

February 7, 2024

**Honourable Adrian Dix**

Minister of Health  
PO Box 9050  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

[HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Hon. **Adrian Dix**,

**RE: Position statement on Access to Health and Coordination of Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and meeting request**

Inclusion BC is a non-profit provincial organization advocating for the rights and opportunities of children, youth, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to live and participate as full citizens in their communities. We are supported by a federation of members consisting of individual people with disabilities, families, 62 member organizations, and four affiliate organizations, all working together to build inclusive communities across our province.

In 2023, Inclusion BC set out to update the position statements that guide our rights-based work across the province. We heard very clearly from our members that lack of access to health and coordination of care was their top concern, closely followed by the deep poverty that disproportionately affects people with disabilities. We understand the complexity of the pressures the health system currently faces and are also deeply aware that people marginalized by intellectual and developmental disabilities are struggling to have their very basic needs met.

On January 25, 2023, in collaboration with the BC CEO Network, we launched the first of three health-related position statements: Access to Health and Coordination of Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We will release position statements focused on children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and access to mental health supports, respectively, in the spring. Each statement is meant to clearly articulate the current state of health care as it relates to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the historical context that led us here, and actions that can be taken to support everyone to have their right to health care realized.

We look forward to hearing from you and request an official meeting to share the priorities of Inclusion BC and our members. We hope you will continue to be an ally in our work to advance the rights and opportunities of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this urgent matter and your support for the meaningful inclusion of all citizens in our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Verschoor'.

Karla Verschoor  
Executive Director