



To:
The Honourable Adrian Dix, M.L.A.
Minister for Health
Government of British Columbia
Room 337 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

April 15th, 2018

Dear Minister Dix,

I am writing to support the request by the Vancouver Island Association of Family Councils (VIAFC) to develop regulations that will enshrine a meaningful role for family councils in BC's residential care facilities.

Residential care residents are a highly vulnerable population with little ability to exercise the option of voice (1) or exit (2) due to advanced disability and fear of provider reprisal. There is also research evidence that family councils play an important role in improving the quality of lives of long-term care residents (3, 4).

VIAFC has a strong track record in assisting families to respectfully engage with facilities about issues of mutual concern. Regulations enshrining family councils would be supported by this voluntary organization, which is well placed to mentor other jurisdictions in the support and networking of family councils. Regulatory support of family councils is key to strengthening the voice of the patient/ family dyad in residential long term care and I hope you proceed with this policy measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Dr. Margaret J. McGregor MD MHSc

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