

## *Media Release*

**For Immediate Release**  
**February 8, 2007**

### **ABBOTT'S SECRECY UNDERMINES PUBLIC CONVERSATION ON HEALTH**

**VICTORIA** – It is unacceptable that the Minister of Health covered-up important information regarding health care in the Fraser Health region, Opposition Health Critic Adrian Dix said today.

“Today the Vancouver Sun gave the public some insight into what the government tried to hide when it censored the resignation letter from former Fraser Health Authority Chair Keith Purchase,” said Dix. “The Minister has some explaining to do on why his Ministry censored the letter.”

In his resignation letter Mr. Purchase warned the government about impacts to patient care, bed closures and service cuts as a result of government under-funding. “The letter talked about issues the Minister doesn’t want the public to know about, so he attempted to omit that crucial information,” said Dix.

“The Minister cannot pick and choose the information he wants the public to know, just because it is critical of his government,” said Dix. “That is not what our privacy laws are there for.”

Dix has written to the Information and Privacy Commissioner today requesting an investigation into the severing of the letter.

“The public are gathering for the Conversation on Health in Surrey this weekend in good faith, with the expectation that their input on health care in their community will matter,” said Dix. “It is the government that is not coming to this conversation in good faith – and has little intention of listening to concerns the public may raise.”

- 30 -