

Budget2015

Balancing Choices for a Promising Future

Health

As part of the Provincial Government's focus on health and wellness, Budget 2015 includes an investment of nearly \$3 billion.

Strategy and Innovation for the Delivery of Quality Health Care

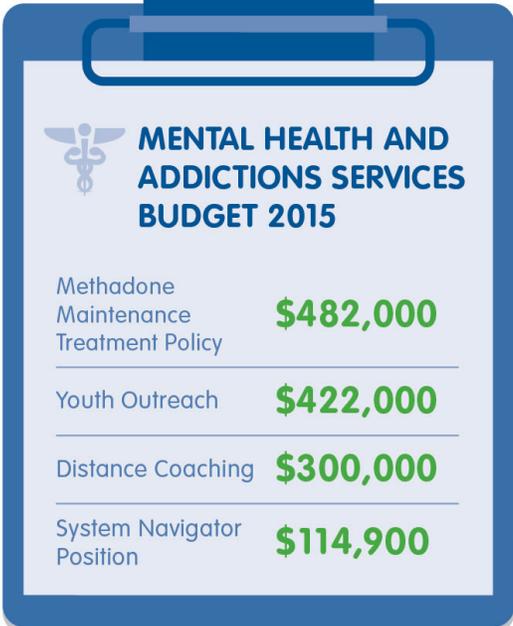
Budget 2015 provides funding for strategic health care investments, including the following:

- Approximately \$700 million for long-term care and community support services, including home support and personal care homes. As announced on Tuesday, April 28, the Provincial Government has committed to the construction of long-term care facilities in Corner Brook, Grand Falls-Windsor area, Gander area, and on the Northeast Avalon which will see a total of 360 additional long-term care beds.
- \$133.7 million to ensure access to new and modern health care facilities and equipment.
- \$938,000 to continue to advance the Strategy to Reduce Emergency Department Wait Times. To date, this strategy and investments totalling more than \$160 million has led to the province achieving some of the shortest wait times in Canada for priority medical procedures.

Enhancing Mental Health and Addictions Services

Budget 2015 includes initiatives to ensure effective mental health and addictions programs are in place for those who need them. They include:

- \$482,000 for a two-year agreement with Health Canada to fund development of a provincial Methadone Maintenance Treatment Policy to increase access to substance-abuse treatment services for youth and adults and expand the current Outcome Monitoring System for adults to include youth.



MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SERVICES BUDGET 2015	
Methadone Maintenance Treatment Policy	\$482,000
Youth Outreach	\$422,000
Distance Coaching	\$300,000
System Navigator Position	\$114,900

- \$422,000 to provide youth outreach to vulnerable and high-risk youth. This includes:
 - \$202,000 for three youth outreach workers in the Labrador communities of Nain, Hopedale and Sheshatshiu.
 - \$220,000 to Choices for Youth for youth outreach.
- \$300,000 to continue the Strongest Families Program, which provides distance-coaching for youth with mental health issues over the phone and online.
- \$114,900 in annual funding to create a provincial system navigator position, as identified in the Premier's Summit on Health Care, to assist patients and families in accessing mental health and addictions treatment.

Support for Our Most Vulnerable

Budget 2015 allocates the following to support the province's more vulnerable people:

- \$2.6 million to implement new drug therapies in the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program, including drugs for the treatment of Hepatitis C and pulmonary hypertension, as well as new cancer therapies for lung cancer and multiple myeloma. The listing of any new drug therapy is contingent on the final recommendations of the national drug review committees, and the successful negotiation of pricing agreements with the manufacturer where appropriate.
- Approximately \$180 million for the Provincial Home Support Program. In 2014-15, more than \$170 million was invested to provide home support to approximately 9,000 seniors.
- \$172,800 to add the Rotavirus vaccine to the Provincial Vaccine Program. The vaccine protects infants from gastrointestinal illness, which can lead to severe illness and hospitalization.

Better Health Care Facilities and Equipment

Since 2004, the Provincial Government has invested approximately \$1.5 billion in health care infrastructure including new facilities, repairs and renovations to existing facilities and for new equipment.

Budget 2015 includes \$133.7 million in strategic investments, including:

- \$40 million for new health care equipment.
- \$20 million for repair and renovation projects.
- \$17.3 million for continued work on the new long-term care facility in Carbonear.
- \$30 million for upgrades and redevelopments at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's.
- \$9.6 million for continued work on the replacement of the Western Memorial Regional Hospital in Corner Brook.
- \$5.8 million for continued construction of an extension of the long-term care facility in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.
- \$5 million for redevelopments and upgrades at the Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre in Grand Falls-Windsor.
- \$2.3 million to advance the development of a new health centre in Springdale.