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### **BCNPA APPLAUDS MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S PLAN TO INCREASE NURSE PRACTITIONER POSITIONS FOR BC'S PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

*Vancouver, BC, May 23, 2018* – The BC Nurse Practitioner Association (BCNPA) fully supports Minister of Health, Adrian Dix and the Ministry of Health's (MoH) progressive plan to increase the number of Nurse Practitioner (NP) positions in primary care across the province. The plan effectively leverages NPs as integral members of the health care system to ensure all British Columbians have access to primary care providers and services, no matter where they live.

As part of this plan, the MoH is also providing additional resources to educate up to 75 new NPs annually. The Minister of Health announcement today marks a transformative approach to primary care and the health landscape in BC.

"BC NPs have advocated for these changes for over 12 years, and we are excited for both BC NPs and all British Columbians," says **Fiona Hutchison, BCNPA President**. "Funding additional NP seats and providing sustainable funding to fully integrate NPs into primary care will be a huge help to people who are in need of primary care."

"Effective health care requires nimble and responsive care models that utilize the full scope expertise of all healthcare providers," says **Kathleen Fyvie, BCNPA Past-President**. "This new funding will allow NPs to improve the delivery of primary care services where and when it is needed."

"As a primary care Family NP, I am very heartened by this announcement," adds **Sue Peck, BCNPA President-Elect**. "I look forward to working with the MoH to fully integrate NPs to improve health care access."



“This bold plan takes hard work, innovation, and vision. On behalf of all BC NPs, thank you and well done!” says **Lorine Scott, BCNPA Executive Director**.

**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.

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