



Community News

Adrian Dix, MLA Working For You

May 2007

Dear Neighbours:

BC Community Achievement Award

I would like to congratulate two members of my community, Dr. Kerry Jang and Gilbert Lam who are the recipients of the 2007 BC Community Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals from all over British Columbia who have demonstrated outstanding service in their own communities. The award ceremony for the recipients was celebrated in Victoria on April 25, 2007.

Dr. Kerry Jang is a contributing resident of the Renfrew Collingwood community, a volunteer on harm reduction initiatives and former President and Board member of the Collingwood Neighbourhood House. Dr. Jang has shared his expertise as a professor and psychologist by helping his community effectively address issues of homelessness, addictions and mental health. Gilbert Lam is the president of Vancouver Technical Secondary School, the largest inner city school in Vancouver and one of the most ethnically diverse schools in Canada. He is an active volunteer in his community, as the founder of the Assembly Theatre Company, a school group that deals with student issues such as bullying, stereotyping, school safety, school pride and self-esteem.

Colorectal Cancer Screening Program for B.C.

This month, I will be introducing a Private Member's Bill to the provincial legislature to implement a colorectal cancer screening program across British Columbia. An estimated 1,100 British Columbians are affected by this cancer every year. This bill will establish a comprehensive screening program and is modeled after programs recently established in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

The program would involve the following elements:

- Access to Biennial Fecal Occult Blood Tests (FOBT) for all B.C. men and women between 50 and 74;
- FOBT test kits available in doctor's offices, walk-in clinics, community health centres and pharmacies;
- A central lab managed by the B.C. Cancer Agency to ensure quality standards and streamlined results;
- Distribution of kits by mail to B.C. residents in selected health regions to assess impact of home receipt of FOBT test kits on participation rates;
- Establishment of a registry to send Reminder Notices to all B.C. residents to take the test;
- Investments in technology and resources to expand access to colonoscopy; and
- Creation of a Colorectal Cancer Awareness and Screening Fund with an advisory board of experts and colon cancer survivors to assess the success of the program and other screening methods and support awareness and healthy lifestyles.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer fatality for men and the third leading cause for women. Less than 10 per cent of B.C. residents over 50 years of age take a Fecal Occult Blood Test on a biennial basis. The simple fact is that by increasing the rate of testing we can save lives and we must have effective preventative health strategies like this in place. For more information, please feel free to contact my office at 604-660-0314.

Stop by my Community Office:

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