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Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

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USEFUL LINKS

HealthLink BC

Non-emergency information and services.

Speak to a nurse 24/7, a pharmacist every night from 5 pm to 9 am, or connect with a dietitian.

Translation services available in over 130 languages.

Anywhere in British Columbia: 8-1-1

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Health Insurance BC

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Lower Mainland: 604 683-7151

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7100

www.health.gov.bc.ca/insurance

Fair PharmaCare

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www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare

ActNow BC

www.actnowbc.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



Health care is one of the most critical services that government provides, which is why the majority of new provincial funding over the next three years is dedicated to health. We are focusing on modern facilities, more health-care professionals and innovation to be certain

our health-care system is sustainable, so future generations have the same quality, public health care we enjoy today.

To ensure we have the health professionals we need, we've doubled the number of first year medical spaces, doubled nurse training spaces and created a three-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree — and we're opening another new medical program in Kelowna.

Last year saw the opening of the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre — B.C.'s first new regional hospital in over three decades. We're also building and expanding hospitals across the province — including in Victoria, Vernon, Kelowna, Surrey and Fort St. John.

Innovation is critical in health delivery. The Medicare Protection Act obliges us to deliver health services in keeping with the five principles of the Canada Health Act, with a new sixth principle of sustainability. We are committed to making improvements that embrace individual choice, personal responsibility, innovation, transparency and accountability for the benefit of patients.

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia

SERVICE BC
(For information on any provincial government service or program)
Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7867
Telephone device for the deaf (TDD) in B.C.: 1 800 661-8773
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BUILDING THE FUTURE

FOR PATIENTS



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HEALTH-CARE RESEARCH CHAIRS

Seven B.C. Leadership Chairs, funded in perpetuity through the Province's Leading Edge Endowment Fund, have been appointed to lead world-class research into:

- » prostate cancer and functional cancer imaging
- » depression and addictions
- » new drugs to treat diseases like osteoporosis, cancer, Alzheimer's and heart disease
- » better treatments for children affected by brain-related conditions like Down syndrome, autism and dyslexia
- » spinal cord injuries

TRAINING MORE DOCTORS AND NURSES

We recognize health care providers are critical to building and maintaining a strong health care system. We are committed to training more doctors and nurses. We've doubled the number of spaces for nursing students and first year medical students. More than 1,100 training spaces have been added for allied health professionals and over 550 for residential care aides.

We expanded UBC's medical school to universities in Victoria and Prince George. With the new UBC-Okanagan medical program in Kelowna, 288 doctors will graduate each year. The three-year accelerated nursing degree programs will get nurses into the workforce sooner with significant on-the-job training. We are removing barriers to international medical graduates and health professionals practicing in B.C. The number of residency positions for foreign-trained doctors has tripled. Of the record 632 physicians licensed in 2008, 42 per cent were international medical graduates.

NEW HOSPITALS ACROSS B.C.

The Province continues to invest in modern, state-of-the-art facilities to ensure British Columbians receive safe, high-quality patient care.

Over the next three years, our health-care system will benefit from a \$2.9 billion health sector capital plan.

New hospital projects across the province include:

- » 500-bed patient care centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria.
- » Patient care towers at Vernon Jubilee Hospital and Kelowna General Hospital.
- » 188,000-square-foot Surrey Outpatient Hospital.
- » 55-bed hospital and 123-bed senior's residential care facility in Fort St. John.

We are implementing the recommendations outlined in the Northern Cancer Control Strategy, including the construction of a cancer centre in Prince George and the enhancement of 11 community cancer clinics across the Northern Health Authority.

This will further improve care and access close to home for residents of all northern communities.

INNOVATIONS TO IMPROVE CARE

Total spending on health care has increased by nearly 70 per cent since 2000-01, from \$9.4 billion to \$15.9 billion this year. Funding alone cannot sustain our health-care system due to aging demographics and the increased costs of medical technologies and pharmaceuticals. We have to look at new and innovative ways to approach the delivery of health care in B.C.

We have initiated pay-for-performance pilots in emergency departments of four Vancouver Coastal Health acute care hospitals, resulting in a decrease in patient wait times despite an increase in patient volume. This program is now being expanded to four Fraser Health emergency departments.

We launched the Centre for Surgical Innovation at UBC Hospital in 2006 to help clear backlogs using a specialized hip and knee surgery unit. Since 2001, we have decreased median waits for hip replacements from 18.7 to 10 weeks and waits for knee replacements from 25.4 to 13 weeks.

We have expanded the role of B.C. pharmacists, permitting them to renew and adapt routine prescriptions, making it easier for patients with chronic illnesses to manage their conditions. Under the new rules, pharmacists are able to adjust the prescribed dosage or substitute selected drugs, where it is appropriate, for example, to minimize side effects.

Since 2001 we've committed over \$400 million to improve and expand more than 30 emergency departments across the province. Almost half of all surgeries in British Columbia are performed as an emergency or urgent surgery, and are never wait-listed.

