



## Improving Lives. Inspiring Courage

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear BC Epilepsy Society Constituents,

### Re: BC Epilepsy Society 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

For 61 years, the British Columbia Epilepsy Society has been a tremendous source of support for people living with epilepsy and their loved ones. BCES has provided quality educational and community programs in school and communities throughout the province.

When the COVID-19 crisis landed on the shores of BC, we quickly established 8 free weekly online support groups, daily uploads to social media platforms and regular blogs and webinars. Additionally, we provided referrals and counselling to anyone feeling anxious, fearful, isolated, depressed, or grieving a loss. We have always treasured our staff and volunteers (Board), and the COVID-19 crisis has deepened that gratitude. Thank you.

My dedication and singular focus on the critical epilepsy advocacy work for deficiencies and inequities to an orphaned disease by the Provincial Government for over 50,000 British Columbians – even as we all adapt to changing responsibilities – has not shifted. British Columbians deserve the same adult services, medication coverages, therapies, surgeries, and community programs as are available in other provinces.

Your voice has been heard. I am proud to announce that BCES presented for the first time to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services during the 2021 Budget Consultation Process. Find out more about our presentation [here](#). Your voice has also enabled us to confront an unprecedented situation head-on, with BC Health Minister, Adrian Dix. It took 2 very long years for him to agree to meet with us and hear of the epilepsy crisis in BC within the Adult Epilepsy System. We require an unwavering commitment from the NDP government to empower us, the over 250,000 individuals directly impacted by epilepsy in BC to move forward with confidence.

We hope that you will help us inform the government about the importance of adult epilepsy in their spending priorities by signing our petition [here](#) and by participating in our survey process. Our survey on the effect of COVID-19 on epilepsy has a deadline of August 20<sup>th</sup> and can be taken [here](#). We will also be releasing a survey on August 21<sup>st</sup> that is a Report Card on the adult epilepsy health care system based on the feedback of people living with epilepsy in BC, so please keep an eye out for that!

**Stay strong. Know that you are not alone. We are always here for you.**

Yours in health and wellness,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Davidson".

Kim Davidson  
CEO & Executive Director, BC Epilepsy Society

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