

March 25, 2020

Open letter to PABC members from Board of Directors

Dear colleagues,

My heart goes out to all of you in this incredibly difficult time.

As the COVID-19 situation evolves and case numbers continue to climb, last week saw some massive shifts for physiotherapists in BC. I want to thank every PABC member for so swiftly complying with the directive to maintain social distancing and for **Staying Home** as much as possible.

The PABC office staff are now working flat out (from home) to assist individual members as well as developing and sharing resources on our website. I'd like to publicly, on behalf of all our members, thank the PABC staff for rising to this challenge. PABC will be continuing to advocate for tele-rehabilitation funding, as there is still work to be done to improve coverage and get additional insurers on board. PABC will also be working to leverage government financial aid packages for physiotherapists and their employees.

The need for social distancing has pushed physiotherapists into some incredibly tough decisions and difficult conversations, on top of all the other personal stresses and anxieties created by COVID-19. In the private sector, most clinics have completely closed and shifted to tele-rehabilitation, sending support staff home. In the public sector, many of our physiotherapists are facing unique challenges on the front line of our health system as it grapples with the impact of COVID-19.

The [new directive](#) from Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry, along with additional guidance from [CPTBC](#), provides welcome guidance on how to provide emergent, urgent, or essential care. I'm confident that as a profession we're well positioned to meet them.

It goes without saying how disappointed the entire board is that our Annual Forum in April has been cancelled, along with our chance to thank and connect in person with our many volunteers. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any comments, questions or concerns. Please save the date of April 25th at 4:00 pm for our virtual AGM, and stay tuned for details.

On behalf of the board, wishing you well!

Alex Scott – President

Janet Lundie, Curtis Wong, Brad Jawl, Joanna Sleik, Christina Conrad, Jeff Jukes, Vince Cunanan, Roland Fletcher, Amy Edwards, Ariane Giroux, Tommy Gerschman, Christine Bradstock – Board of Directors