

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Budget 2014–2015 will place the focus firmly on patients and families. Our funding will be focused on front-line care so that more of our health-care dollars can be spent on shorter wait times and improved health outcomes for those with chronic disease.

We will invest more to attract and keep physicians and encourage new medical graduates to remain in our province, bringing us closer to the goal of ensuring every Nova Scotian has a family doctor.

Budget 2014–2015 will help families and children stay healthy by increasing the age of dental eligibility, developing a dementia strategy, and improving access to cancer and other drugs.

- Move forward with a provincial approach to health-care delivery and reduce the number of district health authorities from 10 to 2 to put more focus on front-line care
- Continue to support programs to train, recruit, and hire physicians, with a particular emphasis on rural and remote areas (\$10.6 million)
- Work to meet the national standard for hip and knee replacement wait times (\$4.2 million)
- Improve access to cancer and other drugs including Lucentis and Avastin (\$1.9 million)
- Continue to support home care services, allowing older Nova Scotians to stay in their homes longer (\$32.6 million)
- Create a Chronic Disease Innovation Fund to encourage new, leading-edge ideas and approaches (\$300,000)
- Increase the age of eligibility of the children's dental program to 14 (\$525,000)
- Expand the Boarding, Transportation and Ostomy program to help patients in need get to their medical appointments, purchase supplies, and stay near the hospital when traveling to receive care (\$85,000)
- Develop a provincial Dementia Strategy (\$50,000)