

# A Message from the Board...

## Canada is experiencing tremendous change and CHCs are on the frontline

with care delivery and understanding what that means for people in their communities. Big challenges are being discussed, physician compensation models are changing, system design is being rethought, and provincial and federal health care delivery alignment is in the news.

BCACHC is ensuring our members' voices are represented through this journey at the Provincial level. This is enabling decision-maker to understand how CHCs contribute as part of the wider health system, and the impacts made in our communities. The CHC model in BC is an extraordinary mechanism to solve many system challenges for our Province and brings tremendous hope for a healthier Province!

As we close 2022, perhaps a bit tired and a bit wiser, I have heard numerous examples of CHCs making huge positive impacts in their communities! Systems – a set of things working together as part of a mechanism – can only be achieved with great leaders and passionate people making the difference, and CHCs attract extraordinary people!

With immense gratitude and appreciation, I would like to thank our BCACHC CHC Members, the BCACHC Board, Operations Team, and our Partners for your tremendous passion and continued perseverance in leading and blazing along this journey! Cheers to 2023!



*Christine Matuschewski*  
**BCACHC PRESIDENT**

[www.bcachc.org](http://www.bcachc.org)

## In this issue:

### FEATURE:

- ▲ Advocacy update
- ▲ News for members
- ▲ Operational updates
- ▲ Evaluation project highlights



MESSAGE FROM THE

# Executive Director

As the year comes to a close we are looking back on the things we've achieved so far this fiscal and planning for the future. The four pillars of our strategic plan continue to guide our work priorities. We are working to develop new services for CHC members by adding to our training opportunities and working on a job posting page for our website to support member recruitment of staff in this ever so competitive marketplace.

Aligned with this, we have undertaken some compensation reviews to see where CHC roles fit in the broader marketplace. We are also investigating what it would take to create a shared employee benefits program to support recruitment and retention of CHC staff. Your responses to our member survey will help to guide us to set new service development priorities.

You'll see several updates about our advocacy in this newsletter, as it takes centre stage while the needs in the province for primary care have been highlighted by media and communities. We've met with the Liberal Health Caucus and the Green Party policy team to describe the value of the CHC model of care. And, we continue to strengthen our partnerships with organizations that share our values and priorities. Read on for more details on our strategic partnerships.

CHCs are becoming more well known as a model of care and as a way to meet community and practitioner needs. We are constantly being asked to sit with Divisions of Family Practice and communities around the province to describe the model and ways to work together in and out of Primary Care Network development. And, the Ministry of Health has invited BCACHC to a discussion about Primary Care Reform and Community Care integration.

Our profile as an organization continues to grow and we are looking forward to being able to offer more services and supports to member CHCs as a result!

## Privatization Paper



[Read Now >](#)

**Thanks for filling out the survey!**



[Watch for results!](#)



*Val St John*

BCACHC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FEATURE

# CHC Advocacy Videos

We've made some exciting strides toward a strong season of advocacy, with a new set of videos produced by our Communications team in collaboration with our member CHCs in Kamloops and Sun Peaks. Team members from STEPS CHC and Sun Peaks CHC offered their stories and their perspectives on the value of the CHC Model. As a result, we produced 3 videos:

-  Highlighting our key advocacy messages
-  Featuring STEPS CHC with a focus on the value of integrated team-based care
-  Featuring Sun Peaks CHC with a focus on the unique needs of rural and remote communities

These videos will be featured on our website, social media, during presentations, as well as being used for direct advocacy and educating people on the CHC Model.



 **Watch Now!**

We encourage you to watch these 2-3 minute videos and share them with your staff, your board, local leadership, and/or provincial representatives. This helps us get the message out there about the value of CHCs and the need for stable, long-term funding.

Watch for future BCACHC advocacy tools, tactics, and calls to action as we continue to build on this momentum.

 **Listen Now!**

## BCACHC in the Media: Daybreak News Kamloops

Have a listen to this radio programming featuring Kamloops-area CHCs.

**"Community based health care is growing in Kamloops and it could mean more doctors, happier nurses and patients who have access to counseling and other forms of therapy."**



## Building Recognition

BCACHC has reached a new level of recognition in the province. Our network is growing, within the health sector and beyond. Our reach is expanding into new circles. For example, we have begun work in schools and we are gaining traction following BCACHC's presentation to the Deans and Directors Network of British Columbia in October. Watch out for more information on how CHCs can join in some student outreach initiatives with UBC's Faculty of Medicine and Douglas College's Faculty of Health Sciences. Education is an important space to develop collaboration and frame the value of CHCs for up and coming professionals.

We continue to deepen relationships with systems-level decision-makers and community leaders. We were invited to meet with the Assistant Deputy Health Minister and his team on Primary Care reform. On the community front, we now have a Board Liaison seat on the board of the BC Rural Health Network, as well as on the Steering Committee of the BC Health Coalition.

While these relationships take time to forge, we are seeing success in the different ways we are expanding our reach. For instance, BCACHC was invited to present at the recent Vancouver Island Economic Advancement Conference. It is always a sign of progress to be invited to speak at a conference, but the fact that our influence is welcome in an economic-focused space is evidence of how health supports the economy as a whole.



## Strengthening our Foundations

We're excited to launch a new BCACHC board committed to work on Engagement and Advocacy. The creation of our new CHC Engagement Committee provides an opportunity for CHC Board Directors to sit with our team and each other to provide advice on advocacy topics and issues of concern. This is a great chance to participate in the work of BCACHC, build capacity for advocacy within your CHC, and get excited about sharing your story. We'll have more details available on this once our terms of reference are drafted. **Please take the opportunity to have someone designated from your CHC!**

### Join our Engagement and Advocacy Committee!

Let's share CHC stories together and make lasting change in our province.



## BCACHC's fall member survey

We are looking forward to sharing the results with you after more CHCs have had a chance to respond. Here are a few highlights as at Nov 29:

- 9 CHCs serve over 49,000 patients/clients annually and "growing"!
- CHCs interdisciplinary teams are made up of various combinations of members including family physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses (LPN, RN), dental providers, mental health providers, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, pharmacists, complementary/alternative healers, community health workers, and specialist. We can expect the list to grow as more responses come in!

 Listen Now!

## CHC Member Feature: Central Interior Native Health

Check out this CACHC podcast feature with Shobha Sharma, Executive Director of Central Interior Native Health CHC. Shobha describes the people who are most impacted by the work of this Prince George CHC, including Indigenous people who live in remote communities in Northern BC.

**“People who access our services are struggling. They are struggling because of the impact of colonization. How can we create a primary health care model that can support those individuals?”**



## Evaluation Project Update

BCACHC is now recognized as a leader in CHC evaluation across the country, not just for how we're supporting the development of evaluation tools but also how we're supporting evaluation research.

Phase 2 of this pilot CHC evaluation model project is being designed with UBC's Innovation Support Unit to focus on providing support for CHC evaluation implementation and next steps. The project team showcased this important work at a Team UP webinar in October.

Beyond the evaluation project, our voice is making a difference in the future of healthcare. BCACHC is participating in several Team-Based Care development and research initiatives at the National level, as well as three university partnerships on the impact of team-based care in the CHC model.



Watch Val and the ISU team in the webinar  
**"Reflections from the Field:  
Community Health Centre  
Evaluation in BC"**



*Hello from  
Harshit*

Hello there! I'm excited to be a part of the BCACHC team, supporting the organization through my role as the new Administrative Assistant. You may see me in meetings, or recognize my name from BCACHC emails, and I hope we get to meet soon. Have a great holiday season!

## Catherine's corner



BCACHC was honoured to be invited to be part of a few provincial committees and national research projects.

Thank you to Pamela Toor from Reach CHC, who is representing the voice of CHCs in the Team-Based Care (TBC) Advisory Committee. This committee is working towards a shared approach to support TBC learning, coordinated communications in TBC, a common TBC evaluation, and building a new TBC network.

I am a member of the Publicly Funded Counselling Advisory Committee which brings together diverse partners from primary and mental health care to inform the development of a publicly funded stepped-care model for counselling for BC residents 17 years and older.

We will participate in a 5-year Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funded research on team-based care. The study will include how teams evolve and develop, engage with patients and caregivers, and how policies and systems impact team-based primary health care. We will be a knowledge user in a CIHR grant proposal to investigate the impacts of community health workers on health equity outcomes.

Please connect with me ([caw@bcachc.org](mailto:caw@bcachc.org)) if you would like to find out more. Thanks and stay in touch!

[Read Catherine's Blog >](#)