

For Immediate Release
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**MINISTER ABBOTT MUST STOP KEEPING SECRETS AND
RELEASE FULL LETTER – DIX**

VICTORIA – The impact of government budget decisions on patient care in the Fraser Health region cannot be kept secret from the public in the lead-up to the Conversation on Health in Surrey, Opposition Health Critic Adrian Dix said today.

Adrian Dix's comments come after a heavily censored version of former-Fraser Health Authority Chair Keith Purchase's resignation letter was released by the Ministry of Health.

"The letter contains important information about patient care and the impact of B.C. Liberal budget decisions," said Dix. "This information should not be hidden from the public. The people in the Fraser Health region need to know the truth.

"The extent of the information cut from the letter shows that the Minister of Health, George Abbott, is more interested in keeping secrets instead of being open and accountable about the impact of the Campbell government's actions," said Dix.

Dix has written to David Loukidelis, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, asking for a review into the sections of the letter removed from public scrutiny.

"I ask that, in reviewing this request, you consider the importance of a timely release of these records in order to ensure that the public interest is upheld, especially in light of the coming 'Conversation on Health' in Surrey," Dix wrote in his letter to the Privacy Commissioner.

"Minister Abbott has got to stop keeping secrets from the public regarding his government's failures in health care," said Dix. "Mr. Purchase will have important insight into the impact of budget decisions on patient care – insight that the public deserve to know about."

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