



Budget 2020

**Today.
Tomorrow.
Together.**

Healthy Living

In communities throughout the province, great strides have been made to get better outcomes for the considerable investment that is made in health care every year. Our approach has resulted in improved access to mental health and addictions services, as well as primary health care. While the COVID-19 global pandemic has created pressures in the health care system, our commitment to responsibly manage health care expenditures and improve access is strong.

COVID-19

To be able to quickly respond to pressures associated with COVID-19, close to \$100 million is available for such things as personal protective equipment, testing, and mobilizing efforts to support immunization in the event that a vaccine is discovered and safe for use.

Better Services; Better Outcomes

Shifting the focus from treating sickness to preventative care in the home and community is important in achieving better health outcomes. To support providers and patients in achieving our goals, Budget 2020 includes:

- ▶ \$2.3 million for 14 new drugs under the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program to treat such conditions as Parkinson's Disease, cancer and Cystic Fibrosis. This will increase to \$4.5 million next year.
- ▶ \$3.3 million annually for the recently-launched nurse practitioner virtual care service through 811.
- ▶ \$3.3 million annually for the expanded Insulin Pump Program.

Vape and Tobacco

Our government is concerned about harm caused by vaping and tobacco, particularly among youth. Smoking and vaping are significant public health concerns with long-term impacts on our health care system. Budget 2020 includes:

- ▶ 20 per cent tax on vaping products.
- ▶ 5 cent increase per cigarette and an additional 10 cents per gram on fine cut tobacco.
- ▶ More than \$1.7 million to prevent and reduce tobacco and vaping use. This approach includes community-based and school initiatives, as well as public education, Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association Smokers' Helpline and cessation supports.

Active Living and Recreation

Our government is working closely with community partners to contribute to healthier, more active communities. This year, more than \$6.4 million is being invested in a variety of programs that will support athlete and sport development, as well as encourage healthier lifestyles for people of all ages. This investment also maintains the subsidy for youth athletes from Labrador to participate in provincial championships and training camps.



Close to **\$100 million**
for COVID-19 health care
pressures



**20% Tax on Vaping
Products**
to help curb usage