

**For immediate release
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**CAMPBELL BREAKS ANOTHER PROMISE TO SURREY WITH LATEST
HOSPITAL DELAY
New Democrats blast Campbell government for delays to outpatient
building**

VICTORIA – News of yet more delays at Surrey Memorial Hospital is yet another Gordon Campbell broken promise to the people of Surrey, NDP Leader Carole James said today.

“The people of Surrey need health care, not broken promises,” said James. “The original completion date was for 2009. Now the project won’t be completed until 2011. In fact, they haven’t even begun construction.

“The people of Surrey have been waiting for the Campbell government to keep their promise and deliver on the desperately needed new outpatient building and ER,” said James. “And all we get are empty promises and excuses.”

Jagrup Brar, the MLA for Surrey-Panorama Ridge pointed out that in part the delays of the outpatient building have been caused by the government’s decision to use a P3 model for the new facility. “Instead of just getting to work building the needed facility, the Campbell government insisted on a private partnership. Which, in the end, has only served to frustrate the process – and the people of Surrey are still waiting.”

“Just last week, I grilled the Minister of Health in Legislature to confirm the completion date for the project, and all I got was vague answers,” said Brar. “And now I know why – because the real answer is more delays and more broken promises.”

“The challenges facing Surrey Memorial Hospital are well documented,” said Adrian Dix, Opposition Health Critic. “Hallway medicine, overcrowded ER, bed shortages – these problems are the fault of a government that breaks its promises and ignores crisis.”

Dix noted that by the new completion date of 2011 the Fraser Health region will be short close to 700 acute care beds.

“For years this hospital and its patients have been struggling under the failures of the Campbell government,” said Dix. “It is time that the damage done by the Campbell Liberals is repaired.”