

It is an acronym for S22 and other variants of the theme are copyright and trademarked. The program is an audio recording that a caller listens to that outlines the procedure to "unlearn" smoking (as opposed to quitting). The name is a fundamental part of the system because it can be used to explain what was done by the former smoker without appearing to be "a loser" that quitters are labeled with when they enter "rehab" or rely on some identifiable quit-smoking product(s).

This program is essentially a 1-800 number call; if run by government or as a public service by a company such as *Telus*. The ideal number is 1-888-888-8888 and perhaps government intervention might interest them – in 1999, *BCTel* showed no such interest after Mr. Clark left office. The TV advertising is targeted to youth first ~ and aims to show that smoking takes one away from the things they want and not towards them. There are 7 basic scripts.

The other alternative is to run it as a 1-900 number. This would then be a commercial venture and that does not seem to be in the "public interest." Stopping smoking is profitable in the public sector by reducing the ancillary and hidden costs of coping with the detrimental effects of this behavior. If the Government undertakes to do it, all the rights accrue to and will be assigned to, the government in perpetuity.

In my previous correspondence, your cordial reply to my rather sharp criticism, suggests to me that perhaps my success in being heard by the government lies in the name of the person to whom I address my comments.

Perhaps it is only premiers named "Clark" who are the visionaries that BC needs!

Yours truly,

S22

S22

May 13, 201

Dear Premier Christy Clark -

I applaud you on helping people who want to stop smoking. Where can I get information on your plan re: costs etc., pharmacies participating?

You seem to care about our health - so another question. What can you do (perhaps a grant or what ever) for people who are low-income seniors (like me) who need glasses, dentures and hearing aids at least every 3-5 years. I get \$1300. a month and nothing left for these 3 items which are necessary for good health. We have problems eating, seeing + hearing. Pacific Blue Cross wants \$73.00 plus a month. I can't afford \$73. I have written everywhere (MLA's etc) and nothing. No help thru pharmacare. I'm very interested to know what you can do for us.

Not Responsive

*Sincerely*

S22

West Kootenay Advertiser Thursday, May 12, 2011

## Letter to the Editor

# Quit-smoking policy makes sense

We congratulate Premier Christy Clark on taking such swift action to help BC smokers quit.

We regularly receive appeals from smokers desperate for financial help to buy quit-smoking aids. The Premier's announcement to provide free nicotine replacement therapy to BC smokers and to cover prescription cessation products under Pharmacare are tangible and proven measures to help many effectively quit who would not be able to afford these products otherwise.

More than 500,000 British Columbians still smoke, yet we know that close to 70 per cent of them want to quit. But we also know that quitting can be difficult, and while it can take most smokers five or six attempts before they quit successfully, studies have shown that stop-smoking products can double triple or even quadruple the likelihood of quitting successfully.

Providing free supports to smokers will not only improve health outcomes for people who smoke, but will save millions in costs to the health care system. It's great news for people who want to quit and great news for BC taxpayers.

We applaud Premier Clark on this progressive measure to improve the health and future well-being of British Columbians who smoke.

Diogo Morais  
Chief Operating Officer  
Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon

Scott McDonald  
President & CEO  
BC Lung Association

What pharmacists are participating?  
% paid for public?



June 8, 2011

S22

Dear Ms. Hunter:

Thank you for your letter. I am encouraging a two-way dialogue between British Columbians and government, and I appreciate that you have written to share your comments.

Beginning in September, British Columbian smokers will have the choice of Nicotine replacement therapies (either nicotine gum or patches) to help quit tobacco with a free supply for up to 12 weeks, or obtaining coverage of prescribed smoking cessation drugs through PharmaCare. Over the coming months, the Ministry of Health will work with groups such as the BC Lung Association, the Heart & Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon, the Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon Division, and BC Pharmacy Association, among others, on the best way to implement the program—including how to distribute nicotine gum and patches.

Not Responsive

.../2

Not Responsive

Thank you for being in touch. It was good to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christy" being more prominent than the last name "Clark".

Christy Clark

/encl

pc: Honourable Michael de Jong  
Honourable Harry Bloy  
Honourable Shirley Bond