

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Dix calls on Campbell government to fund insulin pumps for children**

**VICTORIA**— The Campbell government needs to take immediate action on funding access to insulin pumps for children with type 1 diabetes, NDP health critic Adrian Dix said today.

“Diabetes is a growing and expensive health care challenge,” said Dix, the MLA for Vancouver-Kingsway. “Insulin pumps have become widely recognized as an important treatment option for successfully managing the disease, especially for children.”

In 2006 the Ontario government started funding insulin pumps for children, and in July 2008 expanded the program to include adults. But despite the success of the program in Ontario, the Campbell government is still failing to move on introducing the program in British Columbia.

“The Campbell government has really dropped the ball on this,” said Dix. “This issue has been ‘under review’ by the Minister of Health for years now – it is time for the Campbell government to do the right thing, it is time for action.”

Dix noted that Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, along with Ontario, already make insulin pumps available to children with type 1 diabetes who qualify.

“Not all diabetics require a pump to help manage their disease, but for many the insulin pumps provide better control over the disease, ensuring more effective outcomes,” said Dix.

“The Campbell government must move ahead and put in place the funding so that children with diabetes have access to this treatment option,” said Dix. “The issue has been under review for long enough, it is time the government made sure that children have the treatment options they need for a healthy future.”

According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, there are more than 210,000 people living with diabetes in B.C, 10 per cent of whom have type 1 diabetes. People are usually diagnosed with type 1 diabetes before the age of 30, most often during childhood or their teens.

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