

Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
British Columbia

**November 23, 2015**

Delivered via email to: [HLTH.health@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.health@gov.bc.ca)

With copy to: [Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Lake,

**Re: Supports for British Columbians living with ADHD**

On behalf of the Centre for ADHD Awareness, Canada (CADDAC) and the Canadian ADD/ADHD Resource Alliance (CADDRA) we are writing to you today about our continued concerns regarding the lack of access to a variety of long acting treatment options for British Columbians living with ADHD.

ADHD is a medical neurobiological disorder and one of the most common childhood mental health conditions worldwide, affecting 1 to 2 children and youth in every British Columbia classroom, and 4 out of every 100 British Columbians in the province. It is complex, multifaceted, and often a life-long disorder that results in difficulties in academic, workplace, and home settings.

With the proper multimodal treatment options and supports, those living with ADHD can reach their potential and become productive members of society. Without them, individuals, their loved ones, and British Columbians across the province pay a substantial human and economic cost.

Unfortunately, British Columbia continues to be an outlier compared to other jurisdictions across Canada. Long acting medications have been shown to be safer, more effective, and better tolerated than their less expensive short-acting counterparts. Yet, the BC Pharmacare formulary refuses to provide coverage for more than one long acting treatment option, despite clinical evidence demonstrating that not all patients will be responsive to a single drug therapy.

During the last year we met in person and over conference calls with several people in the BC Ministry of Health to discuss the ways in which we can work together to better support those living with this illness in your province and regrettably nothing has changed. In fact, British Columbia is one of the only jurisdictions in North America that does not provide adequate access to long acting treatment options.

As you already know, October was ADHD Awareness Month and during October CADDRA, a Canadian alliance of ADHD medical experts held their annual conference in Vancouver. During this conference many BC physicians expressed their continued frustration with the current situation in BC.

In April 2017, the World ADHD Conference will be coming to British Columbia and we would like very much to be able to speak to the great strides this government has made in supporting patients.

That is why, today we are calling on the B.C. government to make a timely decision and provide full public coverage of all long-acting ADHD medications for all age groups before the end of the year.

**This is about choice and putting decisions back in the hands of physicians, patients, and their caregivers; ensuring the right patient receives the right treatment at the right time.**

Sincerely,

Heidi Bernhardt  
President and Executive Director CADDAC

Dr. Don Duncan  
Director CADDRA