PERSONAL MESSAGE AND GREETINGS FROM

**HONOURABLE ADRIAN DIX, MRGARET MACDIARMIDdnister MINISTER OF HEALTH**

**Opening of the Ponderosa Primary Care Centre**

**November 29, 2019**

Congratulations on the grand opening of the Ponderosa Primary Care Centre and thank you for your tremendous contributions and efforts that made this day possible.

This new primary care centre is a result of the hard work, dedication and collaboration of Interior Health, South Okanagan Similkameen Division of Family Practice, local First Nations communities, the Doctors of BC and the Ministry of Health. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I know that this new centre will help ensure more people living in Penticton and throughout the South Okanagan region can get the care they need and deserve.

Earlier this year, I announced as part of our primary care strategy, the creation of a primary care network in South Okanagan-Similkameen. This was a step forward in improving access to comprehensive, team-based primary care in the region. The Ponderosa Primary Care Centre is integral to the work that we are undertaking to bring real results and change to the lives of patients in the region.

The success of the South Okanagan-Similkameen is an inspiring model for primary care networks throughout B.C., and one that I often raise as an example of extraordinary transformational change being driven at the local level. In only a few months, residents are already seeing the results of collaboration and are benefitting from it. It illustrates clearly that we are stronger when we work together, and that it is only with teamwork that we will create a healthier province for generations to come.

While I regret that I cannot be here to celebrate this important milestone with you, I very much look forward to visiting soon.

Sincerely,



Adrian Dix

Minister of Health