



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Adam Olsen MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

September 15, 2017

Hon. Adrian Dix
Minister of Health

Dear Minister Dix,

I am writing you today to request your Ministry support efforts by Peninsula Medical to be considered for the Ministry of Health's nurse-in-practice pilot project. Peninsula Medical is a non-profit model with a year of success in our area. They are concerned about retention of new doctors and would like to find a way to fund the Nurse Practitioner that does not come out of their MSP fees.

The nurse-in-practice initiative is part of the ministry's work with physicians and health authorities to enhance primary and community care across the province. To bring nurses into their practice, doctors complete an assessment of their overall patient population to determine what services and skill sets are most needed in their practice, and which type of nurse would best complement their team.

Peninsula Medical provides the Saanich Peninsula with a range of primary health care and health promotion services. Patients in their program have access to wrap around service with continuity between clinic, hospital, and home-based care. Their team-based model encourages collaboration between doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and dieticians to provide better care for patients and a team environment for professionals.

This community-led non-profit program helps ease the burden on acute hospital care and allows patients to access services close to home through their Primary Health Network. They are positioned well to be a prototype model for Ministry of Health strategic directions for primary care.

I encourage you to consider Peninsula Medical to be part of your Ministry's nurse-in-practice pilot project. I am happy to discuss more details about this at your convenience.

HÍ SW KE,


Adam Olsen

MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

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Adam Olsen MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

Dear Minister Dix and Minister Darcy,

I am writing you today to ask that you consider the request brought forward to me from the Federation of Associations for Counselling Therapists in British Columbia (FACT BC). I have met with the organization's leadership and wanted to draw your attention to this matter.

As I'm sure you are aware, counselling in BC is an unregulated profession. There is an opportunity to increase oversight and accountability and reduce the potential of harm from incompetent or unethical counselling services. Given that this government has made improving mental health a priority, I suspect this issue may already be on your radar.

FACT BC is asking that the government create a regulatory body for counselling designated under the *Health Professions Act*. This would provide the ongoing competency framework and regulatory support necessary to promote competent, ethical counselling therapy in BC. As I understand it, this a regulatory change which only needs approval by cabinet and would come at no cost to the government. Furthermore, this is not a unique idea, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick regulate counselling therapists as do all US states.

FACT BC has provided me with the briefing binder attached to this letter outlining their concerns and the solutions they propose. I hope you will consider their request with the attention it deserves.

HÍ SW KE,

Adam Olsen

MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

MINISTER'S OFFICE HEALTH		
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Good afternoon,

I am extending a formal invitation to participate in a region-wide discussion on health care priorities for Saanich North and the Islands.

Over the summer I met with many organizations and individuals who alerted me to various issues and opportunities in the health care sector in our riding. However, to be an effective advocate for our home, I want to bring consensus to the Minister of Health on key priorities for our region; what the main challenges are on the Saanich Peninsula and the Islands, and define the key actions the Ministry could take.

The Minister of Health has expressed an interest in coming to our area for a town hall on health care and I strongly believe it is important to do the legwork ahead of time in order to provide him with a report based on our riding's top priorities.

To this end, my office has reached out to many individuals and organizations to gauge the interest in holding such an event. From the feedback we have received I am convinced this initial discussion is the right place to start. As such, we have reserved the following times:

1-4pm: Lady Minto Hospital Board Room: Tuesday January 9, 2017

1-4pm: Mary Winspear Centre, Friday, January 12, 2017

I sincerely hope that you or someone from your organization will be able to join us to provide important input into this process. Should you be unable to attend the event in your area but are interested in participating in this discussion, please contact our office and we will work with you to include your perspective and concerns. A brief outline and agenda will be sent to all those who have confirmed their participation.

I look forward to meeting all of you, if not at this event, then at some point in the future. Please RSVP to adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Adam Olsen

MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

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of BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINISTER'S OFFICE
HEALTH

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Adam Olsen MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

February 6, 2018

Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Dear Minister Heyman,

s.22 constituents in my riding s.22 experienced a contamination of their well. They were surprised and shocked by the level of contamination (their water smelled strongly of gasoline) and were unable to use their well water for any household use.

I met with s.22 in August who presented me with a sample of their tap water and explained the situation. They had been in contact with your ministry as well as with Island Health about the state of their well and asking where the contamination could be coming from.

The response received from both organizations has been underwhelming from my constituents point of view. Emails and phone calls have not been responded to and the appropriate interest in their situation has not been forthcoming.

s.22 the contamination of groundwater has spread s.22 and there is the potential that it will continue to spread throughout the area.

s.22 have also gotten an official report done by Hemmera Inc. This report, which I understand has been sent to your ministry but is also attached to this letter, outlines the findings of the company and points to a neighbouring derelict property as a likely source of the contamination. It further highlights that the contamination is at such high levels that there is a risk of explosion and, as such, all well infrastructure s.22 has been recommended to be shut off.

My staff have spoken to the author of this report and he has stated that in the 1400 sites that he has tested during his career he has never seen "free gasoline" come out of someone's drinking water well. The lab used to test the samples, Maxxam, is the largest environmental lab in Canada and they have only seen this level of contamination once before.

The situation is further compounded by the possibility of s.22 and that the contaminants may have found a way through to the groundwater via old trenches and s.22

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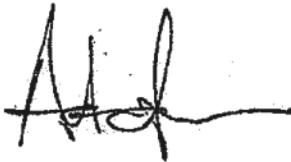
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I am concerned for the health and safety of my constituents, not only for the^{s.22} who are immediately affected, but for others who live in the area and who may face similar contamination in their wells in the near future.

My constituents^{s.22} They have tried to do everything properly but have not been receiving the help needed from government agencies. To my knowledge there has been no effort by any agency to attempt to determine the source or scope of this groundwater contamination.

I request a briefing by your ministry on the status and approach that is being taken to this situation, particularly around the coordination with other governing bodies, at the earliest convenience. Your staff have been helpful thus far in responding to my office for updates to this situation but I am concerned that between your Ministry, Island Health, and other governing bodies such as^{s.22} there may be a jurisdictional challenge that has blocked effective action on this contamination issue to date.

HÍ SW KE,



Adam Olsen
MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

Cc:

Hon. Adrian Dix, Ministry of Health

Hon. Michelle Mungall, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources

s.22



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