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BCNPA CONGRATULATES THE GOVERNMENT OF BC ON NEW PRIMARY HEALTH CARE STRATEGY THAT PUTS FOCUS ON TEAM BASED CARE

BCNPA congratulates the government of BC following today's announcement by the Premier about a visionary primary health-care strategy that will focus on faster, team - based care. The details of the Ministry of Health (MoH) plan are exciting and BCNPA is confident that this strategy will put patients first and improve primary care services and health care for all British Columbians.

Today's announcement builds on the foundation outlined yesterday with respect to increased Nurse Practitioner (NP) educational seats and sustainable funding to fully integrate NPs into primary care in BC. "We applaud this government's multi-pronged approach and the recognition that NPs are well qualified primary care providers, who should be more fully integrated to improve access to health care services for British Columbians across this province" said Fiona Hutchison, President of BCNPA.

"As well as increasing the number of NPs in the province, this approach provides opportunities for an additional 200 GPs to work alongside NPs and other health care professionals in multi-disciplinary teams to better meet patient's health care needs. This team-based approach is long overdue!" says Sue Peck BCNPA President-Elect.

In some BC communities, families already receive primary care from a NP. With this new and transformative team-based model, many more will be able to access NP care in a variety of primary health care settings. These settings could include existing primary care practices & community health centres, and within new and emerging services such as urgent care centres or NP led primary health care clinics, where a group of NP primary care providers come together to meet the needs of underserved communities. Lorine Scott Executive Director of BCNPA notes that "For all British Columbians this announcement brings us closer to being able to receive regular, consistent, longitudinal full service primary health care from an NP or GP along with a range of health providers when we need care and as close to home as possible".

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“In keeping with the MoH announcement yesterday, NPs around BC are keen to see these vital changes take place to ensure all health care providers are working to full scope to address the primary care needs of all British Columbians,” said Kathleen Fyvie, Past-President of BCNPA.

BCNPA are very pleased to see this paradigm shift starting and very much look forward to continuing to work with the MoH to ensure this vision becomes a reality.

Nurse Practitioners are advanced practice nurses who are educated at the masters or doctoral level, and are licensed to order tests, diagnose, prescribe medications, order treatments and refer to specialists. They are regulated by the College of Registered Nurses of BC and hold liability insurance through the Canadian Nurses Protective Society.

About the BCNPA: BCNPA is an independent, non-profit professional organization that is nearly 100% run by NP volunteers. BCNPA represents the unique perspectives and needs of NPs and their practice in BC’s health and social policy system. Since 2005, BCNPA has advocated for the full and sustainable integration of NPs into the primary care system.