Health and Healthy Living

Health care represents the largest portion of the provincial budget at approximately $3 billion. We are diligent in our commitment to maintain health care spending while improving access to services. Budget 2018 reflects this commitment and focuses on prevention, better outcomes and community-based care, mental health and addictions services and healthy living opportunities.

Mental Health

Budget 2018 includes investments to increase access to mental health and addictions services:

- $6.1 million towards the replacement of the Waterford Hospital and to expand mental health community support services.
- $1.7 million to implement mobile crisis intervention teams province-wide with the support of federal funding.
- $444,800 to support a dedicated intensive eating disorder unit at the Health Sciences Centre.

Through the bilateral agreement with the Federal Government, approximately $28.8 million will be invested over five years to support mental health and addictions. In 2018, $3.6 million will be invested, including:

- $1.1 million to enhance e-health initiatives province-wide.
- $460,000 for CHANNAL's Warm Line and peer support services.
- $440,000 to support continued monitoring and evaluation of the Mental Health and Addictions Plan.
- $230,000 to plan for enhanced child, youth and young adult services.
- $200,000 for the needle exchange at the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- $120,000 to increase peer support services at U-Turn.

Community-based Care

Budget 2018 supports the delivery of home and community care, and enhancements to primary health care services. Budget 2018 includes:

- $43.3 million over five years for home and community care through the bilateral agreement with the Federal Government. In 2018, $8.6 million will be invested in palliative, dementia and complex care needs.
- Ongoing expansion of primary health care services in more communities province-wide.

Infrastructure

Budget 2018 includes investments to build health care infrastructure that meets our health care needs. Budget 2018 includes:

- $8 million for the ongoing development of the new west coast regional hospital.
- $6.2 million for the development of the Green Bay Health Centre in Springdale.
Budget 2018

- $4 million for the expansion of the protective care unit at the Dr. Hugh Twomey Health Centre in Botwood.
- $3.7 million for the ongoing development of new long-term care homes in Gander and Grand Falls-Windsor.
- $3.2 million to support the development of new ambulatory care space at Carbonear General Hospital.
- $400,000 to continue construction of a new long-term care home in Corner Brook.
- $45 million for repairs and renovations, and to replace or upgrade medical equipment in health care facilities.

Healthier Living

Budget 2018 supports healthy living, sport and recreation initiatives. Budget 2018 includes:

- $1.7 million for the Community Healthy Living Fund, including funding for healthy active living programs, sport and recreation facilities and infrastructure.
- $11 million over the next three years to support construction of the Labrador Wellness Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay with $4.2 million budgeted in 2018.
- $730,000 for the Labrador Travel Subsidy program to offset costs for teams to travel to provincial championships.
- $500,000 for the 2019 Labrador Winter Games.
- $901,000 to support athletes competing at the Canada Games and other high performance sport initiatives.
- $852,000 to support physical activity and recreation programs such as Participation Nation, Healthy Students, Healthy Schools and Find Your Fit physical activity campaign.
- $756,000 for provincial recreation and sport partners to deliver programs, leadership and training at the community, regional and provincial levels.
- $250,000 for smoking cessation programs, including ongoing support for the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association Smokers’ Helpline, Alliance for the Control of Tobacco and the Provincial Smoking Cessation Program for Individuals with Low Income.
- $200,000 towards the Carrot Rewards program which encourages healthy active living behaviours.
- $130,000 to support Eat Great and Participate, to increase access to healthy food and beverage choices in recreation, sport and community facilities.
- $100,000 to support operating costs for the 2020 Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games in Bay Roberts.