



# WE VALUE FAMILY DOCTORS IN BC

**Without family doctors, patients don't have quality, consistent access to medical care. Patients need family doctors because...**

- My family doctor is an expert in primary care based on years of medical training and experience
- My family doctor advocates for my health care needs
- My family doctor knows me and my medical history and uses that to proactively manage my health
- My family doctor listens to my concerns and takes time to explain things I don't understand
- My family doctor advocates for me and my family
- My family doctor cares

Family doctors in BC play a vital role in providing health care for individuals, families and communities. Studies show that the ongoing, consistent relationship between a patient and their family doctor improves health outcomes. This relationship means family doctors know their patients and their families; knows who tends to overreact and who tends to minimize their situation; they understand family dynamics and watch them evolve. This means that family doctors can advocate and support their patients from a place of deep understanding and caring.

The family doctor is a consistent entry point into the health care system, guiding their patients to the right services at the right time, and ensuring appropriate follow-up takes place. Just as patients are more than their disease, family doctors are more than just medical experts. In fact, their training ensures, and requires, them to be communicators, collaborators, advocates, scholars, business owners and staff managers. Family Doctors employ thousands of people across BC, buy supplies, and contribute to the local economy.

**Without family doctors, the health care system doesn't work. The health care system needs family doctors because...**

- Family doctors are experts in preventative care and detecting illness at early stages
- Family doctors guide their patients through the health care system
- Family doctors are experts in complex care and ensuring appropriate follow-ups
- Family doctors employ thousands of people and contribute to the economy.