

Janice B.

My story:

In November 2019, after working for 11 years as a manager of an independent seniors residential building, I had to finally succumb to my illness and my limitations. The five years prior leading up to this decision was the most difficult as I tried to gain support and understanding from my GP and specialists, all the while seeing the quality of my life and abilities go from working almost full time and running our 18-year tax business.

I was reduced to working one day a week just months prior to resigning and closing my tax business. I was devastated to lose my accomplishments and quality of life.

In May 2017, I was finally accepted into the CCDP at BC Woman's hospital and given the diagnosis of ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia. They over the next 2 years gave me all the support I needed, but please keep in mind their sole purpose is to diagnose with a lengthy report and explanation of treatment recommendations that are to be carried out and supported by our GP.

Even though my GP sent in the referral he was not willing to accept or support the recommendations. I was forced to leave my GP and find a new one who would help me. The CCDP in the meantime were gracious enough to help with my application for disability benefits. I was able to find a new GP that accepted and supported my care. Unfortunately, this year she needed to close her practice for personal reasons but did give her patients another doctor that was willing to take us.

My new doctor has been supportive; however, in our first meet and greet based on the information I provided her, she wanted to first make clear that if I was looking for narcotics for pain, she would not be able to help me. I do not need that for pain, but what if I did?

We are in desperate need of a medical system that acknowledges and supports patients with a diagnosis process and once confirmed, continuing to provide that support.