

# Ministry of Health Planning

## 2002/03 - 2004/05 Service Plan Summary

### **Mission**

The joint mission of the Ministry of Health Planning and the Ministry of Health Services is to guide and enhance the province's health services in order to ensure British Columbians are supported in their efforts to maintain and improve their health. The top priorities of the two health ministries will be to fulfill the government's New Era vision of saving and renewing public health care and providing high-quality public health care services that meet patients' most essential needs.

### **Strategic Shifts**

The major strategic shifts being undertaken and the new core businesses for the health ministries have been developed to meet the New Era goals of providing high-quality patient-centred care, improving the health and wellness of British Columbians, and creating affordable and sustainable public health care. Significant, system-wide changes, clearly defined strategies and new long-term plans are needed to realize the New Era vision and goals.

These changes are also essential if the major problems plaguing B.C.'s health system are to be overcome and if B.C. is to attain a sustainable and affordable public system for the future. The current health system has been poorly managed and organized resulting in fragmented and inflexible delivery of services, waitlists in many areas, and a shortage of key health professionals. Our publicly funded system also has a finite ability to respond to the ever-growing list of demands from the public and from health providers. We are developing a better balance between what people want and their real health needs, what the system can realistically offer and what the province can afford to provide.

The B.C. government's vision and goals for saving and renewing public health care are reflected in the strategic shifts, the restructuring of the system and the health ministries, and the major initiatives outlined in this three-year service plan.

The strategic shifts are:

#### **Better Planning and Management**

##### **From:**

- A fragmented system
- Inadequate focus on patient's needs
- Little accountability for patient outcomes
- Inadequate financial control
- Lack of clear performance objectives and clear results

##### **To:**

- A planned and well managed system
- Responsive to patient and population needs
- Accountable to the public for results
- Financial control through strong performance contracts between Health Authorities and the ministry which require successful outcomes and results

#### **Meeting Patients' Real Health Needs**

##### **From:**

- Ever-expanding scope of health sector
- Unlimited expectations of consumers

##### **To:**

- A system that meets the real health needs of patients and the population, quickly, effectively and efficiently

- Meeting demands regardless of cost or demonstrated benefit

## **Long-term Sustainability**

### **From:**

- Escalating costs and limited resources leading to reduced access to needed care

### **To:**

- Sustainable system in which responsibility for appropriate use of health care services is shared among government, public, providers, and patients
- Efficient allocation of resources with consideration for economies of scale, scope and labour implications

## **Core Business Areas**

The Ministry of Health Planning was created in June, 2001 to provide a stronger focus and more sustained efforts towards proper long-term planning for B.C.'s health system, and to introduce new measures and expectations that will make the health system more accountable to British Columbians for the quality and effectiveness of the services it provides. The Health Planning ministry will also give health promotion and prevention activities a higher priority both as a means of improving the health and wellness of British Columbians, and as a means of creating a more sustainable system for the future. Having a ministry dedicated to long-term health planning, creating a more accountable and sustainable health system, and a healthier population, are key to achieving the government's New Era vision and goals for health.

### **1. Long-Term Planning, Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations**

This division, in collaboration with health care providers and others, develops long-term plans, establishes the broad accountability framework for the system and develops specific standards for outcomes and performance. The division also develops the policy, legislation and intergovernmental positions that allow these plans, standards and positions to be acted upon. This focus on long-term planning and the policy and legislative arrangements through which the plans can take shape supports improved management of the system. The focus on standards (including wait time standards, standards for care and standards for access) will assist in quality improvement, transparency, equity of access and accountability.

### **2. Strategic Change Initiatives**

This division will oversee specific projects designed to improve quality, access or efficiency. Working with staff from both ministries of health, other ministries of government, health care providers, administrators and researchers, the unit will undertake time-limited management projects and provide project management expertise for all areas of the health ministries.

### **3. Office of the Provincial Health Officer And Population Health & Wellness**

Under the leadership of the Provincial Health Officer and working with the new health authorities, specific population health and wellness initiatives will be pursued which will help improve the health status of British Columbians. The PHO's priorities will also inform the ministry's work in long-term planning and strategic change initiatives by calling attention to urgent and emerging health issues.

## Major Initiatives

Numerous major strategic initiatives will be pursued in the next three years, with many of these projects beginning in 2002. Some of these include: a 10-year human resource strategy to enable B.C. to increase the numbers of health professionals to meet future needs; implementation of performance management and accountability strategies that will create equitable access to services and improved patient outcomes; and strategies to improve access to specialized health services regardless of where patients live.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Health Services, new Primary Care Renewal and Chronic Disease Management strategies are being developed and specific primary health care projects launched. These new services will ensure more people in communities throughout B.C. have access to around the clock care outside of hospitals, while offering better support to those British Columbians living with chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

And with Population Health and Wellness programs being transferred to the Ministry of Health Planning, there will be a new provincial Prevention and Wellness strategy developed in 2002-03. This strategy will focus on renewed efforts in illness and disease prevention, and targeted health promotion, disease and injury prevention activities designed to improve the health status of British Columbians and reduce costs to the health system.

All of these initiatives will be key to fulfilling the New Era goals of providing high quality patient-centred care, improving the health and wellness of British Columbians and building a sustainable, affordable public health care system.

## Ministry Resources – Health Services and Health Planning

	Fiscal Year				Percent Change 2001/02 to 2004/05
	(Restated Estimates) 2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE (million \$)</b>					
<b>Health Services</b>					
One-time Funding	6	0	0	0	-100.0%
All Other Programs	9,510	9,520	9,521	9,521	0.1%
<b>Health Services Total</b>	<b>9,516</b>	<b>9,520</b>	<b>9,521</b>	<b>9,521</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Health Planning</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-38.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,542</b>	<b>9,537</b>	<b>9,537</b>	<b>9,537</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
<b>FTES</b>					
<b>Health Services:</b>					
- Emergency Health Services	1,819	1,759	1,759	1,759	-3.3%
- Transfer of Addictions Serv.	159	0	0	0	-100.0%
- Corporate & Program Mgmt.	1,350	1,027	877	816	-39.6%
<b>Health Services Total</b>	<b>3,328</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>- 22.6%</b>
<b>Health Planning</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>-43.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,561</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>2,768</b>	<b>2,707</b>	<b>-24.0%</b>

## **Attachment 1**

### **Government Priorities relating to Ministry of Health Planning**

#### **New Era Commitments Achieved/In Progress**

- Maintain this year's overall \$9.5 billion budget for health.
- Expand training programs for care aides, licensed practical nurses and registered nurses, in collaboration with universities, colleges and institutions.
- Develop a Rural and Remote Training program that provides forgivable loans to BC students attending accredited nursing and medical schools who agree to practice in a rural or remote community in BC.
- Introduce a Rural and Remote Training Support program that provides financial and travel assistance to health care providers who want to update or upgrade their skills and training.
- Repeal legislation that allowed government to expropriate community health facilities without compensation.
- Work with Health Services to develop a planning framework for mental health, intermediate, long term and home care.
- Ensure that BC health care is universal, accessible, portable, comprehensive and publicly administered, consistent with the five principles of the Canada Health Act.
- Work to minimize inter-jurisdictional overlaps that are adding confusion and costs to health care delivery.
- Work with doctors, pharmacists and others to find a cost effective alternative to reference based pricing.
- Provide assistance and opportunities to help nurses develop the specialized skills needed in intensive care.
- Launch a massive recruitment drive to bring non-practising RNs and LPNs back into our health care systems.
- Increase locum support to relieve pressure and reduce workloads to enhance health care professionals' quality of life.
- Intensify efforts to promote wellness and preventative care through better education, dietary habits and physical activity.
- Ensure that appointees to regional health boards are representative of their communities' needs and accountable for their performance in meeting provincial health standards.
- Increase the number of medical school graduates over the next 5 years.

## **New Era Commitments Included in 02/03 – 04/05 Service Plan**

- Establish provincial health standards that ensure all citizens are entitled to equitable, reliable, high quality health services.
- Develop a 10-year human resources plan.
- Develop a sound Strategic Plan for the Health Sector.
- Work with front line health care professionals to act on their ideas for maximizing the value to patients of every health dollar spent.
- Develop a Hospital Facilities Plan that identifies each health region's key capital requirements and funding priorities.
- Develop a Medical Machinery and Equipment Plan that ensures existing medical diagnostic and care equipment is adequately staffed, fully utilized and properly maintained and that provides for future investments in new equipment and technologies.
- Develop a comprehensive Technology Plan to assist health care professionals in delivering faster, more effective treatment to patients through new information technology and telemedicine.
- Develop an Intermediate and Long Term Care Facilities Plan that addresses the needs of our ageing population and frees up existing acute care beds.
- Develop performance measures that are annually audited and publicly reported for each health standard.
- With Intergovernmental Relations and Finance, and other provinces negotiate with the federal government to restore all the health care funding withdrawn through budget cuts.
- Increase the number of residency positions in BC's hospitals in the next 5 years.
- Replace obsolete hospital and ambulance equipment and ensure all equipment is fully utilized and properly maintained.
- With Ministry of Children and Family Development, increase emphasis on early childhood intervention programs for families with special needs children.
- Enhance preventative drug and alcohol efforts, such as addiction counseling for new mothers and the reduction of fetal alcohol syndrome.

## **Key Projects Included in 02/03 – 04/05 Service Plan**

- Develop an accountability framework for Boards and an appropriate/effective appointment process with identification of clear expectations and performance measures.
- Review the Medical Services Commission structure and recommend new structures as appropriate.
- Work with Board Resourcing & Development on Health Board appointments.

- Recommend a framework for delivery of provincial programs.
- Recommend appropriate governance model for licensing functions.
- Develop a framework for financial and human resource allocation, including capital and equipment.
- Co-operate with the Ministry of Children and Family Development on early childhood development initiatives.