

September 29, 2023



Dear Colleagues,

As you may know, in 2022, the B.C. government proclaimed **October 14th** as **Allied Health Professionals Day**. This year we are excited to continue to profile and raise awareness of the allied health workforce on October 14th through this proclamation. B.C. joins health care systems around the world by acknowledging and celebrating the allied health workforce as we take steps towards raising awareness and recognition of the key roles you and your registrants all play in contributing to timely, accessible, appropriate, culturally safe, high quality health care services to achieve population and public health outcomes.

In B.C., the allied health workforce includes more than 70 disciplines and approximately 75,000 individuals providing a range of preventative, diagnostic, technical, and therapeutic health care and clinical support services across the lifespan and care continuum (see attached Provincial Definition). They contribute specialized expertise, education, research, and leadership, often working as integral members of a collaborative health care team to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of British Columbia. Despite the overwhelming challenges, stressors, and resource constraints, members of the allied health workforce at all levels have shown an ongoing commitment to providing safe, high quality health care.

On July 31, 2023, I was appointed as the Provincial Chief Allied Health Officer for the Ministry of Health, the first position of its kind in Canada based on best practice evidence from several international jurisdictions. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to strengthening partnerships with you as key system advisors. Establishing this leadership role in government highlights how British Columbia continues to lead the way in recognizing and supporting allied health professionals, raising the profile of this diverse, highly specialized workforce and strengthening leadership for allied health planning and service delivery.

September 29, 2023 marks the one-year anniversary of the release of [B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy](#), B.C.'s strategy for a diverse, accessible, and sustainable health care workforce and system. The AHPS is pleased to be leading or supporting 42 of the 70 actions and looks forward to working more closely with you to help inform the development and implementation of these critical initiatives to help train, recruit, retain and optimize the allied health workforce.

We also wish to acknowledge the professions and occupations that are celebrating their own recognition dates in October including occupational therapists, pharmacy technicians, spiritual health practitioners, and respiratory therapists.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing safe, high quality health care to the people of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lorrie Cramb".

Lorrie Cramb
Provincial Chief Allied Health Officer
A/Executive Director, Allied Health Policy Secretariat