

# 1 IN 6 FAMILIES IN BC STRUGGLE WITH INFERTILITY

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Dear Candidate,

I am a member of a patient advocacy group in British Columbia called IVF4BC. We are advocating for publicly-funded IVF treatments in our province.

Half of British Columbian women have been touched by infertility either personally or through a friend.

Publicly funding in vitro fertilization treatment gives all British Columbians, regardless of income or geography, the opportunity to build their families safely. Families are British Columbia's foundation. Strong families help build strong communities, a thriving economy, and a more secure future for the next generation.

Infertility is recognized by the World Health Organization as a disease that affects both men and women. IVF treatments, although often successful, are physically demanding and expensive, and are available only in major urban centers in BC.

IVF is a safe and highly effective treatment for infertility, particularly when tied to a single embryo transfer policy. This ensures that one healthy baby is delivered per pregnancy cycle, with the best results for mother and baby.

The average cost for a single round of IVF is \$10,000 not including the costs of medications, taking time off work, and the time and cost to travel for treatment.

According to the study commissioned by our advocacy group, the majority of British Columbians support publicly funded IVF treatments. It is an important topic for voters to know your stance on.

Our supporters would appreciate your answers to the following questions so they can make an informed decision at the ballot box on May 9.

1. Do you agree that assisting the 1 in 6 BC couples struggling with infertility – a medical condition that prevents them from conceiving a child and that can leave us feeling isolated, confused, heartbroken and helpless – should be a priority for the next provincial government?
2. If elected, will your government listen to the majority of British Columbians who support public funding for IVF, follow the lead of provinces like Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick, and take action to reduce the financial hardship on BC couples with infertility?

The next government will determine if families with infertility get access to publicly-funded care for their medical condition, or if they will continue to pay thousands of dollars out of their own pocket for these medically necessary treatments.

We are passionate patient advocates, having experienced infertility and the financial hardship of IVF treatment for ourselves. We were shocked at the lack of support for our medical condition and think BC must do better.

Thank you for your time and hopefully your support on this very important issue.



We are a Patient Advocacy Group working towards having IVF and fertility treatment funded for families in British Columbia. Visit [www.IVF4BC.ca](http://www.IVF4BC.ca) for more information.

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