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ABBOTT MUST MAKE RESULTS OF COPEMAN INVESTIGATION PUBLIC

VICTORIA—Health Minister George Abbott must make public the results of an investigation into extra billing practices at the Copeman Clinic, New Democrat Health critic Adrian Dix said today.

“In March 2006, after a year of inaction, the Campbell government asked the Medical Services Commission to investigate whether or not Copeman violated the *Medicare Protection Act* by billing British Columbians for services covered by the Medical Services Plan,” said Dix.

“We have reason to believe that this investigation is complete and the decision has already been made. But the Ministry of Health is refusing to make this information public. According to the Minister, the only person who has a right to know the results of the investigation is the private operator, Mr. Copeman.”

Dix pointed to a letter the Opposition received from Minister of Health George Abbott that confirms the Ministry’s policy to withhold this information from the public.

“This letter says that if a patient wants to make a complaint about extra billing, they don’t have a right to know if their complaint will be investigated, whether the complaint has merit and what the outcome of that complaint is,” said Dix. “That’s wrong.

“The public has a right to know the results of investigations into extra billing. I am calling on the Minister of Health to commit today to make these decisions, and the reasons behind them, public,” said Dix.

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