

NOVA SCOTIA BUDGET BULLETIN

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-08



Healthy Communities

Quality health care continues to be an important priority for the Government. To provide the programs and services that Nova Scotians count on, we must invest our money wisely. Healthcare spending has been increasing by over eight percent each year for the past ten years, or about 48 per cent of the provincial budget. We cannot sustain this growth rate. This year, we are increasing the health care budget by about five per cent—which equates to an additional \$140 million for the health care priorities that are important to Nova Scotians. Overall, we are allocating more than \$3 billion to Health and Health Promotion and Protection—more than ever before.

To better respond to the needs of patients and families living with cancer, \$2.7 million will be allocated for oncology operations at Capital Health and the Cape Breton District Health Authority. Another \$300,000 will be spent on a colorectal screening program as recommended by Cancer Care Nova Scotia.

Prevention is a critical component of our health care system. Working within a federal program, almost \$3 million will be spent to vaccinate girls and young women against the Human Papilloma-Virus—known to cause almost all cervical cancers—which kills 400 Canadian women every year.

This year \$5 million will be spent to develop a new Pharmacare program for Nova Scotians without drug insurance. Once it's in place, this would almost double the number of Nova Scotian families eligible for coverage by a provincial pharmacare program. In total, \$189.6 million will be spent on Pharmacare, including \$134.9 million for Senior's Pharmacare (an increase of \$10 million over last year); almost \$53 million for income assistance recipients and their dependents; and \$2 million for children of low income parents.

The province will invest \$755,000 to improve environmental health protection activities across government—which includes additional funding for staff to promote food and drinking safety water standards.

The Nova Scotia logo, featuring a stylized bird or wing above the text 'NOVA SCOTIA'.