Please copy and email this letter (you can revise if you like) to your health minister

HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

**Email subject line: Women in BC deserve a real chance to find breast cancer early**

Dear Minister,

I am writing to advocate for increased access for supplemental screening for women with dense breasts in British Columbia. Despite the province's progressive move in 2018 to notify women and their healthcare providers about the breast density category, the commitment to provide essential supplemental screening remains unfulfilled. There are few clinics providing supplemental screening. This shortage restricts access. The current situation is unacceptable and places women at unjustifiable risk.

Mammography alone is often insufficient for women with dense breast tissue. Dense tissue appears white on a mammogram—just like cancer—masking up to 40% of cancers in the densest breasts. As a result, too many cancers are only discovered once a woman feels a lump, after a “normal” mammogram. These cancers are typically diagnosed at later stages, leading to more aggressive treatments, higher mortality, and poorer quality of life. Supplementary screening tools such as ultrasound and MRI can reveal cancers that mammography misses. Yet, in BC, women lack equitable access to these life-saving tools.

Treating breast cancer diagnosed at Stage 1 costs roughly $39,000; at Stage 4, it can exceed $370,000. Investing in early detection not only saves lives—it reduces the strain on our healthcare system.

We ask the government to expand access by increasing the number of hospitals and clinics offering supplemental screening.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Riding / City]