

Dear MLA name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

December 2021

Earlier this year, we wrote asking for your support and provided information about lymphedema and the struggles faced by lymphedema patients.

This follow-up mail is to share events that have happened in 2021:

* **June 18th 2021** -**BC Lymphedema Association (BCLA) delivered an application to** The Ministry of Health: **Pharmacare** (1208859) requesting expanded coverage for compression garments necessary to manage lymphedema.

*This was received and acknowledged by Lori Haggstrom (Manager Devices and Providers, Pharmaceutical Policy, Legislation and Engagement Branch/Pharmaceutical, Laboratory and Blood Services Division).*

The review process began in November 2021 and will probably take 6 months*.*

* **September 28th 2021** - **BCLA submitted a request to the BC Provincial Budget 2022 Review Committee**. We reiterated the need for financial coverage for compression garments and also stressed the importance of establishing a specialized facility in every health region to provide: early diagnosis, education, and initial reduction treatment for patients with lymphedema and chronic edema.

*This was received and acknowledged 09/29/2021.*

* **November 15th 2021 -** The Budget 2022 Review Committee released its report. The need for compression plus treatment for lymphedema patients was mentioned in two sections and included in the list of recommendations**.**

***See the report here:*** [*https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/2nd-session/fgs/budget-consultation/42-2-2\_FGS-Report\_Budget-2022-Consultation.pdf*](https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/2nd-session/fgs/budget-consultation/42-2-2_FGS-Report_Budget-2022-Consultation.pdf)

* **BCLA has initiated a meeting with Health Ministry Officials (MSP)** to discuss the need for diagnostic and treatment services for lymphedema patients in every health region across BC. We hope to make more progress with this in 2022.

**The VGH/UBC Lymphedema Program Fundraiser** for microsurgical equipment has, to-date, raised $193,975 towards our fundraising goal of $250,000. This program has already performed life-changing debulking (SAPL) surgeries for patients with lymphatic disorders. We anticipate the remaining funds will be in place by the new year; providing the opportunity to perform complex surgeries such as LVA or LNT.

There is already a 2-year waitlist for surgeries within this specific program.

See link below for more info on Lymphedema surgeries: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/treatment-tests-and-therapies/lymphedema-what-are-your-surgical-options>

A recent Global News item highlighted a $1.5M donation from the Surrey Hospital foundation to fund microsurgical equipment to support breast cancer lymphedema patient surgeries at SMH. This program will take several years to before it is operational: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/high-tech-microscope-to-help-breast-cancer-patients-b-c-hospital-foundation-raising-funds-1.5613481>

If you would like further information, please contact [**info@bclymph.org**](mailto:info@bclymph.org)using the heading: **Advocacy**.

Thank you for any support you can provide for the advocacy work of BCLA.

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