



For Immediate Release: 09/07/2021

**PRESS RELEASE: ADULT EPILEPSY CRISIS CONTINUES TO WORSEN UNDER DECADES OF  
INACTION FROM BC GOVERNMENT**

**Vancouver, BC:** The provincial government has allowed the adult epilepsy crisis to worsen in BC. The BC Epilepsy Society is calling on BC MLAs to actively engage and meet with CEO, Kim Davidson to discuss the debilitating hardships of patients, under-resourced doctors, decades-long systemic failures, and a negligible infrastructure model. *The BC Adult Epilepsy Crisis August 2021 Report* was sent to all BC MLAs with information on the action-oriented initiatives currently undertaken to end the adult epilepsy crisis.

"This report was created to tell the story of adult epilepsy in BC, the black mark on Canadian health care. This report will better inform the public about the adult epilepsy crisis and how, over decades, it became a politicized, orphaned disease in BC. In contrast, Alberta has 3 adult epilepsy clinics and 10 adult epilepsy beds with a population of 4.4 million; whereas BC has only 1 adult epilepsy clinic and only 4 adult epilepsy beds with a population of 5.1 million. In this report, we have identified what the issues are and have offered attainable solutions which will improve diagnostic, surgical, prescription, and therapeutic access to save lives. More importantly, there exists a time-sensitive opportunity to add adult epilepsy beds and expand clinical, diagnostic, and surgical services within Royal Columbian Hospital's \$1.49 billion Redevelopment Project. Thank you in advance for reading this report, signing our petition, and becoming informed." -*Kim Davidson, CEO & Executive Director, BC Epilepsy Society*

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the following letter was sent to all BC MLAs:

"Dear BC Elected MLA,

**Re: BC's Adult Epilepsy Crisis Continues to Worsen – September 2021 Roll Call Campaign**

**The History:**

Between 2018 and 2020, it took 26 months and over a dozen letters for the provincial government to meet with the BC Epilepsy Society to discuss the adult epilepsy crisis (for more information, please watch our documentary, *FAILURE: The Black Mark on Canadian Health Care* [here](#)); because of this, we knew we needed to reach the candidates to personally inform them before they got elected. This is why in October 2020, during the BC Provincial Election, we began our 2020 Roll Call Campaign where we requested meetings with all candidates to inform them about BC's adult epilepsy crisis.

We wanted people suffering with and affected by epilepsy to be aware of which candidates were directly informed about the epic failures of the adult epilepsy program in BC so that they could vote accordingly. **After meeting with dozens of caring candidates, their names, parties, and ridings were published on the BC Epilepsy Society website.** These caring candidates expressed sorrow and empathy, and agreed to stay informed and resolve the crisis, should they be elected.

- 51% of candidates who met with us were from the BC Green Party
- 27% of candidates who met with us were from the BC Liberal Party
- 22% of candidates who met with us were from the BC Libertarian Party
  
- **0% of candidates from the BC NDP met with BC Epilepsy Society**

To learn more about the inaction of the BC NDP, please refer to page 18 (The Roll Call Campaign) of *The BC Adult Epilepsy Crisis August 2021 Report*, which is linked [here](#) and attached to this correspondence.



### **The Current Ask:**

This year, we are conducting a second Roll Call Campaign to engage all MLAs in BC. We have included our [recent August 2021 report](#) on the BC adult epilepsy crisis and information on our current initiatives (petition and PSA). **We request that you review these materials detailing the worsening of the adult epilepsy crisis.** We hope that the BC NDP will participate this time because, statistically, more than 1% of their constituency lives with epilepsy; if a riding has 45,000 constituents, this means that over 450 families are impacted by epilepsy and need you, their MLA, to be informed and engaged about the crisis.

Please be advised that our constituents want to know which MLAs have their interests in mind. As a result of that measure, the names of all MLAs who take the time to review the attached and linked materials will be published on our website. **To be included on the website as an informed MLA, we request that you email or call Kim Davidson directly for a conversation.** Your participation is critically important to you/our constituents, the over 50,000 British Columbians living with epilepsy.

### **Attached and Linked Materials:**

#### **The BC Adult Epilepsy Crisis August 2021 Report:**

The report can be accessed [here](#). The report identifies what the issues are and offers attainable solutions that yourself, your fellow MLAs and the provincial government can take to end the adult epilepsy crisis.

#### **Petition to Enact a BC Adult Epilepsy Business Plan for an Epilepsy Clinic at Royal Columbian Hospital:**

There exists a time-sensitive opportunity to add adult epilepsy beds and expand clinical, diagnostic, and surgical services within Royal Columbian Hospital's \$1.49 billion Redevelopment Project. More information on this can be found on page 7 of the report (Infrastructure).

We are actively collecting signatures to have adult epilepsy beds included in this redevelopment project through our petition, which can be found on page 16 of the report (Our Advocacy Efforts) and within the Message from CEO. We request that you sign and view the petition [here](#) and share it with your constituency and within your networks.

#### **Epilepsy is NOT just SEIZURES TV Commercial PSA:**

We recently launched a TV commercial public service announcement (PSA) entitled *Epilepsy is NOT Just SEIZURES*. The goal of this PSA is to raise awareness, educate, and better inform people about epilepsy, the invisible disease, and the debilitating hardships of those affected.

This PSA speaks the truth of the over 65 million people living with epilepsy worldwide that need understanding, support, and appropriate health care. We request that you watch the PSA [here](#) and share it with your constituency and within your networks.

Adults living with epilepsy in BC desperately need your help. I look forward to speaking with you about the attached and linked materials. It is my hope that receiving this information will lead to you taking much-needed action, on behalf of your constituents, to join our fight to end the adult epilepsy crisis in BC."

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