

**For Immediate Release**  
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**HEALTH MINISTER THROWS IN THE TOWEL, SAYS DIX**  
**Abbott tells British Columbians to expect less health care in future**

**VANCOUVER** – In the face of cancelled and delayed surgeries, hallway medicine and code oranges, Health Minister George Abbott is suggesting that British Columbians can expect no help from their government, says New Democrat Health Critic Adrian Dix.

"The Minister of Health is telling British Columbians that the B.C. Liberal promise of timely health care is no longer valid, and the reason is the Campbell government's refusal to properly fund health care services," Dix, the MLA for Vancouver – Kingsway, said today.

"Despite its ability to fund growing demand for health care, the Campbell government has dropped from second place to seventh place in per capita health care funding, according to the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Now George Abbott is telling British Columbians that he is giving up on improving health care," he added.

In recent comments to the media around the province, Abbott has warned that this demand problem – code oranges and cancelled surgeries – will not go away for "the next 40 years." He added: "Anyone who thinks this problem is going to go away is dreaming."

"The Campbell government has known since its first day in office seven years ago that it would face growing demand for health care, and its response to this challenge has been totally inadequate," Dix said.

B.C. has dropped to 1.8 acute care and rehabilitation beds per 1,000 population, which compares to the Canadian average of 3.0, Dix said. The Fraser Health Region has fallen to 1.43 acute care and rehab beds per thousand people, a situation that will worsen in the coming years, he added.

"We are a wealthy and dynamic province, and we can do better. It's time for the Campbell government to stop blaming the victims of its neglect of health care."

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