



NOV 02 2021

1201768

Via email: [mayor@victoria.ca](mailto:mayor@victoria.ca)

Their Worship Lisa Helps  
Mayor of the City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Sq  
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of June 21, 2021, regarding your support for equitable access to free prescription contraception, including for BC residents with low income, youth, and those from marginalized communities. I apologize for the delayed response.

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) recognizes the right of all British Columbians to make and implement informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. The Ministry is currently undertaking work to implement our commitment to 'make prescription contraception free for all BC residents'.

Presently, all BC residents have access to coverage under the universal, income-based Fair PharmaCare plan – those with the lowest incomes under \$30,000 do not need to meet a deductible and receive immediate assistance. Some groups are eligible for 100 percent coverage under Plan C for those receiving provincial financial assistance or Plan W for First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) clients.

PharmaCare currently covers the majority of oral contraceptives and hormonal intrauterine devices (IUDs), as well as an injectable contraceptive product as regular benefits under Fair PharmaCare, Plan C and Plan W. In addition, some non-hormonal, copper IUDs are covered for FNHA clients under Plan W.

As of January 1, 2019, families with net annual incomes between \$15,000.01 and \$30,000.00 are no longer required to pay a Fair PharmaCare deductible. Fair PharmaCare co-payments were also lowered for all families with net incomes of up to \$45,000 and co-payments were eliminated altogether for families with a net income of up to \$13,750.

...2

Thank you for taking the time to share your support for improving equitable access to free prescription contraception for all BC residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Dix', is written over a blue oval-shaped stamp or watermark.

Adrian Dix  
Minister