



Bringing Out the Best in Health Care



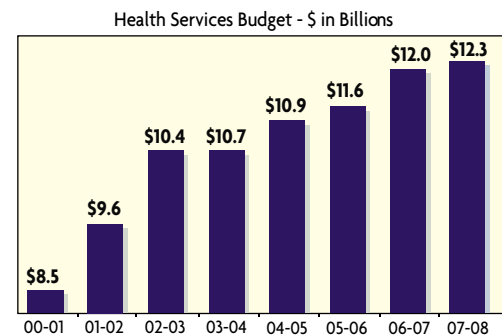
More Resources to Improve Patient Care

Health care spending in British Columbia will rise to a record \$11.6 billion in 2005/06, representing 43 per cent of the total budget. This is an increase of more than \$3 billion, or 36.5 per cent since 2000/01.

The province has also:

- ▶ Reduced the number of health authorities from 52 to six to provide greater efficiency and help reduce administrative costs.
- ▶ Cut administrative and support costs by seven per cent for a total savings of almost \$100 million by 2004/05, so those dollars can be redirected to patients.
- ▶ Established strong, province wide standards for patient care and required health authorities to prepare three-year service plans and sign performance agreements.
- ▶ Launched the Fair PharmaCare program to limit the growth of prescription drug costs while ensuring drug costs fall or stay the same for 84 per cent of B.C. families.
- ▶ More than doubled the total vaccine budget in British Columbia in the last three years to \$34.3 million from \$15 million.
- ▶ Committed \$35 million in the latest medical technology to improve access to better diagnostic care and maintain British Columbia's position as a leader in cutting edge medical treatment.
- ▶ Increased access to surgeries for B.C. patients with significant improvements in access to surgery in priority areas identified by First Ministers in fall 2004. For example from 2000/2001 to 2003/2004:
 - ▶ Knee replacements increased by more than 33 per cent;
 - ▶ Hip replacements increased by more than 21 per cent;
 - ▶ Cataract surgeries increased by 20 per cent;
 - ▶ Coronary bypasses increased by 21 per cent;
 - ▶ Angioplasties, another heart procedure, increased by over 40 per cent.

B.C. is investing more in health care



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New Measures to Improve Rural Care

To improve timely delivery of key medical services across B.C., the province has:

- ▶ Introduced forgivable student loans for graduates of various medical disciplines who practice in under-served communities.
- ▶ Committed \$30 million to add 24 new full-time paramedics and increase training for 1,300 rural and remote paramedics.
- ▶ Linked emergency care in community hospitals to specialized care in larger centres..
- ▶ Invested in B.C. Telehealth programs like tele-imaging for x-ray, MRI and CT scan diagnosis, to save patients unnecessary travel and foster speedier treatment.
- ▶ Placed telehealth videoconferencing technology in over 60 communities in B.C., encompassing nearly 120 dedicated sites in B.C.'s health care facilities, compared to 11 communities in 2001.

Bringing Out the Best in Health Care

Training more health professionals



B.C. is almost doubling its medical student spaces to 224 from 128, and has added over 2,100 nursing training spaces over the past three years.

More Doctors and Nurses to Care for You

B.C. is expanding training and improving its ability to attract and retain health-care professionals. The province has:

- ▶ Added over 2,100 nursing training spaces over the past three years.
- ▶ Committed \$62.5 million as part of the provincial nursing strategy for recruitment, retention and education.
- ▶ Added more than 600 additional nurses with practicing licenses who are now eligible to work in B.C.
- ▶ Funded an additional 799 nurses through the Return to Nursing initiative.
- ▶ An estimated 6,500 more nurses – including RNs, RPNs and LPNs – are expected to graduate between 2002 and 2006.
- ▶ Launched a new \$134million provincial medical school expansion, with campuses at the University of Victoria and the University of Northern B.C. in Prince George, which will almost double medical-school spaces, to 224 from 128, by September 2005.
- ▶ Introduced a \$58.5 million package of benefits and incentives to draw doctors to rural practices.
- ▶ Continued to attract the largest number of doctors – family physicians and specialists – from other parts of Canada.

Revitalizing Mental Health and Addictions Care

To help people with mental illness and addictions to enjoy healthy, productive lives, the province has:

- ▶ Dedicated \$138 million in funding for new facilities, including new mental health centres now open in Coquitlam, Victoria, Smithers, Terrace, Prince George & Kamloops.
- ▶ Integrated mental health and addiction services in recognition of the strong link between mental illness and addiction.

Expanding Care Options for Seniors

B.C.'s growing seniors' population needs more care spaces – and more care options, to give them the independence and support they want. The province has:

- ▶ Committed strategic investment to add an additional 5,000 new beds or units with care services – with over 2,700 to be completed by December 2006.
- ▶ Upgraded or replaced outdated care facilities to improve the quality of care for seniors.
- ▶ Increased the range of care options to provide more relevant care to individual seniors.
- ▶ Reduced the time from assessment to admission to residential care from over a year to an average of 60 to 90 days.
- ▶ Enhanced a program providing free medication, medical supplies and equipment to palliative seniors.

Expanding care options to support seniors' independence



B.C. is increasing care options to support the differing care needs of our growing seniors' population.

Bringing Out the Best in Health Care

BC Health Care

(more information on the government's actions to renew health care)

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/bchealthcare/

Medical Services Plan and Pharmacare

General Public:

1 800 663-7100

Vancouver 604 683-7151

Medical & Health Care Providers:

1 866 456-6950

Vancouver 604 456-6950

Group Administrators:

1 877 955-5656

Vancouver 604 683-7520

www.hibc.gov.bc.ca

BC HealthGuide OnLine

(information on more than 2,500 health topics)

www.bchealthguide.org

Women's Health

www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/whb

24-Hour B.C. Healthguide Nurseline

(includes access to a pharmacist from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m., seven days a week)

Lower Mainland: 604 215-4700

Toll-free provincewide: 1 866 215-4700

TTY deaf and hearing-impaired: 1 866 889-4700

www.bchealthguide.org/kbnurseline.stm

Toll-free Information Lines

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/cpa/1-800.html

BC Partners for Mental Health and Addictions Information

(24-hour mental health information line)

Lower Mainland: 604 669-7600

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800-661-2121

www.heretohelp.bc.ca

Nutrition Information

(a dietitian is available to answer your food and nutrition questions in English, Punjabi, Cantonese or Mandarin, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday)

Lower Mainland: 604 732-9191

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800-667-3438

www.dialadietitian.org

Loan Forgiveness Program for Nursing, Medical, Midwifery and Pharmacy Students

Student Services Branch, Advanced Education

Victoria: 250 387-6100

Lower Mainland: 604 660-2610

Toll-free Canada/USA: 1 800 561-1818

TTY deaf and hearing-impaired: 250 952-6832

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student-services/student/finish/debt_red/bc_nurse.htm

Ministry of Health Services

Victoria: 250 952-3456

www.gov.bc.ca/healthservices/

Health and Seniors' Information Line

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 465-4911

B.C.'s Health Authorities

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/socsec/

We want your input

Our government is keeping its commitment to renew health care in B.C. We have increased health resources by over \$3 billion, and we are focusing dollars on patient needs.

We are acting to build a health-care system that puts patients first, provides the health professionals you need and gives you the care you depend on.

Gordon Campbell
Premier

E-mail your comments to: premier@gov.bc.ca