
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008HEALTH0052-000684
May 2, 2008

Ministry of Health

B.C. COMMUNITIES GAIN FAMILY PHYSICIANS

VICTORIA – A halfway milestone in attracting recently qualified family physicians to rural and urban areas of need has been exceeded with the recruitment of 56 general practitioners, announced Health Minister George Abbott.

“Our innovative family doctor recruitment program got off to a great start and is on the way to being a solid building block for improved access to primary health care provincewide,” said Abbott. “The Family Physicians for B.C. Program is a prime example of what government is doing in partnership with the BC Medical Association to attract and retain family physicians to provide a full scope of health services to B.C. patients.”

One of the latest family physicians to join the Family Physicians for B.C. Program (FPs4BC) is Dr. Ian Connelly, who recently opened a practice in Nakusp at the Saddle Mountain Medical Clinic.

“I am very happy to be part of this program. It has really helped both my family and my self settle into life in Nakusp,” said Connelly. “I think this program is a strong step forward for Family Practice in British Columbia.”

The Ministry of Health and the BC Medical Association have collaborated to develop this \$10-million program, which was announced in June 2007 and has the capacity for 90 new family physicians for communities in need. Physicians are provided up to \$100,000 in financial support to help pay off student debt and to cover the costs of setting up a practice. Communities are identified by each health authority and the successful applicant has six months to establish a medical practice in the approved community. All successful physicians are required to commit to three years of service.

“FPs4BC is a terrific illustration of the good that can result when two willing parties work in partnership to achieve the same goal,” said Dr. Geoff Appleton, president of the BC Medical Association. “Family doctors are needed in every part of the province, and this program makes that happen.”

As part of their practice, family physicians in this program are expected to practise in alignment with the Chronic Disease Management Program that supports physicians in assisting patients suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease to better manage their condition.

For further information visit www.primaryhealthcarebc.ca

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media Sarah Plank
contact: Manager of Media Relations
 Ministry of Health
 250 952-1887 (media line)
 250 480-6678 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.

BACKGROUND

2008HEALTH0052-000684
May 2, 2008

Ministry of Health

CURRENT FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOR B.C. COMMUNITIES

The following communities are benefiting from the addition of 56 family physicians to the Family Physicians for B.C. Program:

- Abbotsford (2)
- Armstrong (2)
- Burnaby (3)
- Campbell River (2)
- Castlegar (1)
- Chemainus (1)
- Chilliwack (2)
- Courtenay (1)
- Coquitlam (4)
- Delta (2)
- Hazelton(1)
- Hope (1)
- Langley (1)
- Mackenzie (1)
- Mill Bay (Duncan area) (1)
- Nakusp (1)
- Nanaimo (2)
- New Westminster (1)
- Port Alberni (1)
- Port Moody (1)
- Powell River (2)
- Revelstoke (3)
- Richmond (1)
- Sechelt (2)
- Squamish (2)
- Surrey (4)
- Trail (1)
- Vancouver (6)
- Victoria (2)
- White Rock (2)

-30-

Media Sarah Plank
contact: Manager of Media Relations
 Ministry of Health
 250 952-1887 (media line)
 250 480-6678 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.