



**British
Columbia
Dental
Association**

MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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November 7, 2022

The Honourable Adrian Dix, M.L.A.
Minister of Health
Room 337 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 (hlth.minister@gov.bc.ca)

RE: Bill 36 – 2022: Health Professions and Occupations Act

Dear Minister,

British Columbia Dental Association (BCDA), representing 93% of BC dentists, commends the Provincial Government's efforts to update the *Health Professions Act* (HPA) with the proposed Health Professions and Occupations Act, aimed at prioritizing protection of the public and facilitating good governance within regulatory bodies. However, the pace at which this new legislation is being introduced provides no scope or time for feedback from those impacted- our healthcare professionals and the public.

None of the consultations undertaken during the development of this legislation, remotely envisioned the extent and severity of changes proposed. This is very concerning for Dentists and likely all healthcare professionals across British Columbia who are still grappling with the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of care. A chronic dental staff shortage and the implementation of a Canadian Dental Care Program and other regulatory changes are among the issues that the BCDA and our members are currently addressing. There is limited capacity to study this extensive legislation in detail and fully understand its impact on health care providers and patients.

Dentists are the largest employer of oral health professionals, responsible for both the majority of staff and infrastructure that delivers dental care to essentially all British Columbians. The proposed measures have significant implications for oral health professionals, employers and most importantly patients. We strongly urge your government to allow for additional consultation before the proposed Bill is passed in order to best understand the implications of such an extensive and far-reaching act.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and welcome the opportunity to discuss the concerns of the dentists of British Columbia. Further correspondence can be directed to the attention of Ms. Jocelyn Johnston, Executive Director, British Columbia Dental Association at executivedirector@bcdental.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lim".

Dr. David Lim
President, British Columbia Dental Association

cc: Mr. Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister of Health (Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca)