

**For Immediate Release
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B.C. INVESTS LESS IN HEALTH CARE THAN CANADIAN AVERAGE

VANCOUVER—The Campbell government's shrinking investment in health care drops B.C. from second to sixth place among Canadian provinces and ninth place over all, New Democrat Health Critic Adrian Dix said today.

"In 2002, B.C. ranked second among Canadian provinces in health spending per capita. We are now barely ahead of Nova Scotia," said Dix. "Everybody knows that you can't do as well in sixth place as you can in second."

The new figures were released today by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) in its annual report on health care spending. The report, *National Health Expenditure Trends, 1975-2007*, is Canada's most comprehensive source of information tracking how dollars are spent on health care in this country.

Dix pointed out another disturbing B.C. trend noted in the CIHI report. While the ratio of public-sector to private-sector spending on health care is expected to remain relatively stable in the rest of Canada for the 11TH consecutive year, here in B.C. the share of private health spending has risen disproportionately.

"The CIHI report confirms what health care workers, patients and the Opposition already knew – B.C. Liberals have their priorities wrong.

"We can do better in British Columbia. We must have a government that's committed to improving and investing in our public health care system," said Dix.

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