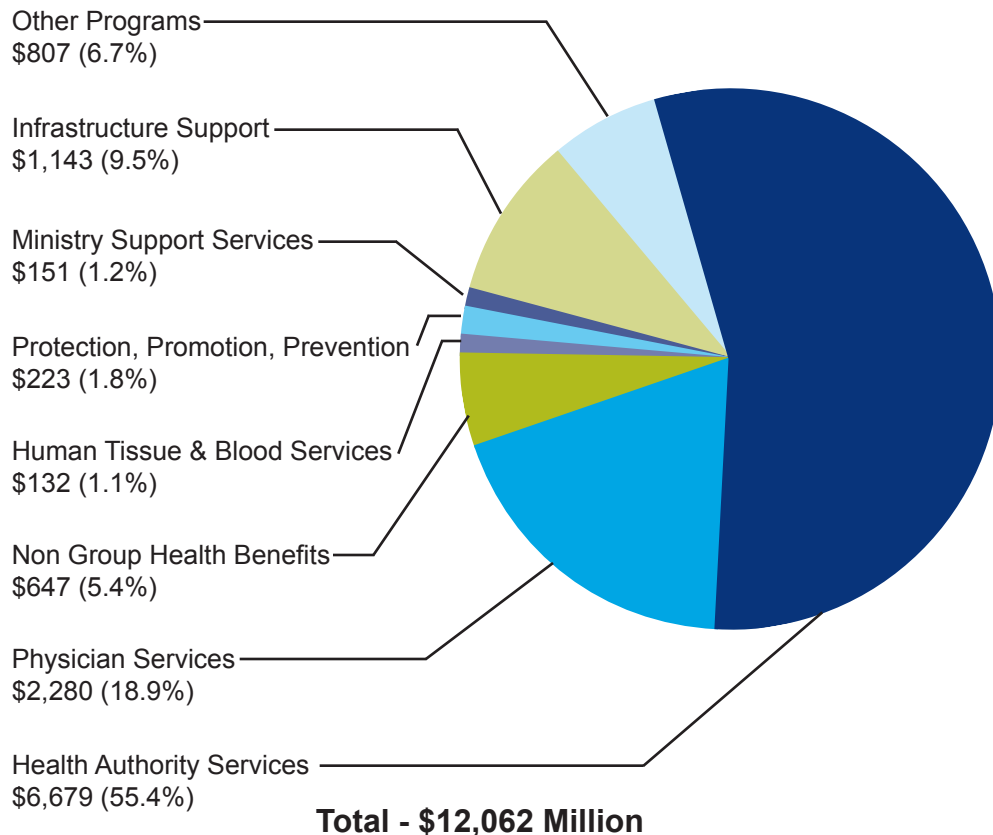


## How Funding Was Spent 2007/2008

(\$ in Millions)



# Health and Wellness

## Annual Report 2007-2008

### 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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Alberta

# Message from the Minister



**Ron Liepert**

Minister Health and Wellness

I stepped into the role of minister of Alberta Health and Wellness in March 2008 and immediately embraced the priorities outlined in the Premier's and my mandate for the ministry. During the 2007/2008 fiscal year, the health ministry faced a variety of challenges that offered a number of exciting opportunities. These opportunities paved the way for progressive actions to make Alberta's health system the best it can be. Below are some key achievements.

**Vision:** *Albertans are healthy and live, work and play in a healthy environment.*

**Mission:** *Provide leadership and work collaboratively with partners to help Albertans be healthy.*

## Achievements for 2007/2008

### Goal 1: Albertans make choices for healthier lifestyles

- The *Tobacco Reduction Act* was passed in December 2007 and provides a province-wide smoking ban in all public places and workplaces.
- Twenty-four Alberta communities were honoured by the Alberta government through the Community Choosewell Challenge for promoting healthy living among their residents.
- Healthy Kids Alberta!, a wellness framework for Alberta's children and youth, was developed. The Framework takes a determinants of health approach to support parents, families and communities in making healthy choices.

### Goal 2: Albertans' health is protected

- Government invested \$22.5 million in a new stroke network that improved the ability of health regions to work together on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of after-stroke care.
- The Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program was implemented and will strengthen breast cancer screening services throughout the province.
- A provincial infection prevention and control strategy with clear standards for patient safety was launched in January 2008.

### Goal 3: Improved access to health services

- The *Mental Health Amendment Act* was legislated, providing additional care measures for the intervention and treatment of those with mental illness.
- Government announced \$300 million to fund high priority long-term care projects that will increase bed capacity in order to address growth pressures in the health system.
- Access to immunization was improved through a new 10-year strategy to minimize the risk of vaccine preventable diseases.

### Goal 4: Contemporary health workforce

- A new Health Workforce Action Plan was implemented to recruit and retain physicians, nurses and other health care workers. The plan will increase training capacity, provide for more foreign trained health professionals to work in Alberta, and allow health professionals to work to their full scope of practice.
- Fourteen new innovative clinical Telehealth initiatives were launched, such as pediatric surgery consultations, and asthma and allergy education, to increase health services to rural and remote locations in Alberta.
- Seven new Primary Care Networks were launched in 2007/2008 bringing the total to 26 networks across the province. These networks, which provide a team based approach to providing health services, involve over 1,400 doctors and 1.4 million Albertans.

### Goal 5: Improved health service outcomes

- Continuing Care Health Service Standards were revised and re-issued in April 2007 to enhance the quality of care received in continuing care facilities.
- Compliance Assurance Units were established to monitor the Continuing Care Health Service Standards, and the Infection Prevention and Control Standards within the health regions.

### Goal 6: Health system efficiency, effectiveness and innovation

- The *Health Facilities Accountability Amendment Act* was passed which enhances accountability in the health system by clarifying roles and responsibilities of health providers, and enhances the safety and quality of health services.
- All Albertans who have received health care services in the past year now have a personal electronic health record in Alberta Netcare. Government has accomplished its goal for every Albertan to have an electronic health record by January 2008.