Re: Protecting British Columbia's Choice in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) Program

Dear MLA,

As your **disabled constituent**, I rely on British Columbia's Choice in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) program, which supports approximately 1,350 disabled British Columbians to live independently in their own homes.

Through CSIL, I receive funding based on my assessed support hours and a provincially set hourly rate, allowing me to recruit, hire, train and manage my own personal support workers. The CSIL hourly rate is **not my wage or income**. It must cover worker wages as well as CPP, EI, WorkSafeBC, vacation and statutory holiday pay, and other employer costs.

CSIL has supported independent living in BC for more than 30 years and helps people remain safely in their own homes and communities rather than relying unnecessarily on hospitals or long-term care. I am asking for your help to ensure this important program remains viable.

There has recently been some progress. The Ministry of Health has increased the CSIL hourly funding rate to $40.52 effective July 1, 2026. **I welcome this increase, but significant concerns remain.**

First, CSIL Employers still need a funding rate that reflects the actual cost of recruiting and retaining workers. CSIL Employers compete for workers within the same labour market as health authorities, agencies and other health-care employers. A sustainable CSIL rate must reflect not only wages, but the full cost of employing workers and remaining competitive in today's labour market.

The Ministry has also confirmed that, unlike previous CSIL rate updates, this increase will not be applied retroactively to the beginning of the applicable bargaining agreement period. The Association of CSIL Employers (ACE) is seeking further discussion with the Ministry about this decision and its impact on Employers.

Second, too many CSIL Employers are not receiving enough approved support hours to meet their actual needs. At its worst, people can be left without assistance for basic needs such as getting out of bed or toileting, increasing health risks and the likelihood of avoidable hospitalization or premature admission to long-term care.

I respectfully ask you to support three actions:

1. **A sustainable CSIL funding rate**, **including reconsideration of the missing retroactive funding.**
2. **Assessments and reassessments that reflect people's actual support needs.**
3. **A meeting between the Minister of Health**, **senior Ministry leadership, and ACE.**

The attached fact-sheet provides further evidence and information about these priorities. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share my experience as a CSIL Employer and discuss how we can protect and strengthen this important program.

Thank you for your service to our community and for considering this request.

Sincerely,