

February 22, 2022

## 2022 BC Budget Focuses on Economic Recovery from COVID-19 and Climate Disasters

VICTORIA – The 2022 BC Budget presented on February 22, 2022 focuses spending on several key areas that impact health and wellness including reconciliation, climate change, health care, child care, affordability and homelessness.

“Overall, the [2022 budget](#) focuses on areas that impact health and wellness with funding earmarked to promote Indigenous reconciliation, combat the devastating impacts of climate change, and homelessness” said Michael Sandler, Chief Executive Officer. “While we would have liked to see greater increases in funding to combat mental health and addictions as well as more funding to address the expanding toxic drug crisis, NNPBC appreciates that this budget outlines a strategy to promote growth for the BC economy as we recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.”

A few highlights of the 2022 budget include:

- Increased funding to fight climate change and to mitigate climate related disasters
- 50 community-based sexual assault response organizations to support victims of sexual and gender-based violence
- New urgent and primary care centres being planned for Kamloops and Nanaimo
- The creation of a new Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
- A focus on creating 15 Indigenous primary care centres in collaboration with First Nations Health Authority
- Monies over five years to better connect rural, remote, and Indigenous communities to high-speed internet
- Reducing surgical wait times
- Working to ensure emergency response times are improved
- Modest investments associated with mental health, addictions, and the toxic drug crisis
- Sustained funding in areas related to COVID-19 such as
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - COVID-19 vaccinations
  - Enhanced measures to limit the risk of COVID-19 in long term care homes
- Monies over the next three years to tackle homelessness
- Enhanced access to affordable child-care, youth support and affordable housing

“NNPBC will look forward to continuing our work with government to provide nursing led solutions to these complex challenges. In collaboration with our partners and colleagues, we look forward to bringing forward ways in which we can continue to improve the lives and health of those for whom we are fortunate to provide care,” noted Sandler.

NNPBC looks forward to ongoing partnership and collaboration with the BC Ministry of Health and the BC Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions.

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