

THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH >>
FOR PATIENTS



WE WANT YOUR INPUT



Healthy people make a healthy province. B.C. is committed to an accessible, high-quality health care system and is making careful investments to ensure the wisest possible use of health resources.

Priorities include developing strategies to attract more nurses to B.C., and investing in the education of future B.C. doctors. We are providing funding for health research, and reducing wait times for certain treatments and surgeries. Major capital projects involve upgrading or replacing outdated and inefficient health care facilities. And we are committed to the health of First Nations people, with enhanced services to ensure they receive the highest quality care.

Through the Conversation on Health, British Columbians joined us in discussing our health challenges and solutions – through thousands of submissions, millions of website hits and participation in 78 community sessions.

The Province will review all suggestions for consistency with the principles of the Canada Health Act and criteria like improved patient care and accountability, to determine how best to sustain the health system for future generations.

We thank all British Columbians who contributed to this vital conversation. Let's continue to work together to improve our health and ensure resources are used well.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Gordon Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

*Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia*



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INCREASING SPENDING FOR HEALTH CARE

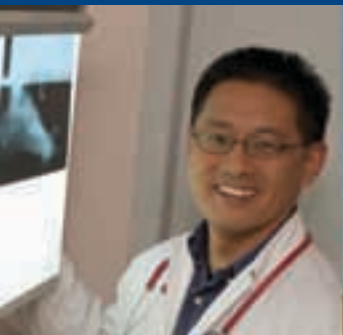
By 2009/10, B.C. will spend a record \$14.1 billion on health care – \$4.3 billion more than in 2001. Investments include:

- » \$7.53 billion for health authorities in 2007/08 – up 31% from \$5.73 billion in 2001/02.
- » Increasing capital grants to health authorities for a total capital spend of almost \$2 billion, including public-private partnerships, from 2001/02 to 2006/07.
- » \$100 million for health innovation to help improve patient access, efficiency and use of resources.
- » Another \$28 million for the Provincial Nursing Strategy, bringing the total since 2001 to \$174 million to educate, retain and recruit the best-qualified nurses for B.C.
- » \$64.4 million to expand UBC Clinical Academic Campuses to educate the next generation of B.C. physicians and improve access to GPs and specialists for B.C. residents.
- » \$100 million for health research, including funding nearly 200 researchers through the Michael Smith Foundation.

ENSURING ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

To ensure all British Columbians have access to quality public health care across B.C., the Province has:

- » Introduced a Surgical Patient Registry, a database that will track patients waiting for surgery throughout B.C. and give them more control over their surgical options.



- » Invested \$150 million to reduce wait times for cardiac, diagnostic and joint replacement, and build long-term capacity in the health care system.
- » Introduced Fair PharmaCare to reduce costs for more than 300,000 B.C. families with lower incomes, including seniors, by focusing financial assistance on people most in need.
- » Built 8,839 new and replacement residential care beds, assisted living units and seniors' supportive housing units across B.C., including 3,411 net-new beds and units as part of a commitment to build 5,000 net, new beds and units by the end of 2008.
- » Tripled funding for B.C. Nurseline to \$16 million, helping answer over 350,000 calls a year, in 130 languages, and including the support of an on-call pharmacist.
- » Achieved the shortest wait times in Canada for cancer treatments; referral to first appointment ranges from 12 to 14 days.
- » Decreased the median wait time for patients needing hip replacements by 29% to 13.3 weeks in 2006/07, and knee replacements by 22% to 19.9 weeks in 2006/07.
- » Committed to invest \$148 million to build the information technology infrastructure needed to house comprehensive electronic health records and improve access to laboratory test results.



EXPANDING HEALTH CARE TREATMENTS AND FACILITIES

Since 2001/02, B.C.'s health care system has benefited from investments in new medical facilities, care beds and diagnostic equipment like CT scanners and MRIs. This year, the Province committed nearly \$1.2 billion in additional infrastructure spending over the next three years. Significant projects include:

- » \$151 million for the planning and construction of a new Surrey Outpatient Hospital.
- » A new Vernon Jubilee Hospital Diagnostic and Treatment Building, and an expanded Kelowna General Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Department, with preliminary funding approval of \$200 million.
- » \$14.8 million for Prince George Regional Hospital's new Maternity Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- » \$19 million for a new mental health building at BC Children's and BC Women's hospitals.
- » \$6.5 million for a new state-of-the-art Intensive Care Unit at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminister.
- » A new Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria with preliminary funding approval of \$269 million.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR FIRST NATIONS

In 2006 and 2007, the Province announced many key initiatives to help close the health gap between First Nations and non-First Nations people by 2015. They include:



- » Signing a Tripartite First Nations Health Plan with Health Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council – the first of its kind in Canada – and committing \$14 million annually for the next 10 years to this plan.
- » Appointing an Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor and providing \$9.5 million to the First Nations Leadership Council to improve First Nations health.
- » \$6.3 million for a new health care centre in Lytton to meet the health care needs of seniors, local Aboriginal communities and Lytton residents.
- » More than \$1.5 million since 2002 to Aboriginal nursing strategies, to ensure Aboriginal communities receive the highest quality of health care.
- » \$6 million to help improve the health of Aboriginal peoples throughout B.C. as part of ActNow BC, which promotes healthy and active living.

TRAINING MORE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

The Province is expanding training and improving our ability to attract and retain health care professionals in B.C. communities, including:

- » Expanding the number of nursing seats by 82%, with 3,347 new seats added since 2001.
- » Doubling the number of first-year medical school spaces to 256 for 2007 September entry, with \$134 million invested in new medical training centres at UBC, UNBC and UVic.



- » Introducing Family Physicians for British Columbia. To encourage physicians to establish practices in under-served areas, the Province offers financial support to help pay off medical school debt.
- » Expanding B.C. opportunities for internationally educated health professionals.

RECORD PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH CONVERSATION

The Conversation on Health is an unprecedented, year-long discussion that will help the Province plan, strengthen and sustain B.C.'s public health system.

Over the past year, common concerns and recommendations heard across the province included:

- » The need for more health promotion and more focus on illness prevention rather than just treatment.
- » Establish more centres for specific surgical procedures to help address wait times.
- » Establish 24/7 clinics close to emergency rooms to help ease pressures.

All input received will be summarized in a report to government in fall 2007. It will help guide new programs, services and legislation for B.C.'s health system, in accordance with Canada Health Act principles and criteria like improved patient care and accountability.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Conversation On Health

Toll-free provincewide: 1 866 884-2055
www.bcconversationonhealth.ca

RELATED MINISTRY

Ministry of Health

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 465-4911
www.health.gov.bc.ca

B.C. Health Authorities

www.health.gov.bc.ca/socsec

USEFUL LINKS

Service BC *(For information on any provincial government service or program)*

Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Victoria: 250 387-6121 • Vancouver: 604 660-2421

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7867

Telephone device for the deaf (TDD)

In Vancouver: 604 775-0303

Elsewhere in B.C.: 1 800 661-8773

www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca

BC NurseLine

Translation services are available in over 130 languages.

Pharmacist available from 5 p.m. - 9 a.m. daily.

Toll-free: 1 866 215-4700

Greater Vancouver: 604 215-4700

Deaf/hearing impaired, toll-free: 1 866 889-4700

www.bchealthguide.org/nurseline.stm

BC HealthGuide OnLine *(Information on more than 3,000 common health topics, tests and procedures)*

www.bchealthguide.org

Health Insurance BC www.health.gov.bc.ca/insurance

Medical Services Plan and PharmaCare information

Lower Mainland: 604 683-7151

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7100

Fair PharmaCare www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/

Call Vancouver: 604 683-7151

Rest of B.C.: 1 800 663-7100

ActNow BC www.actnowbc.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Action Schools! BC

www.actionschoolsbc.ca/content/home.asp

Women's Health

www.health.gov.bc.ca/whb

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

Dial-A-Dietitian

A dietitian is available 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday to Friday to answer your food and nutrition questions. Translation services are available in over 130 languages.

Lower Mainland: 604 732-9191

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 667-3438

www.dialadietitian.org

Health and Seniors Information Line

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 465-4911

Alcohol and Drug Referral Service

Available around the clock

Toll-free in B.C.: 1 800 663-1441



THROUGH RECORD INVESTMENTS

IN HEALTH CARE PROVISION,

INNOVATION, TRAINING AND FACILITIES,

AND BY LEADING AN UNPRECEDENTED

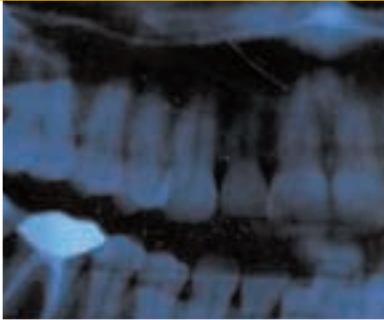
CONVERSATION ON HEALTH, THE PROVINCE

IS WORKING TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN

QUALITY, PUBLIC HEALTH CARE.

*SIGN-UP FOR THE PREMIER'S NEWSLETTER:
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