



Subject line: Address the urgent health challenges faced by B.C. citizens with intellectual disabilities

Dear [Candidate Name],

As a citizen in your riding, I ask you to show leadership on an urgent issue that affects thousands of British Columbians suffering needlessly in the time of COVID-19.

Our province's citizens with intellectual disabilities are dying up to 20 years earlier than the general population, and you can do something about it today.

Individuals with intellectual disabilities have two to three times more preventable hospitalizations, and suffer from dramatically higher rates of obesity, mental illness, over-medication, and poor oral health. These unacceptable health outcomes are not because persons with intellectual disabilities are inherently less healthy – but because of structural, social, and communication factors that stop them from getting the same level of health care as everyone else. Sadly, they are dying earlier because of things we can change.

People with intellectual disabilities have been severely marginalised and suffered alarming health outcomes for their whole lives. The barriers they face in the health system matter now more than ever with COVID-19.

I join Special Olympics BC in asking for your yes or no responses to the following questions:

1. Will you commit to changing the deadly and unacceptable health conditions faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities?
2. Will you engage individuals with intellectual disabilities and their supporters during the policy-making process on all issues that impact their health and wellbeing?
3. When in government, will you commit to ensuring the Ministry of Health prioritizes improving health outcomes and quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities?
4. Will you commit to creating a governmental task force to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities?
5. Will you commit to supporting sufficient funding and resources to ensure people with intellectual disabilities will no longer face inequality in health and in life?

Please click here for more information: <https://www.specialolympics.ca/british-columbia/2020-election>

This issue matters to me. Please show you care about the estimated 61,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities throughout our province, and the communities who love them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely,