

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Updated March 21, 2005

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<b>INCOME ASSISTANCE</b>		
<p>Focussing on employment supports for people who can work; and assistance for people who cannot work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work is a better long-term solution than welfare. Women and their families are better off when parents are working. They will earn more money than on income assistance, and be better able to provide for their children. A single parent with one child working full time will have at least \$300 more in net income compared to a single parent on income assistance.</li> <li>▪ Financial supports remain sustainable for vulnerable people who cannot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Since 2001 over 100,000 fewer British Columbians rely on income assistance - including parents and the 44,000 children who depend on them.</li> <li>▪ Two thirds of women leave income assistance for either a job or education. Those working are earning two to three times what they were receiving on income assistance.</li> <li>▪ 6,400 single women and more than 19,000 single-parent families are no longer relying on taxpayers for support. The majority have moved into jobs or educational opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Resources are being used more effectively. Direct assistance continues to go to those clients who have barriers to employment or are unable to work, while supports have been put in place to help those who can work find work or educational opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Government's changes to the income assistance system ensure that assistance is available to those most in need, and help people who are able to work move towards employment so they can build a brighter future for themselves and their families.</li> <li>▪ Our government has invested \$300-million in employment programs to provide people with the skills and supports they need and break the cycle of welfare dependency.</li> <li>▪ This is further supported by a growing job market. B.C. continues to have the highest job growth rate in the country with 205,600 jobs created since December 2001. Of these new jobs, over 95 per cent are full-time positions.</li> <li>▪ Government is spending \$480,000 a year for expectant mothers in need and their babies by increasing monthly natal supplements from \$35 to \$45 each month for pre- and post-natal nutrition and enriched infant formula.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<p>Eliminating long-term income assistance dependency for people who are not willing to work, take part in train or follow an employment plan to find work by putting in place two year time limits.</p>	<p>work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work is a better long-term solution than welfare. Taxpayer's resources should go to those who are most in need, people who are unable to work.</li> <li>▪ Time limit sanctions apply to people who are not serious about finding employment. People who do not take advantage of the available employment programs and job opportunities will not be supported with taxpayer dollars indefinitely.</li> <li>▪ At the same time, those who cannot work or have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The vast majority of those who are able to work are taking advantage of employment programs, educational options, and job placement services, moving off welfare dependency towards self-sufficiency.</li> <li>▪ There are 25 exemption categories, and these people will not be impacted by changes to the amount of time people can receive social assistance. These include: single parents with children under three years old, pregnant women, people with disabilities, people with persistent multiple barriers, people with drug or alcohol problems, medical conditions or mental illness, women and men enrolled in a ministry sponsored training program.</li> <li>▪ If a client continues to take every possible step to find work and follow the steps outlined in their legally binding employment plan, they will continue to receive their full rate of support.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>specific circumstances precluding them from work should be exempt from these time limits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>	
<p>Focussing supports for women leaving abusive relationships not only on immediate assistance, but also on providing tools to support long-term employment, security and independence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assistance should be available for women leaving abusive situations. Supports should also be in place for these individuals to find independence outside of those relationships. A job and income are often the keys to helping a woman leave and stay out of an abusive relationship.</li> <li>▪ Women and their families are better off when parents are working rather than receiving income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women escaping abuse and violence are not only receiving income support from the province, but are also given support to find work and improved circumstances beyond income assistance.</li> <li>▪ The 3-week work search before applying for income assistance is waived in emergency situations, allowing women and their children leaving transition houses to immediately begin receiving income assistance.</li> <li>▪ The province provides \$5 million per year for the Bridging Employability Program to assist women who have experienced violence or abuse find sustainable employment.</li> <li>▪ Since September 2003 894 clients have enrolled in the program. Two hundred fifty nine clients have moved into secondary or post secondary education, employment or another ministry funded program.</li> <li>▪ Service providers work with the other Bridging Employment Program clients assisting them to overcome their barriers and follow through on the steps towards self-reliance</li> <li>▪ Employment and Assistance Workers at the Ministry of Human Resources are working with clients, one-on-one, to develop individualized employment plans.</li> <li>▪ Women who have experienced violence and abuse are also able to use job placement services. Job Placement Providers have successfully placed 38,000 people in jobs since June 2001.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>assistance. Supports need to be in place to assist them in meeting those long-term objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are still more than 10,000 jobs available to income assistance clients in job banks across the province – jobs that pay two to three times what a person would receive on assistance.</li> </ul>
<p>Instituting a waiting period before applicant is able to start receiving income assistance, while providing emergency support when it is needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Income assistance resources should be going to clients who demonstrated a genuine need for temporary assistance or a need for long-term support.</li> <li>▪ Supports should be available for those facing immediate needs or emergency situations. For example, women leaving abusive relationships can access immediate assistance.</li> <li>▪ Most effective approach is to help British Columbians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Ministry of Human Resources provides an income assistance system for British Columbians that promotes employment, personal responsibility and self-reliance.</li> <li>▪ Individuals are expected to conduct a 3-week self-directed work search before they are eligible to apply for income assistance.</li> <li>▪ Self-directed work search means using all available resources such as, job banks, newspapers, libraries job kiosk, telephone and personal contacts to find employment.</li> <li>▪ To ensure assistance is available to those who need it most and encourage people who are able to work to take personal responsibility, individuals applying for income assistance must exhaust all financial resources and demonstrate that they have made every reasonable effort to find employment.</li> <li>▪ If an individual has an emergency situation and has no other resources available, Emergency Needs funds may be provided to address the immediate needs of an individual who:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is fleeing abuse,</li> <li>- has received an eviction notice,</li> <li>- has received a hydro disconnection notice,</li> <li>- has an urgent need for food,</li> <li>- has an urgent medical prescription.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>– who can work – to get jobs and become self-reliant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Part of that strategy is to ensure that potential clients are not using government assistance before exhausting other options or opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Focus should be on “job-readiness” rather than collecting welfare.</li> </ul>	
<p>Creating a new designation for assistance which gives persons with disabilities long-term and dependable access to income support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports should be in place for people who are in need and are unable to work due to a disability</li> <li>▪ These individuals should receive a high level of support that they can depend upon, but should also be given</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In January 2005, government raised the assistance rate by \$70 for Persons with Disabilities to \$856 per month - the largest increase in BC history and the second highest rate in Canada.</li> <li>▪ The number of persons with disabilities has increased by 25 per cent from 2001. That means over 11,000 more people are receiving disability benefits than before, for a total of over 54,000. Persons with disabilities are able to receive income support for their lifetime.</li> <li>▪ Since 2001, earnings exemptions for persons with disabilities have doubled. An earnings exemption means people receiving disability benefits, can work and collect a certain level of salary without having it deducted from their disability cheque. Earnings exemptions range from \$300.00 for persons with persistent multiple barriers to</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>an opportunity to pursue employment or other opportunities if they choose.</p>	<p>\$400.00 for persons with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In December 2002, the province launched a new Pre-Employment Services program as part of the Employment Strategy for Persons with Disabilities. The program assists interested individuals who can and want to work prepare for employment through volunteering and employment-related activities.</li> </ul>
<b>JUSTICE/VICTIMS OF CRIME</b>		
<p>Changing delivery of services to women who experience sexual assault to expand access and decrease duplication across government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing services were poorly coordinated across government, often overlapped, and were not readily available province-wide.</li> <li>▪ Reducing duplication of services makes best use of taxpayers' dollars and ensures that resources and services are actually reaching those who need it the most.</li> <li>▪ By providing the most comprehensive services to victims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Through reducing duplication and coordinating programs across government, services have been expanded and are now available province-wide.</li> <li>▪ A total of 18 new community-based programs introduced for victims of family and sexual violence.</li> <li>▪ A total of 153 local victims services supported around the province.</li> <li>▪ Victims and witnesses continue to receive trial information and preparation, and referrals to community and police services.</li> <li>▪ Annual funding of \$9.3M maintained.</li> <li>▪ Treatment and post-treatment programs now available province wide.</li> <li>▪ Government piloting a new risk-assessment tool for treatment of sex offenders.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	of crime, sexual assault and abuse programs can be available province-wide	
Replacing a series of small community crisis lines providing limited service with province-wide services that will be available all the time for women in need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Crisis line services have been offered inconsistently from community to community.</li> <li>▪ These services should not be solely dependent on where a women lives, and subject to the limited capacity of local crisis services.</li> <li>▪ Crisis line services are needed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week around the province</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The province is using taxpayers' dollars to ensure maximum benefit to women experiencing abuse and to victims of crime.</li> <li>▪ New crisis line introduced April 2003 provides telephone crisis services to victims of family and sexual violence. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, available throughout the province.</li> <li>▪ Crisis line incorporates information and referral services</li> </ul>
<b>LEGAL AID</b>		
Changing funding for legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Family law services through the legal aid framework were</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide legal aid funding to financially eligible clients on family matters such as restraining orders, supervised access orders, threat to permanently remove a child</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<p>services to better integrate and coordinate the delivery of family law services to provide a broad range of services to more people. This includes costs recovery where appropriate.</p>	<p>poorly coordinated and not sustainable under the funding framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legal aid must be widely available to those who need it, and provide a broader range of services to more people. This specifically includes better serving women and families in need of legal support.</li> <li>▪ Programs that encourage people to work together to find solutions, and programs that helps people get the help they need, allow government to use legal aid funding to create solutions rather than create conflict.</li> </ul>	<p>from the province, or apprehension by Ministry of Children and Families, as well as youth and adult criminal matters, mental health reviews; emergency interim orders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support more collaborative forms of legal assistance in family cases, such as mediation, dispute resolution or additional publicly funded family law lawyers in courthouses</li> <li>▪ Fund supports to allow low income families to get help when they are going through a divorce or separation, or experiencing domestic violence.</li> <li>▪ Commit funds to the very successful family duty counsel program, and expand it to all Supreme Courts in British Columbia.</li> <li>▪ The Province provides \$55.83 million annually for legal aid services. This includes a \$5 million increase in funding to the Legal Services Society, announced in January 2005. Increased funding will help ensure that families in crisis have greater access to legal services.</li> </ul>



# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<p>Shifting focus on court litigation in disputes between separated parents to encourage resolutions within the family and outside the court process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Litigation is high cost and does not always result in a decision that the parties are willing to follow.</li> <li>▪ Families do not always benefit from highly divisive and lengthy court proceedings when resolution could be achieved in a more constructive forum.</li> <li>▪ After divorce or separation women are most often the primary caregivers of children through the court system. This system may not always serve the best interests of children.</li> <li>▪ Courts remain a difficult avenue for women to pursue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Procedural changes in family law are allowing resolutions outside the courts, resulting in speedier and fairer resolution in many cases.</li> <li>▪ In addition to legal aid, government is spending \$25 million on family justice services including Family Justice Centres and the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program.</li> <li>▪ Family Justice Centres help parents going through separation and divorce. In addition to information, conciliation and mediation services, the Parenting After Separation program helps parents focus on the needs of their children. Women are often the primary caregivers of children after divorce, and these services program help build constructive relationships between separated parents, to focus on the best interests of the children. Family Justice Centres also provide limited supervised child access and access-exchange services as well as providing child custody and access reports upon order of the Court.</li> <li>▪ The Family Maintenance Enforcement Program reduces the financial impact of separation and divorce by assisting children and families to receive the financial support they need. More than \$145 million was collected in 2003/2004. The program has 46,000 active cases.</li> <li>▪ In 2002, BC was one of the first provinces to bring in the Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act. This new process makes it easier to obtain and enforce support orders across jurisdictions. Instead of going to court twice – once in this jurisdiction and then once in the other jurisdiction – a parent now only has make an application in the jurisdiction where she lives. Legal costs are reduced and single parents, most of whom are women, get access to the support payments they need quickly.</li> <li>▪ In 2002, the province introduced the Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act, which has since been proclaimed into law. The legislation brings us into alignment with other Canadian provinces, the territories and the United States to make it easier to enforce maintenance and support orders across jurisdictions.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>the terms of settlements such as financial support. Alternate mechanisms are needed to assist with these matters and expedite solutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Instead of going to court twice – once in this jurisdiction and then once in the other jurisdiction – the custodial parent now only has to go to court once in the jurisdiction where she lives.</li> <li>▪ Legal costs are reduced and single parents, most of whom are women, get access to the support payments they need quickly.</li> </ul>
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN</b>		
<p>Increase funding for direct, essential services including transition houses, safe homes, second stage housing, Stopping the Violence counselling for women, and Children Who Witness Abuse counselling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding goes to direct services for women</li> <li>▪ Balanced budget allows sustainable, predictable funding for long-term programs to help women escaping violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allocated the largest funding increase in over a decade for transition houses and front-line services to help women escaping violence - \$12.5 million.</li> <li>▪ The increase is effective April 1, 2005, and includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ increased annual operating funding for transition houses;</li> <li>▪ new safe homes in communities where there is a need;</li> <li>▪ new Children Who Witness Abuse counselling and Stopping the Violence Counselling programs in communities where there is a need,</li> <li>▪ expanded Children Who Witness Abuse counselling and Stopping the Violence Counselling programs to relieve service pressures and provide more service hours and more effective counselling programs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ new outreach services in communities where there is a need, particularly rural/remote communities, to increase safety by ensuring that women are aware of available services and are supported in using them. These services fill a critical need in rural and remote communities by linking women to services in larger centres. Outreach services help women find alternatives to returning to an abusive relationship and</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
		<p>support local violence prevention efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for direct, essential services to women escaping violence increased 33 per cent to \$45.5 million.</li> </ul>
<p>Support infrastructure needs of service providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clients of transition houses and other Stopping the Violence counselling programs need a safe, secure setting, and access to technology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide \$200,000 in technology grants to transition houses and other Stopping the Violence counselling providers to purchase computers, software upgrades and internet access, so clients can access technology.</li> <li>▪ Provided \$770,000 in capital funding to transition houses for improvements to facilities in 2003/2004.</li> </ul>
<p>Reduce duplication where services are available through other agencies and community organizations, by ending operational funding for women's centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue funding women's centres and other service providers that offer transition house, safe homes, second-stage housing, Stopping the Violence Counselling for women and Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling.</li> <li>▪ End operating funding for women's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for transition houses safe homes, second stage housing, Stopping the Violence counselling for women, Children Who Witness Abuse counselling, outreach and multicultural services increased by \$12.5 million.</li> <li>▪ Women's centres that provide these direct services continue to receive funds. This includes more than half the women's centres in the Province.</li> <li>▪ All women's centres received more than two year's notice that funding would end, and \$3,000 each to explore ways to become financially self sufficient. Most receive funding from other sources.</li> <li>▪ Government has increased funding for outreach services, establishing new services in many remote and rural communities, and continuing to fund outreach services around the Province. Outreach increases safety by ensuring that women are aware of available services and are supported in using them. These services fill a critical need in rural and remote communities by linking women to services in larger centres. Outreach services help women find alternatives to returning to an abusive relationship and support local violence prevention efforts.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>centres for advocacy, information and referral services. These services are available through other community agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bids for service providers for new services are posted on the BC Bid website. Women’s centres, like any service provider, are welcome to apply to deliver the services.</li> <li>▪ Government continues to fund 61 transition houses; 17 safe home programs and 9 second stage housing programs (total 87 province-wide).</li> <li>▪ One hundred fifty three local victim’s services programs in BC provide enhanced support and resources to people who have been impacted by family or sexual violence.</li> <li>▪ Government has maintained \$9.3 million for victim’s services.</li> <li>▪ A 24-hour 7-day a week crisis line allows women and other victims of crime to call for help from anywhere in the province.</li> </ul>
<p>Focus on prevention of violence against women initiatives that are coordinated, and results-based.</p> <p>Recognize unique needs of disabled, multicultural, immigrant and senior women in regards to violence prevention</p> <p>Support prevention of violence programs in every level of the education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fund programs with proven track records that provide supports to a wide range of communities.</li> <li>▪ Older women may not be comfortable in a conventional transition house setting.</li> <li>▪ Immigrant and multicultural women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide \$2 million for new initiatives to address violence against women, with a focus on issues affecting seniors, aboriginal women, immigrants, visible minorities and women with disabilities, to break the cycle of violence.</li> <li>▪ Provide \$65,000 in funding for a safe home for older women in Victoria, operating as a pilot project.</li> <li>▪ Provided funding to Ama House, a transition house for women aged 55 and over (\$240,000 in 2005/2006) for new beds and services.</li> <li>▪ Support the Community Coordination for Women’s Safety project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project will support 54 communities, more than half in the Heartlands.</li> <li>- Women who experience violence come into contact with many different service providers, including police officers, transition house workers, community victim</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<p>system.</p>	<p>may not be aware of all services available to them, or may face a language barrier in accessing services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disabled women have unique needs</li> </ul>	<p>service programs, public health nurses and school counsellors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This project helps ensure these groups are integrated and working together to provide the best possible range of services for women facing violence.</li> <li>▪ Support prevention of violence programs supported in every level of the education system, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Violence is Preventable project run by the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses - a school-based component of the Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling program, for children aged 3 – 18 that provides supports and counselling to young people who have experienced domestic violence.</li> <li>- the Healthy and Respectful Relationships project, run by Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, for secondary school students.</li> <li>- the No Means No dating violence prevention campaign run by the Canadian Federation of Students.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Supported the Cowichan Valley Safer Futures project, to help local governments plan for communities that promote safety of women and children.</li> </ul>
<b>PAY EQUITY</b>		
<p>Move from prescriptive enforcement approach to a collective approach that acknowledges complexity of the issue of equal pay for work of equal value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government is committed to the principle of eliminating gender-based wage disparities in a way that meets the needs of women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Human Rights Code continues to protect these rights. Section 12 of the BC Human Rights Code protects women against discrimination in relations to “employment, including recruitment, job assignment, termination, pay rates or conditions of work”.</li> <li>▪ Economic indicators show a growing job market and employment opportunities for women. B.C. continues to have the highest job growth rate in the country with 205,600 jobs created since December 2001. Of these new jobs, over 95 per cent are full-time</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>and employers, and reflects the economic realities of the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Previous pay equity proposals were largely government-focused, and did not reflect these goals.</li> <li>▪ Existing legislation, such as the Human Rights Code and Employment Standards, already provides a number of protections in the workplace.</li> </ul>	<p>positions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Building a strong economy will provide good-paying job opportunities for all British Columbians. Government is committed to growing the economy and job opportunities for people across the province.</li> <li>▪ There is still a wage gap between men and women, but that gap has been closing and narrows even more when we look at wages for men and women within the same sector.</li> <li>▪ Average hourly wages have been increasing steadily for women: rising from \$14.88 in 1997 to \$17.44 in 2004 (a 17.2% increase).</li> <li>▪ That compares to men, whose average hourly wage increase over the same period has gone from \$18.64 to \$20.52 (a 10.1% increase).</li> <li>▪ Another sign of the closing wage gap: The average annual salaries of the class of 2000 two years after graduating from university was \$39,000 for women, compared to \$45,000 for men.</li> <li>▪ Roughly one-third of the women are working in jobs that pay \$12/hour or less, one-third makes between \$12 and \$20/hour, and one-third earns more than \$20/hour.</li> </ul>
<b>WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY</b>		
<p>Work to support a strong economy and job growth in the province</p> <p>Recognize important role of small businesses and women's participation in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women have more opportunity to negotiate their own terms of employment in a growing job market.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced a <i>Starting Your Business Guide for Women</i>, in partnership with industry to support more B.C. women in starting their own business.</li> <li>• Forty-five percent of the 205,600 jobs created since 2001 were jobs for women.</li> <li>• There's been a steady increase in the employment levels of women since 2000: In 2000 there were 902,500 women in the workforce. In 2003, there were 951,900 women in the workforce – 55.5% of all women in B.C. were working in 2003.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thirty-six percent of B.C.'s 355,000 small businesses are owned or operated by women – the highest rate in the country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The large influx of women into the labour force over the past 2 decades has made a significant contribution to B.C.'s economic growth – much of this has been women with pre-school age children thanks to more access and choice in child care options.</li> <li>• Fully two-thirds of those women are in full time jobs, one third are in part time employment.</li> </ul>
<b>GENDER ANALYSIS</b>		
Create a straightforward gender analysis tool for policy makers; discontinue use of former Gender Lens which was unnecessarily complex and lengthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The previous government's Gender Lens was complex and lengthy and as a result was not being used by policy makers.</li> <li>▪ Issues like health, income levels, workplace harassment and family responsibility all affect how programs and policies affect women differently than men.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New tool allows for better public policy by raising key considerations with respect to women's issues in policy analysis.</li> <li>▪ Government developed a Best Practices in Gender Analysis Guide, which has been distributed to senior policy makers throughout government.</li> <li>▪ Guide outlines how to bring relevant issues into the decision making process and contributes to better public policy.</li> <li>▪ The document can be found on the Web site at: <a href="http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens_services/best_practices/best_practices_web.pdf">http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens_services/best_practices/best_practices_web.pdf</a></li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A better tool for policy analysis was needed that would not be overly cumbersome to policy-makers, yet would continue to raise these important considerations in policy development.</li> </ul>	
<b>CHILD CARE</b>		
Focus child care subsidy on low income families to allow them to access quality child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quality child care supports parents to work, learn, volunteer and participate in their communities</li> <li>▪ Research shows children who benefit from rich and stimulating environments are more likely to complete high school, find employment and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Child Care Subsidy program supports low income families who choose to use child care. It is flexible and allows parents to choose the kind of child care that works best for them.</li> <li>▪ About 27,000 children under 13 years of age currently receive support through Child Care Subsidy funding.</li> <li>▪ In the past year, government has provided a \$43 million boost to child care spending, including \$33 million for new and enhanced subsidies for low and middle-income parents, making thousands of children newly eligible. These initiatives included:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a \$200 increase in the income threshold for parents who are working or going to school,</li> <li>- an increase in subsidy rates for children under 6 in regulated care,</li> <li>- for eligible lower-income parents, student loans will no longer be a factor in calculating income.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>contribute to society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For society's most vulnerable children, exposure to early childhood development activities in quality child care settings substantially improves school readiness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In July 2004, \$1.7 million was invested to make Child Care Subsidy for community-based preschool available for children of non-working parents. An additional 2000 children are eligible to benefit from this increased funding.</li> <li>▪ A large proportion of women benefit from child care subsidies, as the majority of single family homes are led by women.</li> </ul>
<p>Ensure an affordable, stable supply of quality, licensed child care spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supporting child care providers through the Child Care Operating Funding Program encourages provider stability and the successful operation of child care spaces</li> <li>▪ Operating funding supports the maintenance of quality child care spaces as it is only available to licensed child care providers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Since 2001, government has increased the number of child care spaces eligible for operating funding by 32,000 – from 45,000 to 77,000.</li> <li>▪ In 2004/05, government will invest \$48 million in the operating funding program. This funding will support 4000 child care facilities.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<p>Focus on creating and maintaining quality, licensed child care spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capital funding supports providers to create new licensed child care spaces, to maintain quality child care spaces and meet health and safety standards</li> <li>▪ A key component to affordable childcare is the availability of safe childcare spaces run by qualified operators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The major capital funding program funding formula provides a greater percentage of government funding for small, rural communities, where it's often more difficult to raise all the funds needed to build centres. As a result, those communities are more able to embark on construction projects, leading to the creation of more licensed child care spaces.</li> <li>▪ Since June 2001, government has funded a total of 80 major projects for the construction and renovation of new child care spaces, to create 1840 new licensed group child care spaces.</li> <li>▪ An additional 24,373 spaces in 760 centres have been enhanced and supported through the minor capital program.</li> </ul>
<p>Provide support for families with children with special needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supported Child Development offers additional support to allow children with special needs to attend child care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In October, 2004, government announced an additional \$33 million in funding for child care. This investment included an increase in the Child Care Subsidy income threshold for families with children with special needs by \$100 and an increase in the special needs supplement from \$107 to \$150.</li> </ul> <p>6000 children with special needs under the age of 13 are currently benefiting from Supported Child Development supports.</p>
<p>Provide information and resources for parents and child care providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Care Resource and Referral Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are 39 Child Care Resource and Referral programs and two provincial agencies serving over 300 communities across the province.</li> <li>▪ The budget for Child Care Resource and Referral Programs in 2004/05 is \$7.7 million.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>offer information and referrals to assist parents to make quality child care choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Care Resource and Referral Centres also support providers by offering toy and equipment lending libraries, professional development opportunities, information and resources</li> </ul>	
<b>POST SECONDARY EDUCATION</b>		
<p>Making higher education a priority by greatly increasing the creation of post-secondary seats around the province, including many in Heartlands communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 57% of post-secondary students are women. Post secondary education leads to better job prospects and higher wages.</li> <li>▪ There is a direct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand access to student financial assistance program by reducing the amount parents must contribute to their children’s education, and helping with computer-related expenses necessary for higher learning.</li> <li>▪ About 3,000 students from middle-income families in B.C. who applied for loans this past year are expected to receive higher amounts in 2005-06. Thousands more whose parents’ income had disqualified them from any assistance in the past will be eligible when the change comes into effect Aug. 1, 2005.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>connection between a student's ability to access post-secondary education and the number of university seats available across the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently, students with a B average are having trouble gaining a seat in existing institutions.</li> <li>▪ An important part of access is also to ensure that education is available for women close to home, particularly when they have families to support. The ability to live at home while studying saves the average student \$6,000 per year.</li> <li>▪ It is also important that institutions have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government has committed to adding 25,000 new post-secondary seats to institutions throughout B.C. by 2010. Government is also increasing the post-secondary budget by \$105 million over the next three years.</li> <li>▪ This seat expansion includes making education more accessible in more communities. The ability to live at home while studying saves the average student \$6,000 per year.</li> <li>▪ The province has invested more than \$900 million to expand post-secondary research, access, training and innovation across B.C. that will grow institutions, and grow employment opportunities in a variety of fields.</li> <li>▪ Many women choose online programs to pursue post-secondary education, particularly those balancing demands of jobs and families. To increase access to education through the Internet and other technologies, government has created BCcampus, a consolidated source of information and support for all online programs in BC's public post-secondary institutions. BCcampus will help learners access courses, information, registration, and support services from institutions, making their online learning easy and seamless.</li> <li>▪ Universities have also been given the opportunity to set tuitions in order to gain the resources needed to make strong investments in facilities, services, and additional financial supports for students. Tuitions still remain around the national average, and the government still funds 70 to 80 percent of total post-secondary education costs.</li> <li>▪ Government has also put in place a comprehensive and flexible student loans program to assist students, especially caregivers. An increase in the threshold for earnings for student loan recipients has opened up \$4M more in loan eligibility for 12,000 more students. Forgivable loans are available for nurses, doctors and pharmacists who agree to practice in underserved areas. B.C. also has among the highest weekly awards (\$435) for students with dependents (the majority of whom are women).</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>the resources they need to provide quality educational services, increase access, and provide supports to students who need assistance the most.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Over 70% of new employment openings over the next ten years will require some form of post-secondary education or training, and women should have the opportunity to participate in these opportunities.</li> </ul>	
<b>SENIORS HOUSING AND CARE</b>		
<p>Create more choices for senior beyond staying at home or entering residential care.</p> <p>Develop intermediate and long term care facilities that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seniors want to live independently and at home for as long as possible.</li> <li>▪ Seniors need more choices to live</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since June 2001, BC Housing and health authorities have completed and/or opened about 1,200 new assisted living units province-wide. Another 2,100 Independent Living BC (ILBC) units are under development (figures are as of Jan. 13, 2005).</li> <li>• Many of the new assisted living units are part of the 3,500 ILBC units that will assist to partially fulfill the province's commitment to build additional intermediate and long term care beds by 2006. The rest are part of the Provincial Homes Program (formerly</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<p>address the needs of our aging population and frees up existing acute care beds</p> <p>Redevelop or replace outdated facilities.</p>	<p>independently, while ensuring residential care facilities are brought up to modern care standards for frail seniors who need 24-hour professional nursing care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The senior's care system government inherited consisted of outdated residential care facilities that were, on average, over 30 years old. These facilities were crowded and unable to respond to even the most basic care needs, such as the use of mechanical lifts and wheelchairs</li> </ul>	<p>Homes BC) or health authority initiated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the 3,500 Independent Living BC units, it is expected that 2,500 will be new construction or conversions from existing non-profit housing and health developments and 1,000 rent supplement units in private sector assisted living or supportive living projects.</li> <li>• BC Housing will provide an estimated \$20 million in annual subsidies for the 3,500 ILBC units.</li> <li>• The Ministry generally has about 24,000 residential care beds in operation at any one time.</li> <li>• Since redesign began in June 2001, a new needs-based access policy has reduced waits for admission to residential care to an average of 60 to 90 days. This compares to previous waits of up to a year.</li> <li>• A total of around 6,100 outdated residential care beds are planned to close between 2001 and 2006. Most of these beds will be replaced, upgraded or converted to other, more appropriate uses. Of these closures, approximately 3,100 have been closed since June 2001.</li> <li>• The closed beds are being replaced with a combination of residential care beds and assisted living units.</li> <li>• As of August 2004, BC Housing and health authorities had opened about 1,100 new residential care beds. Another 2,600 residential care beds are expected to be developed by the end of 2006.</li> <li>• This government has reduced wait times province-wide for residential care to an average of three months</li> <li>• Today, seniors have over 1,100 new and upgraded residential care beds throughout</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ B.C. seniors are healthier, better educated and living longer than ever, and deserve to receive the right care in the most appropriate setting.</li> <li>▪ Prior to 2001, seniors were waiting up to a year for residential care.</li> </ul>	<p>the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health authorities are also actively working to enhance home care services to help seniors to live at home as long as possible, as they have told us they want to do.</li> </ul>
<p>Emphasizing local solutions to seniors housing needs – derived by people in their own communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community size, location and planning may lead to different solutions in different municipalities.</li> <li>▪ For example, in rural communities, seniors housing needs might be addressed through bylaws to provide for second</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government provided \$2 million to the Union of B.C. Municipalities, to help develop innovative local solutions and strategies to expand seniors' housing.</li> <li>▪ UBCM to develop tools to meet seniors housing needs, that may include planning guides, model bylaws for local governments, infrastructure standards, and a consumer guide to seniors housing.</li> <li>▪ UBCM will build partnerships with the private and not-for-profit sector to identify opportunities to support seniors to continue living independently in communities.</li> <li>▪ A portion of the funding will support research with partners at the university level, with a focus on ageing and housing environments.</li> <li>▪ Solutions developed through the initiative will increase housing options for seniors so that they can continue to live in their communities.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p> dwellings. In larger communities, designated seniors housing within neighbourhoods may be a solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communities should be partners in finding solutions for their seniors in need of care.</li> </ul>	
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>		
<p>Restructuring the health care system to focus on evidence-based approach and efficiencies, instead of bureaucracy, administration and fragmented program delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advances in medical science and technology coupled with the longer life-expectancy of most British Columbians are posing new challenges in health care. Health Services budget currently accounts for 43% of the total BC budget</li> <li>▪ Increased demand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government is using an evidence-based approach to identify strategic investments that will result in the greatest benefit to the largest number of people.</li> <li>▪ The province has increased funding for health care by more than \$3 billion between 2000/01 and 2005/06. The budget will grow by another \$700 million by 2007/08.</li> <li>▪ As a result of the health care restructuring, more taxpayers' dollars are going directly to patient care – including care for women and seniors.</li> <li>▪ Health authorities are on track to cut administrative and support costs by seven per cent for a total savings of almost \$100 million by the end of 2004/05. These administrative savings are allowing resources to be directed into direct patient care, including women, and making sure the health system is sustainable in the future.</li> <li>▪ The number of paid surgical services increased eight per cent (68,000) between 2001/02 and 2003/04.</li> </ul>



# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>for health care cannot continue to erode BC's ability to fund other essential areas of government such as education, social services and economic infrastructure development</p>	
<p>Develop a new collaborative strategy to improve the health of girls and women throughout B.C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women have unique health needs, shaped by their experiences and roles. Women may be more at risk for some diseases and treatment options can vary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop and implement a new Provincial Women's Health Strategy to improve health for B.C. girls and women.</li> <li>▪ Support a collaborative approach to women's health, recognizing the formal health sector as well as education and social services.</li> <li>▪ Pursue a 10-year collaborative, women-centred approach to address three priority areas: women's health research; maternity care; and mental health and addictions.</li> <li>▪ Government invested \$2 million through the Women's Health Research Institute at BC Women's Hospital &amp; Health Centre to fund investigation into health issues unique to women. The research will provide health care professionals with evidence-based research to support prevention, diagnosis and treatment services for women.</li> <li>▪ British Columbia is developing training for health professionals that focus on patient-centred care for women. For example, we have added more than 2,100 additional nursing seats as well as additional training for RPNs, LPNs and nurse practitioners. Government has committed \$62.5 million as part of the provincial nursing strategy for recruitment, retention and education</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Using \$74 million from the Primary Health Care Transition Fund, the Ministry of Health Services and the authorities are undertaking primary health care renewal throughout B.C.</li> <li>▪ British Columbia leads the country in cancer care and research -- women in B.C. have some of the highest survival rates in Canada including:</li> <li>▪ B.C. women have the second lowest overall age-standardized incidence rate of cancer in Canada. B.C. women also have the lowest age-standardized incidence rate for breast and colorectal cancer.</li> <li>▪ B.C. women have the lowest overall age-standardized mortality rate for cancers in Canada. B.C. women also have the lowest age-standardized mortality rate for breast cancer in the country.</li> <li>▪ Establishing the Maternity Care Network through health authorities to, for the first time, support a group practice approach to maternity care between health providers, and allow more births to take place in local hospitals.</li> <li>▪ The province supports innovative programs for vulnerable mothers and newborns, including the first and only program in Canada that offers consolidated care for substance using women and their newborns (through the tertiary maternity care centre at B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centre).</li> </ul>
<p>Focus on addressing women's unique health needs; move away from ad hoc, short-term funding approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women access the health care system on average more than men, both for themselves, and on behalf of others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Other health projects geared to women include:</li> <li>▪ The Squamish Nation's Women's and Youth Clinic in North Vancouver provides community health services and promotes better health for Aboriginal people</li> <li>▪ Investments in telehealth technology allow live remote fetal ultrasound and pediatric echocardiogram tests in communities like Castlegar, Prince George, Terrace and</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stats Canada says 68 per cent of women compared to 51 per cent of men over the age of 12 see their doctors twice a year or more. Women are more likely to consult physicians, obtain preventative health care, consume medications and have surgery.</li> <li>▪ Women have unique healthcare needs that often vary according to age and where they live. Services should be able to accommodate these needs instead of simply providing one-size-fits-all remedies.</li> </ul>	<p>Prince Rupert by linking to specialists in larger centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An Advanced Maternity Fellowship for Rural Practitioners has provided more than 29 maternity care practitioners in northern B.C., Vancouver Island, and Squamish with intensive training in advanced maternity skills, tailored to meet the needs of their communities.</li> <li>▪ Fir Square, a new unit that opened last year for the consolidated care of substance-using women and their substance-exposed newborns. This innovative program is the first and only program in Canada – and one of only two programs in the world.</li> <li>▪ \$13 million dollars has been committed for the construction of a Child, Adolescent, and Women’s Mental Health Building, opening in late 2005.</li> <li>▪ Increased funding for the Screening Mammography Program of B.C. (which is funded through the BC Cancer Agency, which in turn is funded by the Provincial Health Services Authority). 232,000 screens were provided to BC women in 2003/04</li> <li>▪ British Columbia is a national leader in cancer care and an international leader in cancer research B.C. has the highest survival rates for certain types of cancer:. The BC Cancer Agency continues to be a leader in cervical screening</li> <li>▪ Susceptible women (those who have not had chickenpox disease) of childbearing age are now eligible for the varicella vaccine because chicken pox can be fatal for an infant, if the mother contracts the illness while she is pregnant. The chickenpox vaccine is not recommended for women who are pregnant.</li> <li>▪ Two new shared care projects have been established, focusing on mental health and renal care. Seven additional projects will focus on palliative care, mental health, women’s health, and palliative care.</li> <li>▪ At Children's &amp; Women's Health Centre of BC in Vancouver, two areas, the Children’s Intensive Care Unit and two Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic at BC Women’s, have</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
		<p>introduced EVE (Electronic Viewers Everyone), which provides read-only access to clinical information, creating a patient history that can be viewed by C&amp;W health care providers with access to the system. EVE will save time for health care providers who will no longer have to wait for a paper chart to be located – they can log into any computer on the C&amp;W network and access the information they need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff from BC Women’s Hospital have visited Prince George and the Queen Charlotte Islands to conduct training and education sessions for nurses in areas such as cervical and breast cancer screening and sexually transmitted diseases screening. These sessions have expanded the knowledge and skill levels of nurses in the North and provided greater access for women to primary care services. The Primary Care Network is a partnership between Northern Health and the PHSA, including BC Women’s, BC Cancer Agency, and BC Centre for Disease Control.</li> </ul>
<p>Support health care initiatives that build on BC’s success with the best breast cancer survival rates in Canada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early detection of breast cancer can increase women’s change of survival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In October 2004, we dedicated \$3 million to promote breast cancer awareness and increase the number of breast screenings by 25,000 in 2005/06, and \$20 million towards technological upgrades for the BC Cancer Agency.</li> </ul>
<p>Introducing income testing for prescription drug coverage to ensure funding help goes to low-income families who are most in need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under the previous system some low-income families were paying more for prescription drugs than people with higher incomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximize benefits of taxpayers’ dollars by focusing help on those who need it most.</li> <li>▪ Under the new Fair PharmaCare program, about 280,000 low-income B.C. families and seniors who face high prescription drug costs will pay less.</li> <li>▪ Fair PharmaCare combines universal and seniors plan into one new plan – with access based on families’ ability to pay. The lower a family’s income, the more help the government will provide.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A new program must target assistance to low-income families and individuals to help them with the cost of prescription drugs</li> <li>▪ The previous system was not sustainable. PharmaCare costs have increased by 147 per cent in the last decade, and costs are projected to increase by 487 per cent over the next two decades. Without changes, B.C.'s PharmaCare costs were estimated to increase to \$8.7 million per day by 2021.</li> <li>▪ Increasing costs and pressures on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is one of the most generous prescription drug coverage in the country. A total of 84% of B.C. families will pay the same or less for their prescription drugs.</li> <li>▪ Changes to the provincial MSP Premium Assistance Program will reduce or eliminate monthly premiums for an estimated 215,000 British Columbians. Adjustments to the regular premium assistance program will come into effect July 1 2005, when the income threshold to qualify for the MSP Premium Assistance Program will increase by \$4,000 per year.</li> <li>▪ Government made it easier for British Columbians with high prescription costs to pay their deductibles through a new monthly payment option. The Fair PharmaCare Monthly Deductible Payment Option offers predictable monthly contributions for families with sudden or sustained high drug costs. Up to 100,000 families and seniors in British Columbia are expected to benefit.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>PharmaCare are due in part to an aging population, more listed drugs, new and expensive drugs, and greater use of drug therapies for treating illnesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>	
<p>Give health authorities authority to explore options at the local level that help them achieve savings in non-patient care areas - so these savings can be refocused into direct care for patients</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ B.C.'s wage costs in the health sector were - and continue to be higher than the Canadian average.</li> <li>▪ These costs were being absorbed by the healthcare system, diverting resources away from care and programs for patients.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government is directing more health care spending to direct patient care.</li> <li>▪ B.C.'s wage costs in the health sector were - and continue to be - higher than the Canadian average. BC doctors, nurses and other health care professionals are among the best paid in the country.</li> <li>▪ Wages account for approximately 70% of the health care budget.</li> <li>▪ Health employers and B.C.'s more than 28,000 registered and psychiatric nurses have agreed to a new contract. Nurses agreed to no increases over the next two years and employers agreed to not roll back wages, benefits or time off.</li> <li>▪ Changes to health care will support long-term sustainability and improve the quality of patient care. Bill 37, Health Sector (Facilities Sub-sector) Collective Agreement Act, was brought in to end the labour dispute with health care workers, protecting patient care after thousands of surgeries and procedures were cancelled. The final agreement will allow health authorities to re-direct savings to patient care, providing for more surgeries and procedures in B.C.</li> <li>▪ For the first time in B.C., patients will be direct winners of the three-year agreement negotiated between the government and B.C. physicians in July 2004. The new</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
		<p>agreements reallocate \$100 million to direct patient care and commit physicians and government to working together on several reform strategies that will improve the quality of patient care and provide better support to physicians. Physicians have also agreed to no increases in fees, salaries, sessional payments or service contract rates for at least two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health authorities are achieving savings on outsourcing non-essential services, while maintaining a high level of service, with savings being redirected to patient care, including women.</li> <li>▪ Under the terms of their contracts with health authorities, private providers are required to meet and exceed the quality and service levels that existed previously. Health authorities and the Ministry of Health Services have processes in place to monitor the delivery of these services.</li> </ul>
<b>HOUSING</b>		
<p>Increase funding for subsidized housing to help those most in need.</p> <p>Continue funding both construction of, and operating of subsidized housing and emergency shelter.</p> <p>Focussing on subsidized housing for people most in need, with a focus on seniors; away from previous emphasis on subsidized housing as a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More than half of seniors are women. The province is meeting the needs of low-income seniors who want to live independently through Independent Living B.C. (see section above).</li> <li>▪ The majority of low-income, single</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The provincial government provides funding for both the construction of new housing units and operating costs for emergency shelter, and subsidized housing.</li> <li>▪ The Province is investing in a wide range of housing initiatives, including seniors housing (see seniors housing section), emergency shelter, and housing for low to moderate income families.</li> <li>▪ Housing for families and individuals focuses on: subsidized housing units, units that combine supports with housing, rent supplements, emergency shelters.</li> <li>▪ The Province's 2004/2005 budget is \$154.4 million – an increase of 37.8% from the previous government's budget. This is the largest subsidized housing budget ever in BC's history.</li> <li>▪ Since June 2001, the province has committed funding for the construction of a total of 3,400 units for low-income families, individuals and persons with disabilities. To date, about 3124 units have been completed and about 253 units are in various stages of</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
<p>"lifetime" entitlement.</p> <p>Develop other innovative strategies to help meet the housing needs of low-income individuals and families.</p>	<p>parent families are led by women. The province continues to provide housing supports for low-income families and individuals. Stable housing can be the key to helping people in need establish positive relationships, find and keep work, and rebuild their lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Province increases funding to emergency shelters.</li> <li>▪ Province is working on a strategy to provide innovative solutions to increase housing options for low-income families and individuals.</li> </ul>	<p>construction or development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Through BC Housing the Province has provided capital funding to 6 transition houses, emergency shelters or transition houses to create an additional 107 beds since 2001. This includes two safe houses for sexually exploited youth in Kelowna, the first transition house in BC for women over 55 fleeing domestic violence in Surrey and shelter units in Prince George that also provide community supports as part of the multi-service housing development.</li> <li>▪ Since 2001, BC Housing has funded the creation of 6 new housing developments for women who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or in need of emergency shelters, for a total of 154 new spaces. This includes Crabtree Corner in the Downtown Eastside that provides women's shelter beds, along with child care, drop-in centers, courses and other community supports.</li> <li>▪ The province has also funded an additional 7 new co-ed housing developments - providing 293 spaces - for women and men who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or needing emergency shelter.</li> <li>▪ Funding was also provided to the TriCity Women's Resource Society to further develop a proposal for a transition house in the Tricities region.</li> <li>▪ Through the Ministry of Human Resources, the province has increased funding for emergency shelters by \$5.1 million for a total of \$18.2 million annually. The additional funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increases emergency shelter capacity across the province by 168 beds for a total of 879 beds,</li> <li>• adds an additional 208 cold weather beds for a total of 391</li> <li>• keeps all cold weather beds open for a full month longer</li> <li>• establishes reserve funding for an additional 100 beds in the event of extreme cold weather</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides for warm clothing, blankets and new clothes dryers at shelters.</li> <li>• The Province provides nearly \$4 million per year for shelter services totalling 163 beds, exclusively for women and their children.</li> <li>• A total of \$7 million is provided for 506 shelter beds around the Province available to both women and men. These beds are in addition to those available at 61 transition houses around the province.</li> <li>▪ The province provided an endowment for a new Domestic Violence Relief Fund to provide loans to women leaving transition housing so they can purchase shares in co-op housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Support for Children and Families</b>		
Keep children safe in their own homes, extended families and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safety of children is the number one priority</li> <li>▪ Children cope best when they are allowed to remain with their families – with appropriate supports in place to ensure their safety and well-being. The best long-term outcomes in education, health and social</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social workers encouraged to use the full range of their training, skills and experience to strengthen and support families to keep at-risk children safe in their own homes, extended families and communities wherever possible.</li> <li>▪ Social workers now working more closely to strengthen and support families. Fewer children need to come into government care. Since March 2001, 1,300 fewer children are now in care due to these solutions. This 13% drop contrasts with a 45% rise in the number of children in care between 1995 and mid-2001.</li> <li>▪ The number of aboriginal children in care, which nearly doubled between 1997 and 2001, has since levelled off.</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal children represent just nine per cent of B.C. kids under 19 – but they account for 46 per cent of children in care.</li> <li>▪ About 1,000 of the children currently in care are eligible for adoption.</li> <li>▪ We've doubled the number of kids in care who are adopted to more than 300 a year.</li> <li>▪ For every 300 children adopted, the province saves about \$4.8 million in care costs.</li> </ul>

# GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Listing of Programs and Services

Significant Shifts	Rationale for Shift	Benefits, Outcomes, and New Initiatives Since Shift
	<p>development for at-risk children are achieved if their families/communities can maintain them safely in their own homes, extended families and communities.</p>	
<p>Development of a cross-government, coordinated strategy for Early Childhood Development in BC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The quality of care and nurturing a child receives during the early years are the best determinants of their success in school, as adolescents and as adults.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appointed Canada's first Minister of State for Early Childhood Development to focus on the quality and range of services available to parents and communities during critical early years.</li> <li>▪ Annual investment in province-wide Early Childhood Development programs has increased by \$50 million since 2001/02.</li> <li>▪ In total government provided \$375 million in 2004/2005 for programs to support family development, children with special needs, supported child care, early childhood development and child care.</li> </ul>