



March 13, 2018

The Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
Province of British Columbia

By email

Dear Minister Dix:

The BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) board met recently to vote on a resolution (see attached) to call upon the B.C. government to introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity to establish an independent Seniors Advocate as an officer of the B.C. Legislature. This comports with the direction your party gave government back in 2013, when the original Seniors Advocate Act was tabled.

March 2018 marks five years since that original legislation was debated in the Legislature, and four years since the Office of the Seniors Advocate was established. The BCCPA board considers this an ideal juncture to fully implement the original vision of the office put forward by you and your colleagues, as a fully independent advocate that would be able to stand up for seniors without being encumbered by the reality of being employed by the people whose decisions they are evaluating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Fontaine", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Daniel Fontaine
CEO, BC Care Providers Association

cc: Andrew Wilkinson, Leader of the Official Opposition
Dr. Andrew Weaver, Leader of the Third Party

MOTION: BCCPA Resolution on Independent Seniors Advocate

Whereas:

- The quality of seniors' care is a top priority for all British Columbians;
- BCCPA supports progressive change in the seniors' care sector, promoting the growth and success of its members that provide the best possible care services for seniors;
- The previous provincial government established the role of Seniors Advocate as an employee of the Health Ministry, stopping short of giving seniors a truly independent voice, and one that can investigate both individual and systemic problems;
- The then Opposition BC NDP members called for a strong and independent advocate that would be able to stand up for seniors without being encumbered by the reality of being employed by the people whose decisions she is evaluating;
- In 2013, the BC NDP under the leadership of current Minister of Health Adrian Dix campaigned on a pledge to establish an independent Seniors Advocate;
- The current Seniors Advocate's term in office is expiring in the coming months.

Therefore, be It resolved BCCPA requests that the Provincial Government:

- Introduce legislation this year to establish an independent Seniors Advocate as an officer of the BC Legislature, similar to the BC Ombudsperson and Children's Advocate to replace the current Office of the Seniors Advocate;
- Consult with care providers, seniors, families, front line workers, and other key stakeholders to ensure the role of B.C. Seniors Advocate has the independence it needs to be most effective for the seniors of our province.