



Better Care Sooner

The province's Better Care Sooner plan addresses emergency room closures and long waits, which plagued Nova Scotia's health-care system for years. The plan is working.

Budget 2012 makes new investments to keep emergency rooms open, to better meet patients' needs, and to reduce wait times.

Investing in Collaborative Emergency Centres

Collaborative Emergency Centres provide Nova Scotians with same-day or next-day appointments and 24/7 access to emergency care.

Budget 2012 will

- meet emergency room standards developed by Dr. John Ross—\$3 million
- provide physician oversight of Collaborative Emergency Centres—\$433,000
- increase the number of paramedics and nurses in Collaborative Emergency Centres—\$1.4 million
- announce up to four new Collaborative Emergency Centres

Better Care for Seniors—\$28 million

The province understands that more seniors want the ability to stay in their homes longer.

Budget 2012 will

- increase funding to meet the growing case load for home support visits—\$11.8 million
- provide additional in-home nursing care services—\$6.5 million
- provide additional money for home improvements to support accessibility—\$1.5 million
- help seniors better manage their mobility and medications—\$250,000
- open 76 new and 440 replacement nursing home beds in communities across Nova Scotia—\$8 million

Fair Drug Plan—savings of \$17 million

The province is protecting families and seniors from unfair drug prices. By the end of 2012–2013, the plan will save taxpayers \$17 million.

Investing in the Medicine Families Need—\$10.2 million

Budget 2012 will

- protect more than 100,000 seniors against increases to their Pharmacare premiums and copayments—\$3.3 million
- provide additional funding for Lucentis—\$1 million
- increase funding for exception drugs—\$2.9 million
- provide additional funding for oncology drugs—\$3 million

Better Hospitals and More Treatment Options—\$40.9 million

Budget 2012 will

- upgrade Cape Breton Regional Hospital, South Shore Regional Hospital, and other health-care facilities—\$22 million
- purchase new hospital equipment such as anesthesia machines, monitors, and patient beds—\$15 million
- fund design renovations at South Shore Regional Hospital—\$1.5 million
- allow more people to receive dialysis treatment at home—\$1 million
- reduce wait times for radiation therapy—\$1.1 million
- expand Digby Primary Care Clinic and upgrade Shelburne Medical Clinic—\$300,000

Health Promotion—\$12.2 million

The province understands that the best way to reduce the number of people in need of health care is to support a healthier population.

Budget 2012 will

- help children eat well, move more, and grow up healthy—\$2 million
- build physical activity facilities, including rinks, ball fields, and community recreation facilities—\$10.1 million
- allow more municipalities and aboriginal communities to hire physical activity coordinators—\$100,000

Mental Health and Addictions—\$4.2 million

Budget 2012 will

- develop and begin to implement a strategy for people living with mental health and addictions issues—\$3.8 million
- expand addictions treatment in the Annapolis Valley—\$356,000