

NEWS RELEASE

Ministry of Health Provincial Health Services Authority

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Help for patients with Lyme Disease, ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia

CANADA – VICTORIA, BC

Ryan Jabs, Media Relations Manager of the Ministry of Health for British Columbia announced A \$2-million provincial clinical and research study which will help patients with chronic Lyme disease, fibromyalgia, and chronic fatigue syndrome, with screening, diagnosis and treatment.

Mr. Jabs stated that “ over the last few years, there have been many advances in genome science, including DNA sequencing and computer analysis. These advances have led to new techniques that may help to diagnose previously difficult illnesses, such as these. As a result, in September 2010 the Ministry of Health Services asked the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) to present options for a clinic for patients with complex symptoms, possibly related to an underlying infectious disease.”

Mr. Jabs further stated that with this clinic and study, British Columbia “is taking a leading role within Canada” working with patients and family physicians from across the province. Referrals will be accepted from family physicians and other health care providers from patients exhibiting symptoms for these illnesses in an aim is to provide accurate diagnosis and treatment and manage their symptoms.

In addition, the clinic will have telehealth capabilities and provide consultations and information to physicians and health care providers. Researchers will collaborate with the clinic in order to examine these illnesses in dept and plan a protocol. It is anticipated to have the clinic and studies up and running by Fall 2011.

To view more details, visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect>