

BC Health Care Matters requests Auditor General Investigation

BC Auditor General Urged to Probe Excessive Ministry and Health Authority Administrative Spending

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 4, 2022

VICTORIA, BC – October 4, 2022—BC Health Care Matters has formally requested the BC Auditor General to urgently launch a performance audit of corporate (non-program) administrative spending in the organizations directing BC's public healthcare system.

Audited financial statements of the Ministry of Health and BC's five regional health authorities represent over \$1.6 billion in head office spending simply as "Corporate" or "Executive and Support Services" with no additional breakdown. These have grown by 35% (Ministry) and 43% (health authorities) over the last five years. By comparison, the fee for standard family doctor visits grew by 3%.

According to group founder Camille Currie, "Over one million BC residents are without a family doctor and Premier Horgan insists more federal funding is needed to make changes. We must ensure we're spending existing money wisely. We have no idea if we're getting good value for the enormous sums we spend on these fast-growing bureaucracies. If there's a way to free up more funding for front-line healthcare workers, we need to find it."

While the lack of detail makes detailed comparisons difficult, BC spends more than double what Alberta does on similar functions (adjusted for population). If BC reduced spending to Alberta levels, it would save \$851 million each year, the equivalent of \$250,000 for every family doctor working in full-service family practice in BC.

Given the potential sums and the deep crisis in healthcare, a more detailed examination of this spending is urgently needed. A performance audit should provide that.

About BC Health Care Matters

BC Health Care Matters began as a grassroots patient advocacy group campaigning for timely access to a Family Doctor for every resident of British Columbia.

For further information contact:

Camille Currie, President or Alexis Reid, Vice-President at BCHealthCareMatters@gmail.com

###