

The Life Sciences Initiative:

*A provincial strategy to increase
physician supply*

Hon. Shirley Bond

Minister of Advanced Education

The Challenge:

A looming skills shortage

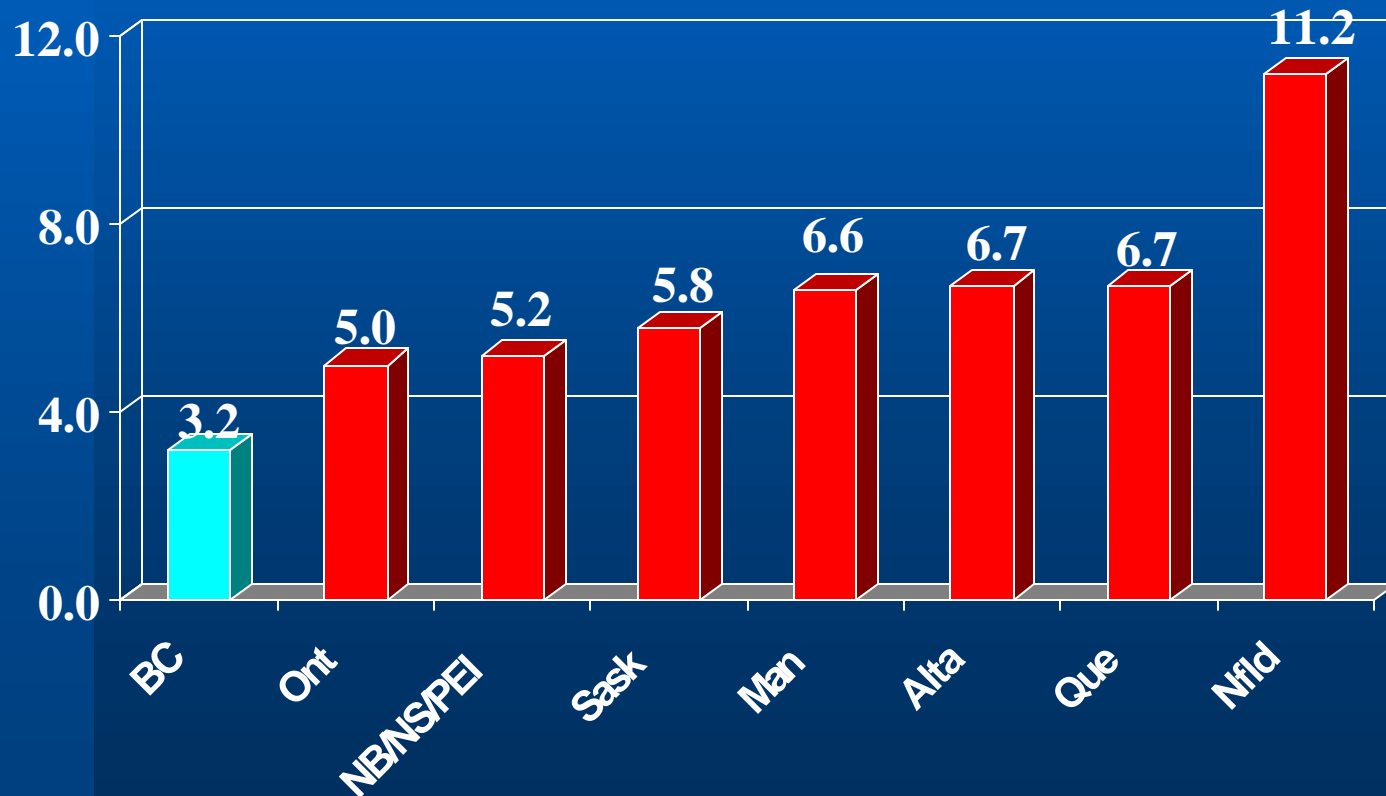
- **Difficulty recruiting and retaining**
- **Inadequate and aging facilities**
- **Increased competition from other jurisdictions**
- **Serious shortages in rural and remote communities**

A shortage of training spaces

- Only one medical school in BC
- No increase in spaces 1980-2001, while population up 50%
- Lowest number of 1st year med school spaces per capita
- 300 doctors leave or retire yearly while only 128 graduate

A shortage of training spaces

1st year med spaces per 100,000 population



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Source: Association of Canadian Medical Colleges

Challenges in Rural BC

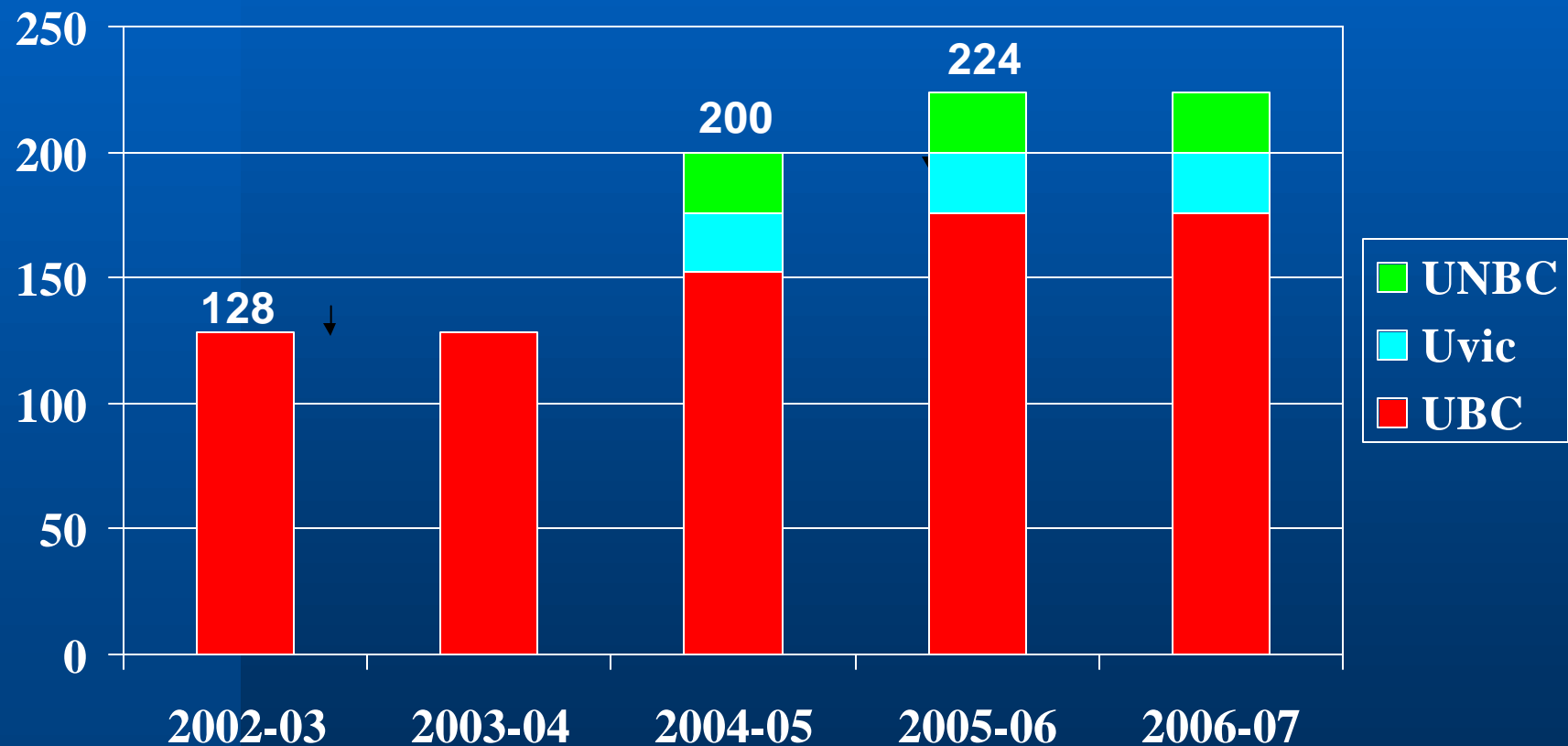
- The number of rural physicians in British Columbia dropped from 576 in 1994, to 490 in 1998
(Source: Canadian Medical Assoc.)
- BC graduates are not staying:
Of 415 total new doctors in 2001, only 72 were BC graduates

Our solution:

The Life Sciences Initiative

- **\$134 million total capital expansion, to create new medical school spaces at UBC, UNBC and UVic**
- **A multi-region and multi-university collaborative model unique in Canada**
- **Increase student intake to 224 by 2005**
- **Regional training and residency programs to increase rural supply**

New medical student spaces



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The Benefits

- More doctors
- Reduce shortages in rural regions
- New emphasis on retaining skills
- New leading-edge facilities
- Institutions have guaranteed delivery of buildings on time, on budget while assuming risk of overruns
- Better patient care