

Name: Alek Golijanin

Summary of main points for the issue/ concern:

I wrote to the Board about a healthtech tool I co-created with Algonquin College and health inequities that can be addressed at the high school level is what I wanted to discuss at the Board meeting in January. The tool is specifically designed for high school guidance counselors so that they can help adolescents that are identified as being without a designated family doctor.

Just to go over DocConnectCA, his healthtech tool is a social enterprise that is aimed at the inherited outcome of a child not having a designated family doctor, and thus a systemic inequity. In today's Canadian society, the key commonalities between adolescents that lack a designated family physician are that they tend to live in lower-income communities, and they tend to be members of racialized groups, and it is an issue that tends to disproportionately affect early-generation Canadians. We are not looking to make any money off of this tool, but we do hope for it to become a great equalizer for health inequities among adolescents. With our tool, a high school guidance counselor can change an adolescent's life with a few clicks and in less than a minute. There is a report that was also put together and sent out to various stakeholders across Canada including the Provincial/Federal government and public health agencies that I can reshare with the Board.

Recommendation(s) for resolution of issue:

Following the "Blueprint for Action" model recently discussed by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tham, there is a need for greater partnerships in order to address the health inequities that adolescents are faced with. One of the best ways to address these challenges is directly through schools, where there is the greatest access to a multitude of students. As such, I am asking the board to consider my recommendation to do more for students that are without designated family doctors, by implementing our proposed solution.