



CAPA - Canadian Association of Physician Assistants

ACAM - Association canadienne des adjoints au médecin

B.C. Needs Physician Assistants

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Presentation to the Surrey Board of Trade

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Outline

- What Is a PA
- Canadian and Global Landscape
- B.C.'s Health Care Challenges
- CAPA Supporters and Advocacy
- Next Steps in B.C.
- Getting Involved



What is a PA?

- PAs are advanced practice clinicians who provide a broad range of medical services under the supervision of a licensed doctor.
- Among their key duties are:
 - *Conducting physical exams*
 - *Ordering and interpreting tests*
 - *Prescribing medications*
 - *Developing treatment plans*
 - *Assisting in surgery*
 - *Counseling and educating patients*
- PAs play an integral role on modern, high-performing health care teams in a variety of clinical settings.



Photo credit: UHN PA Council



Canadian and Global Landscape

- 600+ certified PAs in Canada working across various settings and specialities.
- PAs are regulated in Manitoba, New Brunswick, and soon-to-be in Alberta.
- Three accredited university programs affiliated with Canadian medical schools, plus training through the Canadian Armed Forces.
- Globally in demand and well-integrated in the U.S and throughout Europe.



B.C.'s Health Care Challenges

B.C. surgery wait list has grown faster than population: report

By Staff The Canadian Press

Doctor shortage 'crisis' demands urgent attention: Esquimalt mayor

Lindsay Kines / Times Colonist

JANUARY 18, 2019 06:00 AM



Staffing issues close Elkford emergency department – again

It's the second time in six months the ED has closed due to unexpected limited staffing availability

Jan. 28, 2019 12:00 a.m. / [NEWS](#)



Advocacy in British Columbia

- Strong political support from Liberal and Green Parties
- Private Member Bill – Norm Letnick (MLA Kelowna-Lake Country; Official Opposition Health Critic)
- Interest and discussions with provincial health authorities to pilot PAs in various settings (emergency department, residential care, cancer care)
- Continuing to raise awareness of the value of PAs among the medical community, health system leaders, policy makers, and patients.



Support for PAs in B.C.



B.C. Needs to Take Action to Realize the Benefits of PAs

1. Recognize PAs and allow them practice here.

- a. Regulate PAs under the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (like MB, NB, and soon-to-be AB).

2. Deploy PAs where they will have an immediate impact.

- a. Rural and underserved communities to improve access to care.
- b. Surgical specialties to help address wait times.
- c. Residential care to improve the continuity of patient care.
- d. Emergency departments to improve staffing and relieve overstretched doctors.



B.C. Needs to Take Action to Realize the Benefits of PAs

- 3. Develop funding models to create incentives for health authorities and physicians to leverage PAs.**
 - a. Fund salaried positions where the need is the greatest.
 - b. Pilot allowing certain physicians or clinics in priority areas (e.g., seniors care) to bill at a reduced rates for work done by PAs.



Why Should You Help

- A healthy B.C. is a productive B.C.
- Over 700,000 British Columbians don't have access to a primary care health provider.
- PAs can help B.C.:
 - Deliver care for less.
 - Give citizens better access to the care they need to thrive in their communities.
 - Modernize how care is delivered across the province.
 - Show support to oil, mining, and gas industries that want to leverage PAs on provincial worksites (as they do in AB, NWT etc.)



How You Can Help

The Surrey Board of Trade can:

- Draft a policy statement endorsing the introduction of PAs to make B.C's health system more efficient and effective.
- Advocate with the local community – elected officials; health system and medical leaders at Fraser Health.
- Other suggestions?



PAs Are Part of the Solution

Physician Assistants have been found to have impact on health systems in the following ways:



- reductions in resident and physician workload (saving physician time)



- increases in health care procedures (increased health care productivity)



- improvements in discharge rates



- reductions in wait times



- decreases in length of stay



- reductions in health care costs



Source: Conference Board of Canada

Hiring more physician assistants (PAs) and effectively integrating them into health care teams could save the Canadian health care system millions of dollars in efficiency gains:



Saving physician
time by more than
30%



Increasing
health care
procedures



Increasing productivity in primary
care, emergency departments,
orthopedics, and other specialties



Reducing
wait times



Reducing
health care **costs**



Source: Conference Board of Canada

Questions



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