

**For Immediate Release**  
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**NDP BLASTS CAMPBELL GOVERNMENT FOR BREAKING PROMISES TO INTERIOR**

**VICTORIA**— New Democrat Health Critic Adrian Dix blasted the Gordon Campbell government today in the wake of statistics showing the result of yet one more broken promise.

According to the B.C. Health Coalition, there are 360 fewer residential care beds in the Interior Health region than there were in 2001, despite the Campbell government's promise to build 5,000 new spaces by 2006.

"Of course we already knew that promise had been abandoned – the government had admitted they had failed to meet that target years ago," said Dix, the MLA for Vancouver – Kingsway.

"But the numbers that came out today show the depth of the mismanagement," Dix said. "Not only have they utterly failed to live up to their 2001 commitment, the Campbell government has made the problem worse for Interior families.

"We've heard story after story about families being unable to find appropriate care for their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. These numbers don't tell the whole story, but they do put it into context."

The Kootenay – Boundary region alone lost more than 200 spaces in the past six years. There are more than 150 fewer spaces in the East Kootenay region.

"This is emblematic of the Campbell government's mismanagement of public health care," said Seniors' Health Critic Guy Gentner. "They have broken their promise on long-term care beds, which has led to a serious backlog in acute care beds.

"And all the while, we have a Health Minister who pretends everything's fine, even as seniors and their loved ones suffer," said Gentner, the MLA for Delta – North. "British Columbians deserve better health care than they're getting from the Campbell government."

- 30 -