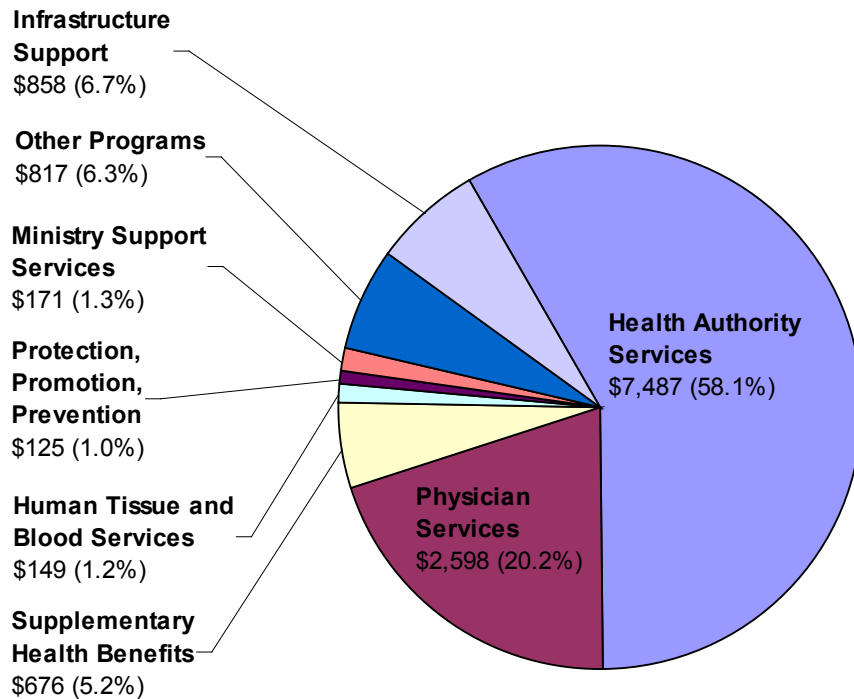


## How Funding Was Spent 2008/2009

(\$ in Millions)



**Total - \$12,881 Million**



Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

## Health and Wellness

## Annual Report Highlights 2008-2009

### Contact Us

Electronic versions of Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Report, and this Highlights brochure are available at [www.health.alberta.ca](http://www.health.alberta.ca).

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Government of Alberta

## Message from the Minister



**Ron Liepert**

Minister Health and Wellness

Considerable action was taken this year to make Alberta's publicly-funded health system more patient-focused, efficient and sustainable. The most notable change was the restructuring of Alberta's health system to a new governance model that is better serving the health needs of the province in an equitable way. An overarching strategy for the health system, called *Vision 2020* was released to chart the course for the future of health care in Alberta. With these changes, Albertans can look toward improved health care services and our continued commitment to meeting their health needs.

**Vision:** *Healthy Albertans in a healthy Alberta.*

**Mission:** *Build a high-performing, effective and accountable health system.*

### Achievements for 2008/2009

#### Goal 1: Effective governance and an accountable health system

- On May 15, 2008, government announced that one provincial governance board – Alberta Health Services – will replace Alberta's nine regional health authority boards, the Alberta Mental Health Board, the Alberta Cancer Board and the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission to ensure the provincial health system is patient-focused and provides equitable access to all Albertans.
- Funding and governance of Emergency Medical Services (ambulances) was transferred from more than 300 municipalities to Alberta Health Services on April 1, 2009.

#### Goal 2: Health system sustainability

- Health care premiums were eliminated as of January 1, 2009. This change will provide an estimated savings of almost \$1 billion annually for Albertans.
- In December 2008, government released the new *Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy* to provide an accessible, sustainable and affordable pharmaceutical system for Alberta.

#### Goal 3: Healthy people in healthy community

- The Children's Mental Health Plan for Alberta: Three Year Action Plan was released in August 2008. Government will invest more than \$50 million over three years to implement the 23 actions in the plan.
- Government announced almost \$34 million in capital funding for a new cancer radiation therapy centre in Lethbridge. The centre, which is part of the Cancer Radiation Therapy Capacity Corridor, is helping improve access to cancer treatment in southern Alberta.

#### Goal 4: Reduce harm from alcohol, other drug and gambling problems

- As part of Alberta's *Tobacco Reduction Act*, retailers across the province were required to remove all point-of-sale advertising and displays of tobacco products from their shelves. As well, the sale of all tobacco products in pharmacies, stores that contain pharmacies, health-care facilities and public post-secondary institutions was prohibited.
- As part of the Safe Communities Initiative, 20 additional residential treatment beds were opened for young adults aged 18 to 24 years – 12 beds at St. Albert's Poundmaker's Lodge and 8 beds at Aventa in Calgary.

#### Goal 5: Improved health service outcomes

- A new provincial *Continuing Care Strategy* was released in December 2008 to improve health and personal care service options for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Fifteen new telehealth projects and expansions were approved to expand delivery of health services, particularly to rural and remote communities in Alberta. Telehealth projects operate in a wide variety of clinical areas such as oncology, ophthalmology and cardiology.
- The Alberta Provincial Stroke Strategy established four new primary stroke centres to expand 24-hour access to stroke treatment.

#### Goal 6: Public confidence

- Influenza vaccine coverage was extended to include healthy children aged two to four years and healthy adults aged 50 to 64 years. Eligible groups will be able to receive the influenza vaccine through public health clinics and physician offices free of charge.
- The new Alberta Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunization Program was released and is ensuring that all girls entering Grade 5 will be eligible to receive a vaccine that will prevent HPV infection, which causes 70 per cent of all cervical cancers.