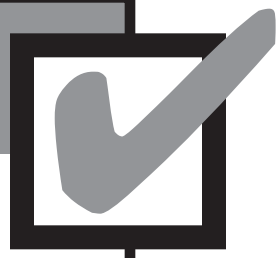


**MAY
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Make your vote count

for Health care in the Okanagan



Okanagan hard hit by Campbell's cuts

Since 2001, the Campbell Liberals have severely damaged health care in BC. Cuts and closures have left too many British Columbians – including those in the Okanagan – without the care they need, when they need it.

The Interior Health Authority axed 387 acute care beds, eliminated 716 long-term care beds, and downsized or downgraded several of its health care facilities – the most aggressive cuts in all of the BC Liberals' health authorities.

In the Okanagan Health Service Area alone, we saw a reduction of 61 acute care and 211 long-term care beds over the past four years.

Also, cutbacks to home health support programs for seniors have left the Interior 18 to 19% below the provincial average. And long-term care beds per 1,000 seniors

aged 75 and older are down by 25% – the lowest in the province.

The Interior communities – already under stress from the Campbell Liberals' negative policies on forestry, fish farming and logging – received another economic blow when hundreds of health care workers lost their jobs and thousands more had their wages slashed by 15%, causing additional hardships for health care workers, their families and their communities.

Despite the Campbell Liberals' rhetoric that BC health care workers have inflated wages by national standards, statistics show that wage rates for trades workers, renal dialysis, biomedical, cardio and pharmacy technicians are now more than 10% lower than their Alberta counterparts.

What about the rest of BC?

- 71 hospitals downgraded, downsized or closed
- 26 publicly-funded residential care homes closed
- 2,529 long-term care beds closed
- 1,279 acute care beds closed
- surgical wait lists growing
- 8,000 health care workers fired, mostly women
- home health support programs for seniors and people with disabilities 30% below national average
- and more...

Facilities Impacted

Acute Care

- Enderby & District Hospital
- closed
- Penticton Regional Hospital
- downsized
- Pleasant Valley Health Centre (Armstrong)
- downgraded and downsized
- Princeton General Hospital
- downgraded
- South Okanagan General Hospital
- downsized (maternity closed)
- Summerland General Hospital
- E.R. closed
- Vernon Jubilee Hospital
- downgraded and downsized
- and more...

Long-term Care

Closures:

- Alexander Wing Extended Care Unit (Vernon)
- May Bennet Home (Kelowna)
- Penticton Retirement Centre
- Summerland Lodge
- and more...

Gordon Campbell's Liberals

PUTTING OUR HEALTH CARE AT RISK

Authorized by the Hospital Employees' Union, Mary LaPlante registered sponsor under the Elections Act, 604-438-5000

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