



August 21, 2024

## Temperature Rising – Healthcare Priorities for BC’s Doctors and Patients

On behalf of Doctors of BC, and the 16,000 BC doctors that we represent, I am reaching out to you, and each political party, with five questions we would like to discuss and get your perspective on in advance of the October 2024 provincial election. We sincerely hope that you will consider this request – it won’t take much of your time and will provide you with the opportunity to speak directly to BC doctors.

As you are aware, doctors play a critical role in the delivery of healthcare in this province. Doctors also drive innovation and collaborate with other partners and stakeholders to find solutions to many of the challenges our health care system is encountering. Our member doctors, as well as their patients, are interested in understanding your health care priorities as well as how you will address some of these challenges should you form the next provincial government.

The questions we are hoping to ask you represent core priorities for BC doctors and their patients-based on what they are seeing and experiencing every day. The attached document outlines these priorities in more detail, but are related to important issues facing our health care system including securing more family doctors, addressing specialist care issues and waitlists, lessening administrative burdens, improving healthcare infrastructure, boosting rural healthcare support, and ensuring technology such as electronic record systems work seamlessly.

In developing this work, we worked with Leger this past April to undertake a public poll that helped confirm that these priorities align with those of patients and the public. The results of that poll will come as no surprise to your party, as they place healthcare as the second most important issue for British Columbians, just behind the cost of living/affordability. British Columbians are also concerned about the overall state of health care in BC – 64% of those polled consider it “poor” or “fair” right now and just 26% rate it as good.

Please find the questions we are hoping to ask enclosed, and these will be shared equally with each political party. **In the coming weeks, we will be looking to schedule a brief on-camera opportunity with an appropriate spokesperson for your party so that your responses can be easily shared with our members and their patients. This shouldn’t take up more than 30 minutes of your time and we will be happy to send a camera crew to the location of your choosing.**

Thank you for considering this request and we hope you will see the value in bringing forward your healthcare platform and ideas to those on the frontlines of health care who are ready and willing to work with you to make real, lasting change.

We look forward to your response, and will then move quickly to schedule a date for filming.

Sincerely,

Dr Ahmer Karimuddin  
President, Doctors of BC – 2024