



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

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VIA EMAIL: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

April 28, 2022

The Honourable Adrian Dix, M.L.A.
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

Re: No Cost Prescription Contraception

On April 25, 2022, Saanich Council considered a Notice of Motion from Councillor Taylor and resolved as follows:

“That Council direct the Mayor to write to the Provincial Government to urge the Province to make all prescription contraception universally available at no cost under the BC Medical Services Plan.”

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. A copy of the report and excerpt of the meeting minutes are attached for reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Haynes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Encl.

c: Saanich Council
Brent Reems, CAO



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Via email: c/o Jennifer.Downie@saanich.ca

Their Worship Fred Haynes
Mayor of the Corporation of the District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Dear Mayor Haynes:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 28, 2022, regarding support for universal access to free prescription contraception.

Thank you for sharing the letter of support on behalf of the Corporation of the District of Saanich Council regarding making no-cost prescription contraception universally available in British Columbia (BC) under the Medical Services Plan. As you are likely aware, the most recent Minister of Health Mandate Letter includes a commitment to “make prescription contraception free for all.” The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is committed to implementing this as policy.

While a public launch date has not been confirmed, the Ministry is currently working internally with partners on implementing this commitment. In the interim, all BC residents will maintain access to the range of prescription contraception options available through their respective BC PharmaCare plans.

Many BC residents have pharmaceutical coverage under the universal, income-based Fair PharmaCare plan. Fair PharmaCare provides families with coverage for eligible prescription drugs and designated medical supplies based on their net income. The lower their income, the more help they receive. British Columbians with the lowest incomes do not need to meet a deductible and receive immediate assistance.

In January of 2019, BC announced a \$105 million investment to reduce or eliminate deductible or co-payments for 240,000 lower-income families in our province. This included access to contraceptives in the BC formulary, such as oral contraceptive pills, hormonal injectables and some intrauterine devices (IUDs) – either as a Regular Benefit (e.g., one hormonal IUD) or for IUDs requested by physicians through the Special Authority Program.

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In addition, some PharmaCare plans provide coverage for contraceptives without the need to meet a deductible. The Recipients of BC Income Assistance Plan (PharmaCare Plan C) provides 100 percent coverage of eligible prescription costs for those receiving medical benefits and income assistance through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The First Nations Health Benefits Plan (Plan W) provides 100 percent coverage of eligible prescription costs and certain medical supplies and pharmacy services, as well as certain over-the-counter drugs, devices, and health products.

Most hormonal contraceptives with generic versions are included in PharmaCare's Low Cost Alternative (LCA) Program. The LCA Program sets a maximum price it will cover for each drug category, based on a percentage of the price of the brand name drug. If a manufacturer wants its generic drug included on the list of LCA drugs covered, it must agree to sell the generic drug to pharmacies at or below the specified list price. PharmaCare then covers the drug up to the maximum list price. The LCA Program saves taxpayer dollars and helps people pay less for their prescriptions.

For more details regarding BC PharmaCare and the prescription contraceptives covered under each plan, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare.

I appreciate your support of this important work and the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Dix', is written over a faint, illegible background.

Adrian Dix
Minister