



paninbc.ca

603-402 West Pender St. Vancouver BC V6B 1T6

March 29, 2022

Minister Adrian Dix
Room 337 Parliament Buildings
Victoria V8V 1X4
Sent via email: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Dix,

I write to express support for Options for Sexual Health, specifically regarding their work in more than fifty communities across the province delivering an array of sexual and reproductive health services. As the Executive Director of PAN, I am concerned to learn that they are in now in the position of having to review what clinics may have to be closed, due to a lack of sustainable funding.

As a provincial network, we here at PAN are aware of how important the services provided by Options are, particularly in small towns, rural and remote communities. Many PAN members actively partner with Options, and the clinics in those communities have an excellent track record for being responsive to local needs. Also notable is the way in which Options clinics provide accessible and trauma-informed services to those who are outside of, unable to access, or do not feel safe in more mainstream public health settings – including Indigenous people, 2SLGBTQAI+, and youth.

By the Premier's own recent admission, British Columbia's health care system is now under strain. Health Ministry records show that you project the number of people unattached to a primary care provider or physician, will grow this year to more than 900,000. Even more reason that, at this critical juncture, that the Ministry of Health should do everything possible, to ensure that Options clinics remain open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Evin Jones", written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

J. Evin Jones, Executive Director

CC. Michelle Fortin, Executive Director, Options for Sexual Health