

From: Kelli Paddon

To: Dan Howe <dhowe@specialolympics.bc.ca>

Thank you for reaching out about this critical area. I am happy to respond as BC NDP Candidate for Chilliwack-Kent. I have devoted the majority of my career to advocating for, serving, and working to amplify the voices and concerns of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Please see my responses below:

1. Will you commit to changing the deadly and unacceptable health conditions faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities?

Yes- although the work has already started there is a long way to go, including education and awareness of this issue.

2. Will you engage individuals with intellectual disabilities and their supporters during the policy-making process on all issues that impact their health and wellbeing?

Yes- "nothing about us without us" is a critical piece of moving forward and improving the lives and opportunities of all British Columbians. This is especially true for those who are marginalized including individuals with intellectual disabilities.

3. When in government, will you commit to ensuring the Ministry of Health prioritizes improving health outcomes and quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities?

Although I cannot commit to future actions of the Ministry of Health, I can commit to continuing to amplify the voices of those I serve, and can reaffirm my passion and commitment to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

4. Will you commit to creating a governmental task force to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities?

Although I cannot do this in isolation, if I am elected as part of the governing body I would continue to support planning and government consultation and action in this area. I am encouraged that the BC NDP, and specifically MSDPR created the 'Reimagining Community Inclusion' tables where critical issues impacting individuals with intellectual disabilities were given much needed focus and attention, and would support this continued activity as well as opportunities developed through consultation.

5. Will you commit to supporting sufficient funding and resources to ensure people with intellectual disabilities will no longer face inequality in health and in life? Yes.