



May 17, 2017

Dr. Dorothy Barnard
Chair, Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres
Board Chair, D. WB Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre
Via email: board@nsachc.org

Dear Dr. Barnard,

Thank you for the well-researched information regarding Community Health Centres and the positive impact they have in Nova Scotia.

We would like to provide you with the answers to your four questions as well as invite you and your members to support Jamie Baillie in this important election campaign. The Nova Scotia PC party is presenting an optimistic, pro-growth agenda that focuses on rebuilding our province, creating jobs and getting Nova Scotians back to work. Voters are tired of governments with no vision that only focus on cuts. Too many families don't have a family doctor and have lost hope of finding one. We can deliver better care by reducing wasteful spending, overhead and added bureaucracy within the health system and investing that money in frontline services. The McNeil Liberal government has chosen to continuously cut funding for services and postpone investment that would stabilize our economy and make it grow.

1. In 2017-18, establish a one-time stabilization fund of \$4 million to be distributed equitably among Nova Scotia's existing CHCs. These funds will enable CHCs to address high-priority operational gaps during this transition year and enable them to actively contribute to the province's strategic discussions and planning for expansion of Health Homes.

Something has to be done to fix the healthcare system in Nova Scotia. Among other decisions, a Progressive Conservative government, led by Jamie Baillie, will take concrete action and make important investments to ease the doctor shortage. We will invest \$13.5 million to bring more doctors to under-served areas and double the tuition relief program to \$6 million to keep new family doctors in Nova Scotia. In addition, we will improve credential recognition for Canadians who study medicine abroad.

2. In 2017-18, establish a primary health care partnership table, with representation from NSACHC and other relevant associations/groups, to advance the province's planning of primary health care, including necessary steps to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to the most appropriate type of Health Home.

The idea of establishing a primary health care partnership table is very interesting. If chosen by the voters on May 30th to lead the province, we will work together with stakeholders like the NSACHC to ensure ongoing dialogue and partnership takes place for the planning of primary health care.

We are also committed to giving local communities and front line health professionals a voice in the decisions that affect them.

3. By 2018-19, establish a provincial policy framework and implement core, annualized provincial funding for CHCs. Annualized global funding budgets should be provided to each existing CHC in Nova Scotia to support the package of team-based primary care, health promotion and community/social services that they deliver as Health Homes (See *Appendix 1* of NSACHC's April 2017 position paper for examples). This funding should be accompanied by mutual accountability agreements between CHCs and the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

A policy and funding framework that is sustainable and includes accountability agreements makes sense to help fix Nova Scotia's primary health care system. With the election being called shortly after tabling this year's budget, it is difficult to know what the true financial picture might be for the province. The eventual funding solution will include reining in the Nova Scotia Health Authority by enforcing real administrative savings and invest those savings in frontline health services. We will also ensure they approve new doctors for communities who need them. In addition, a Jamie Baillie government will be willing to sit down with NSACHC to discuss the establishment of policy and funding agreements.

4. By 2020, invest in 10 new community-governed Community Health Centres throughout Nova Scotia to provide more Nova Scotians access to Health Homes through the integrated CHC model.

Community Health Centres provide valuable services and are a proven, effective model for delivery of health care. If elected to govern on May 30th, we will be open to discussions on increasing the number of Community Health Centres throughout Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,



Janet Fryday Dorey
Campaign Co-Chair
PC Party of Nova Scotia