



**PERSONAL MESSAGE AND GREETINGS FROM
LINDA LARSON
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
TO THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
FOR ACCESSIBILITY**

CANADA INDIA NETWORKING INITIATIVE 2014

JUNE 20-23, 2014

I am delighted to be attending the Canada India Networking Initiative 2014. This conference offers a unique chance for health care practitioners, community leaders, educators, and policy-makers to work together, as well as engaging patients, families and caregivers, with a view towards better health care for B.C.'s South Asian community and all British Columbians.

I look forward to joining Saturday's discussion on managing chronic disease through primary care in B.C., the advancements we've made, and the work that still needs to be done. Chronic disease is the largest contributor to B.C.'s health care costs. We must continue to address this societal issue through prevention and through culturally responsive primary care.

Those from the South Asian community are up to five times as likely to have cardiac disease and diabetes, and tend to have heart attacks an average of 5 years before the general population. With this in mind, discussions and recommendations made at the Canada India Networking Initiative 2010 became the impetus for the creation of B.C.'s dedicated South Asian Health Centre, which opened last year. It's innovations like this that show the incredible value of these gatherings.

I wish all participants at this year's conference success in creating partnerships and influencing innovation in British Columbia's health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Larson".

Linda Larson

Parliamentary Secretary

to the Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation for Accessibility

Ministry of
Health

Office of the Minister

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