

January 17, 2020

Honourable John Horgan
Premier of BC West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Premier Horgan,

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that 2020 is the Year of Nurse & Midwife. In the year to come countries all over the world will celebrate the contributions nurses and midwives make to health and wellness daily in our local communities.

With solid support from the WHO, the tremendous value that nurses and midwives represent to the healthcare system across all nations internationally is being recognized. As you know nurses and midwives are ideally positioned to make important advances in patient outcomes. These positive outcomes can be further enhanced with optimizations to scope of practice, focusing more effort towards better integration of both nurses and midwives into emerging practice areas such as primary care and advancing a more nursing and midwifery centric perspective on health outcomes at the point of care where nursing and midwifery interact with patients.

Nurses are at the heart of healthcare teams throughout the province and have tremendous potential to influence transformative change in our healthcare system. As professionals, we encounter issues that affect our practice, our communities, our patients and our families. Nurses are well positioned to lead the way in developing new models of care and to advocate for and support efforts to promote a more efficient system. Recognizing the key role nurses play in promoting health and wellness across our province is an intrinsic part of utilizing nursing to its full potential.

Midwives are the first-choice health professional for pregnant women, providing prenatal, during birth and post-natal care. Midwifery practice is informed by research, evidence and clinical experience that puts the needs of those for whom they care at the forefront. Midwives are autonomous primary care providers who work in partnership with pregnant women and their families with a focus on ensuring that each person be the decision maker about their own care. It is through this meaningful discussion and dialogue that midwives have established themselves as trusted healthcare providers for pregnant women and their families.

Nurse and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia (NNPBC) is the professional association representing all four nursing designations in our province and the Midwives Association of British Columbia (MABC) is the professional association representing midwives in BC. We are asking that you partner with us to recognize the contributions nurses and midwives make to healthcare in our province every day. As a first step, we ask that you proclaim 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife in British Columbia.

Please contact NNPBC Senior Director of Corporate Operations, Alix Arndt at aarndt@nnpbc.com at

any time if you have any questions or require more information. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Michael Sandler

Michael Sandler
Executive Director
NNPBC

Alix Bacon

Alix Bacon
President
Midwives Association of British Columbia

CC:

Minister of Health, Adrian Dix

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Judy Darcy

David Byres, Associate Deputy Minister for Clinical Leadership, Ministry of Health

Natasha Prodan-Bhalla, Chief Nurse and Professional Practice Officer, Ministry of Health