



[Date]

Honourable [Name]
Minister of Health
Government of British Columbia
[Address]

Re: Request for an Independent Expert Led Review of Universal Mental Health Care in British Columbia

Dear Minister [Name],

This request is being brought forward in the wake of the February 10, 2026 tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, where nine lives were lost and several others were injured in one of the deadliest school shootings in Canadian history.

This devastating event has prompted renewed reflection on mental health supports, early intervention pathways, and system coordination across British Columbia.

As communities grieve, we also share a responsibility to strengthen preventive mental health systems to help reduce the likelihood of future tragedies.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request that the Province initiate an independent, expert led review to examine the feasibility and design of universal, publicly funded mental health care in British Columbia.

Communities across British Columbia continue to face substantial barriers to accessing timely mental health care, including limited clinical capacity, long wait times, fragmented service pathways, and reliance on private insurance or out of pocket payment for counselling and psychological services. These barriers delay early intervention and create inequities in care.

When accessible mental health supports are unavailable, pressures shift downstream to emergency services, policing, community safety systems, homelessness response, and other municipal services. Local governments throughout the province are increasingly managing the visible impacts of upstream health system gaps.

Such a review would provide:

- Clear, evidence based options for implementing universal mental health care administered through the public health system, including access to counselling and psychological services without eligibility barriers or session limits.
- An examination of implementation considerations, including affordability and long term sustainability.



- Targeted analysis of rural, remote, and northern communities, alongside consideration of system pressures in urban centres across the province.
- Recommendations for integrating Indigenous led healing approaches and culturally safe care within a universal framework.

This request is not a proposal for immediate program implementation or a predetermined funding commitment. Rather, it seeks an independent, evidence informed review to support thoughtful provincial discussion and future policy consideration.

We believe that undertaking such a review would contribute meaningfully to long term system sustainability and equitable access for all British Columbians, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status.

We affirm our willingness to participate constructively by offering community context, local insights, and collaborative support throughout the review process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continued dialogue and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss next steps.

Sincerely,

<Participating Accord signatories>