



NEWS RELEASE

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Health Ministry allocating resources without essential information says BC Auditor General

VICTORIA — In his latest report to the Legislative Assembly, BC Auditor General Wayne Strelloff concluded that in the past the Ministry of Health has been allocating resources to the regional health care system without using essential cost and performance information. Instead, he found that allocations were based on historical spending levels, and that there was no clear connection between the ministry's stated objectives and its resource allocation processes. As a result, the funding system was neither understandable or transparent.

The report which focussed on fiscal years 99/00 to 01/02 states that information management had not been a priority in BC or other jurisdictions because of other demands on the system. However, with approximately \$5.9 billion allocated to the regional health care system in 2001/02 and with new technologies and other cost drivers continuing to put pressure on the health care system, Strelloff stressed that "good cost and performance information is critical to the ministry knowing if it is spending too much, too little or the right amount on the system."

Strelloff's audit focussed on the way resources were allocated to the regional health care system for the period 1999 – 2002 and assessed whether:

- the ministry had established clear direction for the regional health care system;
- the ministry was using appropriate information to support its resource allocation decisions; and
- the ministry assessed and reported on the overall performance of the regional health care system.

Strelloff made a number of recommendations in his report. He urged the ministry to implement a resource allocation model that is transparent, understandable, and that links information about performance to resource allocation decisions and choices.

The Ministry of Health Services in its response to the report stated that there have been significant organizational changes and methodological changes for resource allocation which have and will continue to address many of the issues raised in this report.

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[2001/2002 Report 6 – Information Use by the Ministry of Health in Resource Allocation Decisions for the Regional Health Care System.](#)

This report is available:

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