



APR 18 2018

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Mr. Daniel Fontaine
Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Care Providers Association
Metrotower 1, 1424 - 4710 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4M2

Dear Mr. Fontaine:

Thank you for your letter of March 13, 2018, regarding the recent BC Care Providers Association's (BCCPA) resolution for government to establish an independent Seniors Advocate as an officer of the BC Legislature. I apologize for the delayed response.

I have reviewed the BCCPA's resolution and appreciate the association's ongoing efforts to advocate for and enhance the quality of life of British Columbia's seniors.

It is government's priority to improve care for seniors across the health care continuum. Since its establishment in 2013, the Office of the Seniors Advocate (OSA) has taken on the role of monitoring, analyzing, and reporting on many issues and matters of special concern to seniors that has helped inform government's policy decisions.

We both agree that it is important that the OSA be able to make independent recommendations to government, as well as to persons who deliver seniors' services, in respect to changes required to improve the welfare of seniors. Section 4(1) of the *Seniors Advocate Act* (the Act) provides the legal requirement that the Seniors Advocate must advise in an independent manner, as well as be able to report out to the public on any matter that arises from her fulfilling her responsibilities under the Act.

Given Government's current legislative priorities, there are no current plans to revisit the Act. The ongoing work of the OSA has been, and will continue to be, an important factor in assisting government to improve care for seniors throughout the province. Thank you once again for your letter. I appreciate the BCCPA's expertise and commitment to providing health care services to our seniors, and look forward to working together in the future. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Adrian Dix
Minister

Ministry of
Health

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