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ALL FRASER HEALTH HOSPITALS FACE FUNDING SHORTFALLS

VICTORIA – Fraser Health Authority’s funding shortfall has put all of the region’s 14 hospitals in a deficit position, Opposition Health Critic Adrian Dix revealed today.

In an email to hospital staff, Langley Memorial Hospital Executive Director Leanne Heppell wrote “All Fraser Health hospitals are in a deficit position and need to reduce their deficits.” Ms. Heppell’s email came in response to doctors at Langley Memorial speaking out on funding shortfalls and service cuts last week

“There has been lots of talk about the impact of the B.C. Liberal funding crunch on the Fraser Health Authority, but now we see the real extent of the problem,” said Dix. “This is the fastest growing region in the province – yet according to senior management, all 14 of its hospitals are facing funding shortfalls as a result of the Campbell government’s imposed funding crunch.”

“It is very clear that Health Minister George Abbott has missed the mark in funding for the health authority,” said Dix. “When every hospital is forced to rein in spending because of under-funding you’ve got a problem – a problem that will affect patient care and services.

“The real question is how many people need to speak out before the Health Minister and the Campbell government begin to pay attention,” said Dix. “The chair of Fraser Health resigned after he and the CEO of Fraser Health, Keith Anderson, warned of bed closures and service cuts.

“Doctors are sounding the alarm, and now it comes out that every hospital in the region is facing budget restraints.

“It is patients who suffer from under-funding, but the Campbell government doesn’t seem to care” said Dix. “The Health Minister George Abbott is making a drastic mistake by not providing adequate funding to this region.”

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