

April 9, 2025

The Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC

Re: Meeting request about urgent health priorities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Dear Minister Osborne:

I am writing on behalf of Inclusion BC, a provincial federation advocating for the full inclusion and rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across British Columbia. For over 70 years, we have worked collaboratively to ensure that all people have equitable access to health care and community supports that allow them to thrive.

We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss urgent priorities identified by our community through three health-related position statements. These statements address critical gaps in mental health, pediatric, and general healthcare services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and offer actionable, evidence-informed recommendations. You can review each statement here:

1. [Access to Mental Health Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.](#)
2. [Access to Health Care and Coordination of Care for Children and Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.](#)
3. [Access to Health and Coordinated Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.](#)

We urge your ministry to act on the following priorities:

1. **Develop and fully fund** an inclusive, equitable, robust, and culturally safe **mental health strategy** that addresses the needs of people with IDD across the lifespan. This must include a full continuum of care, cross-system coordination, and built-in accountability measures.
2. **Invest in a pediatric health strategy** that reflects existing guideline recommendations from the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres to ensure equitable, timely, and integrated care for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A cross-ministry approach is essential to supporting families and providers alike.

3. **Develop and fund a comprehensive healthcare strategy** for people with IDD, supported by robust data collection and monitoring to identify and eliminate barriers to care and health equity.

On February 12, 2025, the Ministry of Health was included in a [letter to Premier Eby](#) regarding the Verdict of the Coroner's Inquest regarding the death of Florence Girad. The above-mentioned position statements include meaningful steps to address two of the 13 recommendations concerning the serious and ongoing challenges regarding the coordination and access to essential health care services and support for people with an intellectual disability in BC.

1. Immediately reinstate the Provincial Medical Consultant position at CLBC. (recommendation #12)
2. Immediately increase the capacity of Health Services for Community Living to better provide ongoing health care planning and reduce the wait time to access services for health care plans for individuals. (recommendation #13).

We believe there is a powerful opportunity to lead transformational change and set a provincial standard in inclusive health care. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet, share more about our vision, and work together toward more equitable outcomes for all British Columbians.

Thank you for your attention and leadership. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet, share more about our vision, and work together towards equitable outcomes for all British Columbians. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-777-9100 ext. 516 or kverschoor@inclusionbc.org.

Sincerely,



Karla Verschoor, Executive Director
Inclusion BC