
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

B.C. CREATES NEW HEALTHY LIVING SECRETARIAT FOR WOMEN

VANCOUVER – A new Women’s Healthy Living Secretariat has been established to support and advance the health and well-being of women in British Columbia, Healthy Living and Sport Minister Mary Polak announced today.

The announcement was made at B.C. Women’s Hospital & Health Centre during a gathering of the hospital’s health care professionals in honour of International Women’s Day.

“The health of B.C.’s women and their families is a priority,” said Polak. “This secretariat will build on the strengths of our existing partnerships across the sector and in collaboration with our partners as we continue to work to improve the health and well-being of women throughout the province.”

B.C. already has a well-established Provincial Women’s Health Network, and the work of the secretariat will build upon that strong foundation and expand to include more stakeholders to help guide the secretariat in developing a comprehensive plan that will focus on improving health, reducing illness and injury, creating healthier communities and increasing participation in sport and recreation.

“The health of girls and women in B.C. is among the best in the world and that is something we can all be proud of,” said Polak. “How we support women’s and girls’ health is influenced in part by our health-care system, but is also influenced by social determinants like education, employment, and physical and emotional safety. It is our commitment, through this secretariat, to develop a plan that will make a tremendous difference in the lives of all of B.C.’s women.”

“We are so pleased to see government take the lead and establish a cross-sectoral body to inform the direction we take as a province on women’s health – this is an approach we know works and has clear tangible benefits,” said Dr. Jan Christilaw, interim president, BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. “BC Women’s is looking forward to putting its full weight of support and expertise behind the secretariat’s initiatives.”

In the coming months, the secretariat will engage key women’s stakeholders in consultation around the development of a new plan to better support women and their families in B.C.

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