



## **PRESS RELEASE: BC'S HEALTH CARE CRISIS BECOMES ALBERTA'S BURDEN**

**Vancouver, BC** – There are many inequities associated with the adult epilepsy system in the province of BC especially when compared with the rest of Canada. For more information, read the [BC Adult Epilepsy Consumer Report Card 2020](#) [here](#) and watch [FAILURE: The Black Mark on Canadian Health Care](#), the first episode of the What If ... Documentary Series™ [here](#).

It has been said that the adult epilepsy system in BC is a second-class epilepsy system, which is true for adults living with drug-resistant epilepsy, approximately 7,000. A majority of adults living with drug-resistant epilepsy in BC have been sent out of province to Alberta for medical care. The BC Epilepsy Society is currently producing documentaries around the deficiencies within BC's adult epilepsy programs. We will be filming three documentaries with three British Columbians who have relocated to Alberta to access life-saving treatments, surgeries and care.

In one such case, Linda McClure, who was born and raised in BC, moved to Alberta in August 2019 after three years of travelling back and forth from BC to Alberta for epilepsy care. Linda's story is not unlike many adults living with epilepsy in BC. She was first diagnosed with epilepsy in 2015 and three months later, she had a major seizure that landed her in the hospital for three weeks. Her then neurologist put in a referral for her to be seen at the adult epilepsy clinic at Vancouver General Hospital to get much-needed diagnostic testing done in their Seizure Investigation Unit. After three months of waiting for a response from Vancouver General Hospital that never came, with her referral being put on hold, her neurologist then put in a second referral but this time, sent her referral to Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, Alberta. Three months later, she was in Calgary at the Foothills Seizure Investigation Unit receiving diagnostic testing.

"I have never even set foot in Vancouver General Hospital," Linda stated. "I have had all epilepsy medical care done at Foothills travelling back and forth between BC and Alberta for three years," Linda added.

During these three years, Linda was proactive. First, she wrote letters to Terry Lake, the Minister of Health at the time, and to Judy Darcy, the Health Critic at the time, the latter of whom brought up Linda's case in 2017. However, once Judy Darcy became the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, the letters that Linda wrote to her regarding the lack of neuropsychologists in BC's adult epilepsy system were ignored as were the countless letters that Linda wrote to Adrian Dix, the current Minister of Health.

It appears that all letters related to epilepsy are ignored by Minister Dix as the Kim Davidson, CEO & Executive Director of the BC Epilepsy Society, also wrote countless letters to Minister Dix over a period of 26 months that were also ignored.

In August 2019, Linda made the difficult decision to leave BC, a place where her family had been living since 1959 and where she was born and raised, as she was not getting the care and support that she needed. Although Linda was sad to leave behind her family, friends and loved ones in BC, she feels that her move to Calgary was the best decision for her health and well-being.

"In Calgary, I now have access to many things within their adult epilepsy system that I had little to no access to in BC," Linda explains. "However, I do not want any other adult living with epilepsy in BC to have to go through the hardships that I went through so I have now become an advocate in making BC's adult epilepsy system up to par with the rest of Canada," Linda added.

### **Media Contact:**

Kim Davidson, CEO & Executive Director, BC Epilepsy Society  
604-875-6704 Ext. 3 | [kim@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:kim@bcepilepsy.com)