



BC Region

March 29, 2018

Honourable Shane Simpson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Simpson:

Thank you for your invitation to provide input on the poverty reduction strategy. We are pleased to provide the attached submission, addressing many of the elements discussed with you at our November 2017 meeting. We are excited about the commitment of your government to leave a legacy for this province, addressing social determinants of health and household food insecurity through poverty reduction.

Dietitians of Canada is the professional association representing dietitians at the local, provincial and national level. We are eager to work with you and this government to realize your key commitments to make life more affordable, to deliver the services that people count on and to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone. We congratulate you again on taking immediate action to increase income and disability assistance rates and to increase earning exemptions. As a result, more British Columbians can now afford sufficient healthy food and meet their nutritional needs.

We also look forward to continuing our work with your Ministry's staff, addressing elements of the Nutritional Supplements program. The work to date has been excellent – we are very pleased with the mutual collaboration and learning throughout this process, as advances are made toward reducing barriers, reviewing eligibility, streamlining process and increasing benefits where needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irena Forbes'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Giesbrecht'.

Irena Forbes, RD and Karen Giesbrecht, RD
Co-Chairs, Dietitians of Canada – BC Poverty Reduction Strategy Local Action Group
Chair and Member, Dietitians of Canada – BC Nutritional Supplements Program Local Action Group

cc. Jennifer Wojcik, MSc, RD, Senior Director, Public Affairs & Member Engagement jennifer.wojcik@dietitians.ca

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