

ROMANOW CHECKLIST - HOW DID HE MEASURE UP?

Roy Romanow released his final report on the Future of Health Care in Canada. In B.C., we are making changes now to ensure a healthier future for our children. Here you will see a comparison of B.C.'s position on critical issues against what Romanow has said.

FUNDING

Ottawa must pay its fair share of health costs

...all provinces need stable and predictable funding



Higher federal taxes for health care are not necessary

...the federal government should use its surplus for health care



We should stay away from user fees

...we agree, user fees for insured medical services aren't the answer



We need new equipment for hospitals now

...hospitals need to replace unreliable and outdated equipment to give patients the best treatment and save lives



REFORM

The sustainability of health care is at grave risk

...we need more money, and we need to change the way we do things to make the system sustainable



The private sector has a role to play in public health care

...we say new partnerships can improve care and access and lower costs at the same time



The current Canada Health Act says it all

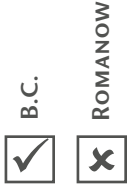
... we say adding new red tape is unnecessary when we've got five solid principles to guide us already



ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable to British Columbians

...we don't need more federal bureaucracy – National Councils or Health Commissions will only add red tape, not help patients



Waitlist guarantees are impractical

...we say let's not spend extra money on unrealistic or arbitrary waitlist expectations



A healthy lifestyle is the best health insurance

...Ottawa should lead and support public health awareness and education to help people make healthier life choices



SERVICES

We must have enough nurses and doctors

...we need a national plan and more money for training and recruiting more nurses and doctors



Mental health services need funding

...Ottawa can help fund quality mental health programs in communities to prevent people from falling through the cracks



Support is needed for Aboriginal health care

...Ottawa must support our efforts to provide aboriginal people with more responsive health services



Rural areas need better access to care

...Ottawa must support innovations that link medical services to give people better care and access wherever they live



Pharmacare costs are too high and growing too fast

...we need Ottawa to help us find new approaches that address rising drug costs so patients have access to needed medication



B.C. is taking action...

We have:

- ✦ concluded three-year pay-raise deals to attract and retain nurses and doctors – our nurses and doctors are among the highest paid in the Canada
- ✦ added 1,266 new nursing training spaces and set up satellite medical training schools in Prince George and Victoria to almost double the number of doctors trained
- ✦ provided \$30 million to enhance the B.C. ambulance service with new defibrillators in every ambulance in B.C., and we have increased education and training for paramedics
- ✦ funded new CT scans and MRI machines in Nanaimo, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George and North Vancouver and new kidney dialysis units around the province
- ✦ set new standards of public safety for our drinking water, seniors facilities and health-care professionals
- ✦ streamlined our health system from 52 local authorities to six health authorities
- ✦ set performance and service standards for health care
- ✦ implemented a \$263 million mental health plan with new care homes in Kamloops, Prince George and Victoria, and more to come
- ✦ identified measurable aboriginal health-care goals
- ✦ attacked tobacco use through a major awareness program

Where Ottawa can help...

We need money urgently from Ottawa for:

- ✦ **new seniors care facilities** that offer more independence and choice
- ✦ **new equipment** so that hospitals will have the tools they need to help patients, and that sometimes can mean the difference between life and death

We need ongoing funding from Ottawa for:

- ✦ **training** nurses, doctors and health professionals
- ✦ **new approaches to chronic illnesses** like diabetes, asthma, congestive heart failure and depression
- ✦ **research** for innovations in health care and service delivery