

A Message from the Board Chair

Dear CHC Colleagues,

Our Provincial healthcare landscape continues to keep us on our toes with exciting changes to physician compensation, updated governance structures for PCN's, and the hope we will collectively transition our health system to meet the much needed service requirements for our communities!

The new Longitudinal Family Physician compensation model (LFP) was launched in BC February 1, 2023, with optimism that family physicians will be attracted to BC and retained to provide longitudinal family practice care.

BCACHC recognizes and continues to advocate for a sustainable CHC funding model. We recognize a CHC funding model would be most ideal for CHC's in BC, however, I have been pleased to hear members expressing positive impacts to sustainability with the new LFP over the last month. The LFP seems to be a step in the right direction with physicians being able to bill for their time, especially when caring for more complex patients requiring more time and team-based care.

BCACHC also recognizes the critical role allied health and social care providers contribute in CHC's with delivering high quality health and social care ensuring patients reach their best patient health outcomes. We are excited and encouraged to hear Ministry efforts to support integrated team-based care and look forward to seeing the positive impact.

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I would like to thank CHC's across BC for your continued service, perseverance, and resilience with our changing system and acknowledge how challenging our work can be. BCACHC continues to listen, support, and work to advance efforts that will positively impact and help you and your communities.



Christine Matuschewski

BCACHC PRESIDENT



MESSAGE FROM THE

Executive Director

The new year is off to a roaring start as we continue to advocate for CHC funding collaborating with our many partners while developing new member services and working hard to increase awareness of the CHC model of health and wellness care!

This newsletter highlights some of our accomplishments and actions over the last season, including advocacy efforts, partnership meetings, developing new services – including a CHC Job’s Portal, and learning more about how to advance the CHC model in every corner of BC. We are also highlighting some of our members and celebrating the announcement of a new CHC-UPCC hybrid in Sooke.

BCACHC has turned the page from being a fledgling organization to one that is visible in our province. We are being invited to participate in system level work to solve system level problems and we are grateful for the trust placed in us to be part of this. We need to share these things with you – so with this in mind, we are re-scheduling our “ED Quarterly” Zoom meetings. There is much to share and even more to discuss as we seek your guidance about the work we are doing.

Our CHC network is strong and supportive, with our membership now at 42 members, and we look forward to connecting you to each other to continue to share your knowledge and challenges.



Val St John

BCACHC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“We spoke to the former Premier and asked him to advocate for CHCs. We also attended the Sooke CHC/UPCC announcement and ground breaking!”

FEATURE

Bowen Island Story

Bowen Island Community Health Centre was initiated by a concerned group of community members to address the limited access to physicians on the island. It is amazing to hear of their successful efforts in raising \$7.5 million.

We are all excited for Bowen Island CHC as it makes the final push in the construction of its purpose-built centre.

BCACHC would like to thank the Bowen Island Health Centre Foundation board members Tim Rhodes (President), Colleen O'Neil (VP) and Bowen Island CHC Suzanne Saatchi (Executive Director) for sharing their journey with us. You can read the interview in our blog and check out their website to learn more about their progress.

We wish Bowen Island every success in realizing its aspiration of providing residents with convenient access to healthcare services and its objective of establishing sustainable primary care and outreach services that cater to the distinctive healthcare needs of the community!

Read the full interview now!

[Read Now >](#)



Growing the CHC Movement

We are in the process of finalizing a new CHC Starter Kit to support emerging CHCs across the province. This guide walks community members through the steps needed to create a thriving Community Health Centre, including support with navigating policies and planning structures. Communities are often under-resourced when it comes to designing their own care, and this initiative is a small way of closing the gap. Note that this version of the CHC Starter Kit is being pilot tested, and you can expect a future announcement about an official release.



Visit bcahc.org for the latest news about our CHC Starter Kit.

[View Member Survey Results](#)

[Visit Now >](#)

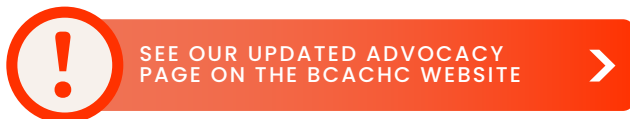
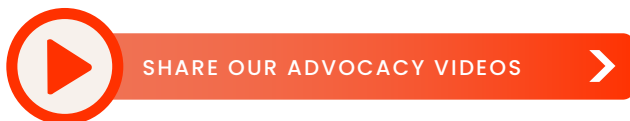
Advocacy Update

Since January we have written to the Premier, Ministers, and opposition parties following up on conversations held last year. We continue to work with the Ministry of Health to find ways to fund the model and gain support for new CHC developments. The CHC movement is gaining momentum!

We are advocating for a funding model that is separate from the PCN (primary care network) processes and provide input into the governance reform work underway. Our position is that the PCN processes are not working for communities and the voices of CHCs are not being heard or included well enough in decision making.

Our advocacy has seen us write to newspaper editors around the province asking for them to profile the CHC model and we have done some media interviews too. Recently three videos were produced detailing the model, the love practitioners have for it, and the advocacy needed to strengthen support for it.

You are welcome to use these videos in your communications – they can be found on our website along with newly created support materials in our Resources section coming onstream at the end of March. There is more to do and if you can help by sending a letter to your MLA – please do!




New Member Services

New services continue to be a priority for us and you will be able to post your job vacancies on our website using our Job Posting page – also coming onstream at the end of the month.

Once posted, we will use our social media channels to drive traffic to view these opportunities. With recruitment and retention being particularly challenging in the sector, we hope this posting service will be helpful when you need to find critical team members for your CHC.

In the meantime, be sure to follow our new BCACHC page on LinkedIn. Social networks take time to build, but we know that this is a platform that attracts professionals who are looking for quality conversations. Please follow the BCACHC page and share it with others to help us build our network. Please continue to follow us on other platforms – Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter – as well. Every like, comment, and share goes a long way to expanding our reach. Help us shape the conversation about health in BC!



In case you missed it:
Check out our latest blog from our volunteer, Patricia Balmes.

Read Now >

Evaluation Project Update

Our work on the development of our CHC evaluation tools and processes has entered phase two with the support of the Innovation Solution Unit at UBC. We're excited to provide updates soon!

We are involved in additional research to support awareness and understanding of the CHC model in B.C. Here are some of our activities:

- ▶ Partnering with various universities and research funders to look into the impacts of team-based care.
- ▶ Applying for a grant to research and develop a methodology for community involvement in health planning working with our partner the BC Rural Health Network.
- ▶ Sitting on the BC Advisory Committee for the OurCare national primary care consultation.
- ▶ Commissioning a literature review to find existing research that has focused on the efficacy and outcomes of the CHC model working with the Centre for Rural Health Research.
- ▶ Working with Camosun College here on the island to identify skills and knowledge gaps and education opportunities for RNs wishing to transition from acute care to primary care.

Raising Awareness!

Did you see this recent media mention of CHCs?

[View Now >](#)

Catherine's corner

In January, I joined a cohort of 25 participants from BC non-profit organizations across BC on a 6-months learning journey. The United Way Public Policy Institute training aims to help organizations advance their public policy and advocacy work. We are learning about how the government makes policy decisions, developing and analyzing policy options, informing and engaging decision-makers, and the place for research and evaluation. I will be using CHCs in BC as my topic of interest and hope to gain additional skills and knowledge to support BCACHC's advocacy work. I am starting to gather tools and strategies that I will be happy to share with CHCs interested in advancing policy change for your organization or community (e.g., Ten De-biasing Strategies; Tracking Down the Power: an exercise to identify important people or groups when strategizing, designing, and implementing tactics; classification of power, public policy research resources, policy-making pathways). Do contact me (caw@bcachc.org) if you want to chat about public policy and/or access the material.

[Contact Catherine >](#)

