

Backgrounder: Alberta Liberal Action Plan for Health Care

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The Alberta Liberals believe that an investment in a healthy Alberta is an investment that will pay off in the long term. This plan is about directing resources to meet the needs of Albertans. It's time to bring stability back to the system.

- Expand health facilities to **increase access**, including building a new facility for the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary and redeveloping the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.
- **Improve access** by increasing funding to train more nurses, doctors and health care professionals, so that we can staff initiatives including the planned new 600 acute care beds in the Capital Region.
 - Cost: \$60 million
 - The Alberta Liberals are committed to increasing training spaces for health care professionals and will work in consultation with post-secondary institutions to increase capacity at a reasonable and sustainable rate.
- **Keep Albertans healthier**
 - **Establish a Community Wellness Fund** to support programs on promoting health, supporting public health initiatives and health promotion research.
 - Cost: \$200 million, using taxes from tobacco sales.
 - **Conduct health impact assessments** on major developments to protect the health of Albertans.
 - This will ensure that government decisions that could affect the health of Albertans are subject to the greatest scrutiny to promote the protection, enhancement and sustainability of the health of Albertans.
 - No significant cost
- **Reduce wait times** through measures such as Community Health Centres
 - Cost: \$50 million
 - By giving patients convenient, flexible access to physicians, community health centres could also reduce overcrowding in hospital emergency rooms.
- **Manage health system costs** through measures including the implementation of a public pharmacare program
 - Cost for introducing a public pharmacare program: \$165 million
 - This program will save the system money through new models for purchasing and covering medication.
- **Improve continuing care**, including through the establishment of province wide standards and proper enforcement.
 - Cost: \$108 million

It's time.
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- **Increased support for home care and palliative care programs**
 - Cost: \$20 million
- **Immediately eliminate health care premiums**

Total operational costs of Action Plan for Health (not including health care infrastructure projects): \$455 million in the first year, rising to \$630 million by year three.

- This is just a 4% increase to the total budgeted operational expenditures for Alberta Health and Wellness in 2007/08
- This is less than half the \$996 million increase the Stelmach government made to operational expenditures for Alberta Health and Wellness in 2007/08 over 06/07 levels.

Total Alberta Liberal commitments to health care infrastructure projects: \$2.1 billion

- Nearly \$700 million for the South Health Campus in Calgary.
 - While the Tory government approved this funding on June 7, 2007, former premier Klein identified the construction of this facility as a priority nearly 10 years ago. Only now has construction on this facility even begun. Unlike the current Tory government, we will stop the dithering and get down to getting this hospital built. Total cost for the project is \$1.25 billion. Our cost takes into account that the Tory government, prior to June 2007, already approved \$552 million for this project.
- Nearly \$644 million for a new cancer centre in Calgary
 - The Tom Baker Cancer Centre is operating well over capacity and a new cancer centre is needed to serve Albertans and allow Alberta to become a world leader in cancer research. This cost was initially outlined in the Alberta Cancer Board's Capital Report. Costs have since risen to \$1.2 billion for the project over five years. The Alberta Liberals are committed to this project and will provide \$644 million over the next three years to begin construction on the centre.
- \$300 million in funding to expand the number of long-term care beds in the province.
 - The Government of Alberta announced these additional dollars in the lead up to the election. Improving access to long-term care is a priority for the Alberta Liberals and we will follow through on this commitment.
- \$260 million towards the redevelopment of the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.
 - The current government Tory government committed to phase one of the redevelopment of the Medicine Hat hospital on January 31, 2007, just days before the election was called but did not provide any costs or details. The Alberta Liberals are committed to this project and are committing the dollars needed for the project.
- An additional \$81 million towards a new hospital in Grande Prairie.
 - The current government committed \$250 million towards this project as part of Budget 2007. We will provide additional funding required to complete this project.
- \$75 million towards the construction of new community health centres in the province.
 - This funding will provide an estimated three new community health centres.