

West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund 555–409 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC, V6C 1T2 t: 604.684.8772 westcoastleaf.org

July 21, 2017

Honourable Adrian Dix PO BOX 9050 STN PROV GOVT Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Via email: <u>HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca</u>

Dear Minister Dix:

Re: Key priorities for women's health

Congratulations on your appointment as the new Minister of Health. West Coast LEAF has a long history of protecting women's reproductive rights and we look forward to working with you to shape provincial health care to better support women in BC.

While there is much work to be done, one thing that you can do immediately to improve access to health care and to support the reproductive rights of women in BC is to provide universal coverage for Mifegymiso, an abortion drug that is a combination of Mifepristone and Misoprostol, which was approved in Canada in 2015.

Mifegymiso is a crucial tool to ensure access to abortions for women living in rural areas who may not be able to access clinics or hospital because of geographic distance, but its cost of \$300-\$450 is prohibitive and creates a real barrier for many women. We urge BC to follow the leadership of New Brunswick, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec and immediately commit to providing universal cost coverage for Mifegymiso to ensure that all women in BC have meaningful access to high quality and necessary reproductive health care.



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We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further, as well as other ways in which BC can support women's health through legal reform and policy development.

Yours truly,

Kasari Govender Executive Director

cc:

Darrah Teitel Public Affairs Officer

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights Via email: <a href="mailto:darrah@sexualhealthandrights.ca">darrah@sexualhealthandrights.ca</a>