

For Immediate Release
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PREMIER PLANS ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION ON HEALTH – DIX

VICTORIA – Following the cancellation of Alan Cassels' scheduled presentation to Pharmacare officials and the government's explanation, it's clear that the Premier's "Conversation on Health" with British Columbians is one-sided, NDP Health Critic Adrian Dix said today.

"It appears the Premier is worried about Mr. Cassels' advocacy for the protection of public healthcare from unnecessarily high drug costs," said Dix. "The cancellation occurred because politically appointed staff felt Mr. Cassels would not present a balanced view. However, the Premier has not taken any steps to limit the number of lobbyists from the pharmaceutical industry actively lobbying his government.

"If the Premier is serious about this 'Conversation on Health', he won't try to control the process and limit views that run counter to his own," said Dix. "He can't just give his time to industry lobbyists."

Dix has sent a letter to the Minister of Health, George Abbott, expressing his concerns on this matter.

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