
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0287-001747
Sept. 15, 2020

Ministry of Health
Fraser Health

Improving primary care in Mission

MISSION – Government is transforming everyday health care for people living in Mission by establishing a primary care network, which will bring additional resources and strengthened support to the region.

“As part of our government’s primary care strategy, we’re transforming the way people throughout the province access health care. Through primary care networks, we are providing team-based health care and giving people a seamless patient-centred experience that is responsive to the unique needs of each community,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “The primary care network in Mission will further support residents in getting access to the comprehensive care they need and deserve.”

The Ministry of Health will provide approximately \$3.59 million in annual funding to the primary care network once it is fully established.

Over the next four years, residents of Mission will benefit from more than 18 full-time equivalent health providers who will provide better access to primary care. This includes family physicians, nurse practitioners and allied health professionals such as social workers, physiotherapists, mental health counsellors, a dietician and a traditional healer.

In the first year, Mission will be adding the full time equivalent of one family physician, a nurse practitioner and a social worker to the primary care network. Together, these professionals will be enhancing access to primary care through the Primary Care Clinic in Mission, the Mission Maternity Clinic, Enhanced Mental Health and Substance Use, and supporting Mission’s enhanced Indigenous health outreach strategy to increase patient attachment in the Mission community.

The Mission primary care network will see community partners work together to ensure tens of thousands of people have access to comprehensive, co-ordinated and team-based primary care services for all of their day-to-day health-care needs in Mission.

The network will provide a full range of accessible, everyday health services that will better support patients and providers. The network was developed to better meet the specific needs of the community and to strengthen services identified as high priority. These include:

- better access to chronic disease and chronic pain management services;
- improved access to services for individuals with mild- to-moderate mental health and substance-use services;
- better co-ordinated services for families and seniors who are frail and people with complex health issues;
- improved access to maternity care;

- more access to comprehensive services for people living in poverty; and
- culturally safe care for Indigenous peoples.

For people and families, it means getting faster, better access to their primary care team or provider, even on evenings and weekends, as well as being connected to appropriate services and supports in the community.

Over the next four years, the network will work to attach 10,080 patients to a consistent primary care provider in the region, while also providing team-based and culturally safe primary care services to local residents and Indigenous peoples. The traditional healer, nurse practitioner and allied health professional will support Indigenous health.

“Individuals and families living in Mission have been facing challenges to get easier access to primary health care services,” said Bob D’Eith, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission. “Through the new primary care network, more health-care providers will be recruited and will work as a team to provide improved and increased access to care to residents.”

The primary care network is a partnership between the Ministry of Health, Fraser Health and the Mission Division of Family Practice. The planning and implementation of the primary care network has also been supported by the First Nations Health Authority, Mission Community Services Society, Mission Seniors Centre Association, Leq’a’:mel First Nation, Fraser Valley Métis Association, and the District of Mission.

Learn More:

To learn more about the Province’s primary health-care strategy, visit:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018PREM0034-001010>

To learn more about the Province’s strategy to increase the number of nurse practitioners,

visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018HLTH0034-000995>

To learn more about the Province’s strategy to recruit and retain more family medicine

graduates, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018HLTH0052-001043>

Two backgrounders follow.

Contact:

Ministry of Health

Communications

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BACKGROUND 1

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Facts about the Mission primary care network

According to BC Stats data, the communities that the Mission primary care network will serve have a combined population of 44,585. Services will be available in all regions of Mission.

Primary care networks mean that patients:

- who do not have a regular primary care provider - a family doctor or nurse practitioner - will be able to get one;
- will have an ongoing relationship with their primary care provider, which is important for their life-long health;
- will get access to faster, more convenient care from their doctor or nurse practitioner and the care team;
- will be provided and connected with a range of appropriate and accessible services and supports;
- will be informed about all aspects of their care in community; and,
- will know where to go to get the care they need, even on evenings and weekends.

New resources being allocated include:

- 6.6 FTE family physicians
- 1.5 FTE nurse practitioners
- one FTE family physician group contract
- one FTE traditional healer
- nine FTE allied health professionals:
 - one FTE social worker
 - one FTE dietitian
 - one FTE physiotherapist
 - four FTE mental health counsellors
 - one FTE clinical pharmacist

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BACKGROUND 2

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What people are saying about primary care networks

Dr. Victoria Lee, president and CEO, Fraser Health –

“I am grateful to our teams and our partners for coming together to enhance and to better coordinate our health services. With the new primary care network in Mission, we will be able to support people with ongoing and consistent primary care services to remain healthy, manage existing health conditions and avoid unnecessary hospitalizations.”

Dr. Carol Pomeroy, board chair, Mission Division of Family Practice –

“The Mission Division of Family Practice and our family physicians are looking forward to working with these new resources for our patients. This will allow us to work in innovative and creative ways and provide the wraparound care our patients need and deserve. This team-based care approach will enhance our delivery of health care needs giving our patients the right care at the right time and in a more centralized manner. We are also looking forward to improving our provider experience.”

Dr. Kathleen Ross, president, Doctors of BC –

“The best health-care systems in the world have strong primary care, and we hope that the primary care network initiative provides additional needed resources to doctors serving their community, especially those that strengthen longitudinal care in these pandemic times. A primary care network will collectively increase a community’s capacity to provide greater access to primary care for those who need it, especially for vulnerable patients and those with complex health conditions.”

Michael Sandler, executive director, Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC –

“The Association of the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC is pleased that the knowledge, skills and expertise of the entire health-care team will improve access to health care for British Columbians through the new primary care networks. We believe that this approach will be pivotal in ensuring B.C. families feel connected to their health-care team and we are excited to see the launch of primary care networks in B.C.”

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