**SAMPLE SCRIPT OUTLINE**

Hello, it is nice to meet you Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (name of MLA.)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I work at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (info of 1st representative.)

And my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I work at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (info of 2nd representative.)

We are calling on you today on behalf of the Physiotherapy Association of BC.

Both of us are physiotherapists.

At present there are over 4,000 physiotherapists in British Columbia.

Approximately half of BC’s physios work in the private sector – at privately-owned clinics. The other half are employed in the public sector – and most work at a publicly-funded hospital, a residential-care facility or do community care work.

Our organization, the Physiotherapy Association of BC (PABC), represents approximately three-quarters of all physiotherapists now working in BC. The PABC’s membership includes nearly all of the privately-employed physiotherapists, and about one-quarter of all public-sector physios.

The purpose of our visit with you is discuss the recently passed Health Professions and Occupations Act and how it may affect physiotherapists and the public. This act is a foundational piece of BC legislation and is what dictates the common regulatory framework for the health professions in BC. These changes are going to be significant, with an implementation of these changes taking place over a span of a number of years. Many of the details of how everything works are not yet public and will be outlined in Regulation. How these are outlined will be critical for the health of British Columbians as we all move forward.

**Self-Regulation**

Physical Therapists have been self-regulated in BC since 1946 with the creation of the Association of Physical Therapists and Massage Practitioners (APMP) in BC. This association acted as the main regulatory body for Physical Therapists in BC. This regulatory body existed until 1994 when the APMP became the College of Physical Therapists in BC underneath the blanket of the Health Professions Act.

Self-regulation has been a cornerstone of physiotherapy in BC for almost 80 years and it is PABC's wish for self-regulation to continue under any proposed changes to the Health Professions Act. This would mean ensuring that those who have disciplinary oversight over physiotherapists under this new model have a physiotherapist background and overall knowledge of the profession as a whole.

*We are asking for your support to ensure that there be physiotherapists regulating physiotherapists during the rollout and implementation of this new model and Health Act.*

**Registration Fees**

It is important that Physiotherapists are not forced to subsidize this transition and oversite by way of increased College registration fees. Today, Physiotherapists pay a total of $700 each year to the College of Physical Therapists in BC. The Province of BC has outlined that they will cover the cost of transition for the first year or so. Any increase in costs to run this new system should not be an unnecessary financial burden placed upon vital health care practitioners within the BC Health Care System. BC already pays some of the higher fees in Canada, with a comparable being [Ontario charging $675 for registrants](https://www.collegept.org/applicants/applying/timelines-costs#:~:text=Your%20application%20fee%20of%20%24100,in%20periods%20of%20high%20volume.).

*We are asking for your support to ensure that there not be an increase in College fees for physiotherapists during the rollout and implementation of this new model and Health Act.*

**Increased Role of the Professional Association**

By removing the College of Physical Therapists in BC as a vital independent organization governed by elected representatives from amongst the physiotherapist registrants, the Physiotherapy Association of BC (PABC) will become that much more important to Physiotherapists in BC. PABC should be given an elevated voice going forward to ensure that the concerns of Physiotherapists are being heard by the different branches/Ministries of Government. The role of PABC could become vastly more important so its vital that PABC members continue to advocate for the profession both within PABC’s advocacy as well as through independent advocacy with your MLAs.

*We are asking for your support to ensure that there be continued and strong connection with the Provincial Government and the Physiotherapy Association of BC during the rollout and implementation of this new model and Health Act.*

**Physiotherapists in the BC Health Care System – optional additional information.**

Physiotherapists play an integral part in the BC health care system. Listed below are a number of different resources you can use to highlight to your MLAs the importance of physiotherapists within all stages of a patient's life.

Listed below are a series of position papers the PABC prepared back in 2017. These papers acknowledge issues that still hold true for healthcare workers in BC today. You can view them on our website, [here](https://bcphysio.org/news-and-publications/pabc-advocacy?utm_source=Unknown+List&utm_campaign=ec0611c601-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_09_24_10_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-ec0611c601-&mc_cid=ec0611c601&mc_eid=%5bUNIQID%5d).

The PABC position papers can help guide our conversation around these issues. There are five position papers in total; the topics discussed include:

1. **Wait Times for Orthopaedic Surgery.**

\* Wait-times in BC for hip- and knee-replacement surgeries, while have improved since 2017, unfortunately, are still below the national average.
[Source](https://yourhealthsystem.cihi.ca/hsp/inbrief.#!/indicators/004/joint-replacement-wait-times/;mapC1;mapLevel2;provinceC9001;trend(C1,C9001);/): *Canadian Institute for Health Information*.

Physio Can Help to reduce wait times through ‘triage,’ whereby patients are assessed for either surgery or non-surgical treatment. Studies in the U.K. and Canada have proved that a significant number of GP referrals to specialists are unnecessary and costly. PT can also help with reducing the patients who need surgery by providing treatment.

2. **Seniors’ Health Care.**

\* British Columbians aged 65 years and older currently compose 18.3 percent of the province’s population, and are expected to grow. [Source](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=59&Geo2=PR&Code2=01&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&type=0): *2016 Census.*

\* As this population grows, so will their unique healthcare needs. This presents the opportunity and need to plan and implement strategies specifically for the health of BC’s seniors.

\* Falls are one of the greatest risks to seniors’ health. A total of 13, 283 deaths occurred among adults aged 60 years and older in BC from 2004 to 2017, where ‘fall’ was identified as the contributing cause of death. [Source](https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/26/5/412): *Fall-related deaths among older adults in British Columbia: cause and effect of policy change, BMJ.*

Physio Can Help by teaching seniors fall-prevention strategies, as well as providing ongoing treatment to enhance mobility, maintain strength, and prolong independence.

3. **Primary-Care in BC**

\* A decade ago, in 2007, the province vowed that BC would fully implement Primary Care by 2017. While we have started to implement Primary Care Networks, there is still a need to prioritize this.

\* The fact is that BC does not have a sufficient number of general practitioner physicians (GPs) to implement Primary Care.

Physio Can Help if physiotherapists are fully utilized as members of integrated Primary Health Care teams – multi-disciplinary teams – that provide front-line, first-contact care. Physiotherapists are highly trained and skilled in assessing and treating lower-back and chronic pain patients, as well as a range of musculoskeletal issues.

4. **BC’s Drug-Opioid Crisis.**

\* The variables of the pandemic have worsened BC's already devastating opioid crisis. A lack of access to physiotherapy and non-pharmaceutical pain management resources contributes to this crisis. [Source](https://bc.ctvnews.ca/many-of-them-died-alone-most-overdoses-at-home-in-b-c-s-deadliest-month-1.5027897?cache=kyifhaaa%3FclipId%3D89830): *CTV News.*

Physio Can Help because physiotherapy is an effective, low-cost – and low-risk – way to manage chronic pain, potentially eliminating or reducing the need for pain-killing opioids.

5. **Healthcare Costs.**

\* BC has the second-lowest number of hospital beds per capita in the country. This is a major cause of long wait times for surgery.

\* In mid-life, the average Canadian receives about $3,000 in health services per year. By age 85, that number rises to $25,000. We have to meet the healthcare demands of our aging population and ensure our seniors are provided with appropriate and timely health care. [Source](https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-b-c-s-spending-on-health-care-isn-t-worth-boasting-about-1.24001299): *Times Colonist.*

Physio Can Help to reduce Hospital and Physician spending through ‘direct referral,’ whereby physiotherapists assess and treat patients with musculoskeletal issues.