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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Nouveau-Brunswick | 56e | 1ère | Discours sur le budget | 17-05-2007 | Mike Murphy | Ministre de la Santé  | PL |

*(Le discours est bilingue)*

**Department of Health Hon. Mr. Murphy,** after all items under the Department of Health had been presented:

I am very pleased today to share with New Brunswickers my department’s budget estimates for the 2007-08 fiscal year. This year, Ordinary Account and capital spending in the Department of Health will reach a record level of more than $2.1 billion. Our Ordinary Account budget is $2.054 billion. In addition, we will invest another $60.47 million in capital construction projects and equipment.

I would now like to highlight some of the specific investments we will make in 2007-08 as part of our *Charter for Change.* First, on e-health, our government recognizes the vital role of electronic information and computer technology in improving the delivery and management of health care in our province. Our long-term vision is: one patient, one record. This system will link all patient information from across the health care system—from hospitals, your family doctor, your local pharmacy, and elsewhere. They will all be linked as one record. With this information, authorized health care providers will be able to access individuals’ complete health records to provide them with the care they need when they need it. Doctors will have immediate access to your prior conditions in an emergency situation. They will have access to previous test results as well. They will know if you are allergic to a certain drug, and they will know any type of precondition that you have had. It will save lives, and, in time, it will save money.

However, it is not cheap. The cost is $250 million, a massive investment for a province of our size. We have to do it; otherwise, our health system will lag behind that of the other provinces. Our government must allow this to proceed. That is why, this year, we will invest $27 million in new and ongoing e-health projects. This will include $8 million in a provincial diagnostic imaging archival system that will store, for the duration of a person’s life, all their diagnostic imaging tests. Having a provincewide system such as this will reduce the duplication of tests, which will save money and reduce wait times for tests that are needed.

This year, we will also invest more than $5 million in key components of the one-patient, one-record system. This includes an electronic health record system to link all hospitals, and a patient registry that will tie together patient information from various clinical systems. This year, we will also invest in a new Medicare information system, a prescription drug monitoring system, and other new systems within the department and the regional health authorities. Our government is committed to investing in e-health to ensure that New Brunswickers have a health system that remains the equal of others in Canada, and, in time, exceeds them all.

Un autre engagement de notre gouvernement vise à offrir à la population néo-brunswickoise l’accès à des services d’ambulance de qualité et dotés d’un personnel professionnel bien formé. Nous croyons que le regroupement des services d’ambulance sous une seule entreprise du secteur public nous offrira une plus grande possibilité d’améliorer les services d’ambulance.

Mon ministère négocie actuellement avec l’entreprise Croix Bleue Medavie en vue d’assurer la gestion quotidienne de ce système. Ces négociations sont presque terminées.

Croix Bleue Medavie exploite le système d’ambulance en Nouvelle-Écosse. Ce système est reconnu comme l’un des meilleurs au monde. Nous nous sommes fixés le même objectif pour le système d’ambulance que nous voulons établir ici. Pour ce faire, nous consacrerons une somme additionnelle de 13,7 millions de dollars pour les services d’ambulance afin de soutenir la transition à un système unique d’exploitation.

Ce financement sera utilisé pour améliorer le système, comme offrir un plus grand nombre d’heures de couverture sur place et plus de véhicules, acheter des systèmes et de l’équipement nouveaux, aider au recrutement des travailleurs paramédicaux et acheter les actifs des exploitants de services d’ambulance actuels.

New Brunswick’s Extra-Mural Program is recognized as a world leader in the delivery of health services to residents in their homes. In the *Charter for Change,* we made a commitment to enhance the Extra-Mural Program throughout the province. Today, I am pleased to announce that we will invest an additional $1.65 million annually to enhance palliative care for New Brunswickers in their homes. This funding will include additional staff.

Our government believes New Brunswickers should receive health care, including palliative care, in their communities. That is why, this year, we will invest more than $1 million to provide palliative care services in the communities of Dalhousie and Caraquet. This will involve the placement of four palliative care beds in each community, and includes renovation and staffing costs. This investment fulfils another commitment made in our *Charter for Change.*

Bon nombre de personnes au Nouveau-Brunswick souffrent de maladies chroniques qui, si elles ne sont pas bien gérées, entraîneront une détérioration de leur condition. Notre gouvernement s’engage à soutenir toutes les personnes du Nouveau-Brunswick souffrant de maladies chroniques afin de les aider à mieux gérer leur condition. Cette initiative leur permettra d’améliorer leur qualité de vie et contribuera à réduire les demandes sur le système de santé.

Ainsi, nous sommes résolus à développer un cadre stratégique pour les soins chroniques qui aidera les gens de la province à mieux gérer leur condition. C’est pourquoi nous consacrons 500 000 $ dans le budget de cette année en vue d’améliorer l’accès aux médicaments, aux fournitures et aux instruments pour les gens souffrant du diabète.

Toute personne qui a vu un membre de sa famille ou un ami atteint du cancer connaîtra l’énorme stress vécu par ces gens et leurs familles. Ces personnes ne devraient pas se préoccuper d’avoir à effectuer de longs voyages pour obtenir des traitements qui peuvent être offerts localement.

Voilà pourquoi notre gouvernement a récemment approuvé trois nouvelles cliniques d’oncologie qui serviront les patients des régions de Campbellton, de Bathurst et de Caraquet. Ces régions étaient les seuls endroits dans la province qui n’offraient pas de service de chimiothérapie aux patients.

J’ai le plaisir d’annoncer aujourd’hui un financement de 3,8 millions de dollars pour soutenir ces cliniques. Cette somme d’argent comprend 800 000 $ pour les travaux de rénovation à l’Hôpital régional de Campbellton et 3 millions de dollars pour les frais d’exploitation de ces cliniques.

I would now like to address the capital budget for 2007-08. This year, we will invest $60.47 million in construction and new equipment for the health care system. The major projects are as follows: An amount of $17 million will be invested to complete the emergency room, ambulatory care, and laboratory addition at the Moncton Hospital, which was commenced a few years ago. An amount of $6.75 million will be invested to finish building the new Waterville hospital. In addition, we have budgeted $13 million to cover increased staffing and equipment costs for the new hospital.

We will complete the new surgical suite at the Chaleur Regional Hospital in Bathurst, at a cost of $3.9 million and another $1.5 million for equipment. A sum of $2.1 million will be invested in construction related to the new fixed MRI unit at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton. In addition, we will partner with the Chalmers Hospital Foundation to purchase a new MRI unit, at a cost of $1.9 million, of which we will pay $900 000 and the foundation will pay $1 million. A sum of $1 million will be invested at the Dr. Georges L. Dumont Hospital in Moncton for renovations related to the training program for Francophone medical students in my city.

Further, recently, we have all heard of the need for additional forensic beds to address the additional number of patients being sent to the Restigouche Hospital Centre for court-ordered assessments. This year, we will invest $3.4 million to carry out the renovations that are needed for the new 20-bed forensic unit and a 2-bed seclusion area.

Finally, I am pleased today to announce that $1 million has been budgeted this year for planning and design related to a new emergency department at the Saint John Regional Hospital. This project will be undertaken in an expedited manner in order to meet the demand for emergency services in our province’s largest hospital.

These are the major investments that will be made in health care this year. If I have a moment, I will be pleased to answer any questions that my colleagues on the other side of the House might have.