



April 16, 2025

Dear Fair Care Alliance,

BC Family Doctors is deeply concerned about the state of rural healthcare. We see firsthand how primary care is collapsing in our rural communities with a detrimental impact on our economies, like those on Vancouver Island.

Back-to-back closures of small community emergency rooms are a prime example of how the primary care system in rural communities across Vancouver Island is facing collapse due to long-standing staffing shortages at hospitals, pandemic burnout, lack of adequate healthcare infrastructure and the inability to attract or keep healthcare professionals in small communities. While these challenges are happening across BC, they are hitting north and central Vancouver Island hard.

. We support the efforts of Fair Care Alliance in calling for immediate action to address these pressing challenges. North and central Vancouver Island communities cannot afford to be neglected any longer. Rural patients matter, and we need real, practical solutions.

Sincerely,

Penelope Hutchison

Chief Strategy Officer

BC Family Doctors