

Health and Wellness

Nova Scotians invest greatly in their health system, yet the province faces significant economic, fiscal and demographic challenges that put exceptional pressure on that investment. Budget 2015–2016 will ensure the more than four billion in health dollars are spent wisely to address the health needs of the population today, and in the future.

A unified health-care system

The quality of health-care services can only improve if we have a well-organized, effectively managed, unified health system.

- The Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) came into place April 1, 2015, with a new, streamlined leadership team and volunteer board
- Work with the NSHA and IWK Health Centre to develop the province's first, multi-year provincial health plan that will ensure the most effective and efficient use of system resources to improve health outcomes
- Continue to work under the Collaborative Care Framework and the Physician Resource Plan to ensure health providers are working where they are needed most, and introduce a renewed provincial Nursing Strategy
- \$2.6 million to develop the One Person One Record plan, a single, secure electronic record that connects all of a person's health information from health sectors
- Review the mandate and structures of the Department of Health and Wellness and implement changes that will align with the new health system

Healthy communities

The health and wellness system includes the delivery of health care as well as the prevention of disease and injury, and the promotion of health and healthy living.

- \$700,000 to expand the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program to two more areas
- \$2 million more to help address orthopaedic surgery wait times, providing 450 more surgeries (\$6.2 million over past two years)
- Increase age of eligibility from 19 to 25 years for insulin-pump funding
- Expand vaccinations for meningococcal meningitis, including introducing the quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine in the school program
- Add the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) for Grade 7 males through the school program
- Provide Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention to meet the needs of pre-schoolers with autism preparing to enter school
- \$1 million to implement the Trauma Informed Care recommendations from the Davidson Report on youth mental health services

Supporting seniors and their caregivers

As government strives to further expand care at home and reduce reliance on residential care, it is imperative that all continuing-care services be effective, efficient and sustainable.

- \$1.8 million to provide the Caregiver Benefit to support 385 more families (additional funding)
- \$3.8 million for home-care services (additional funding)
- Explore the opportunity to improve delivery and enhance the quality of home-care services across the province through a request for proposals
- Introduce a dementia strategy and refresh the continuing care strategy
- Continue to implement changes to long-term care policies to reduce the wait