



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### ***Auditor General outlines health-care funding in new information piece***

VICTORIA—Auditor General John Doyle has released a public information piece documenting the revenues and expenditures of B.C.’s health-care system, titled *Health Funding Explained*.

During the 2011/12 fiscal year, \$15.5 billion was spent on healthcare in the province, almost 40 per cent of the B.C. government’s budget. There are a number of different funding models used to deliver health-care service to residents.

“The health-care system in B.C. is large and complicated,” said Doyle. “The objective of this initiative was to study the in-and-out flows of funding through the Ministry of Health and the Health Authorities. In effect, we followed the money.”

This information piece isn’t a traditional audit; rather, it is designed to help the public and legislators understand how these health-care dollars are spent. For example, of the Ministry of Health’s \$15.5 billion budget, \$12.6 billion went to regional health authorities, which in turn spent \$7.4 billion on acute care. Other significant expenditures include payments to physicians and supplementary healthcare professionals (\$3.8 billion) and the PharmaCare prescription drug program (\$1 billion).

The piece also illuminated places where very little was spent. Population Health and Wellness, the spending area most closely associated with disease and poor health prevention, incurred less than 5 per cent of total health-care expenditures (\$536 million). This is despite the fact that promoting healthy well-being and preventing disease has been a major theme in every Throne Speech since 2008. In addition, HealthLinkBC, a program that provides health information to the public via phone, their website and printed materials like the BC Health Guide, only accounted for \$31 million of the health budget.

While *Health Funding Explained* aims to help people gain a high level of understanding of the health-care system, Doyle said more work needs to be done to truly unwind its complexity.

“In future, my Office may go more in-depth to further explain where and how our province’s health-care dollars are being spent,” he said.



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