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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Nouveau-Brunswick | 57e | 3e | Estimés budgétaires des dépenses en capital | 12-12-2012 | Hugh J. Flemming | Ministre de la Santé | PC |

*(Le discours est en anglais seulement)*

**Department of Health Hon. Mr. Flemming,** after the item under the Department of Health had been presented:

I am very happy to rise in the House today to present the capital estimates of the Department of Health for the upcoming fiscal year. As you know, we have a dedicated team working in the health system throughout the province. New Brunswickers can be very proud of their health professionals. They are second to none, and they offer the very best care possible.

Yesterday, my honourable colleague, the Minister of Finance, announced the capital budget for 2013-14. The capital projects of the Department of Health total $53.2 million. In these tough fiscal times, it is more imperative than ever that this money be spent wisely. That is why we are focusing on making our health care system more sustainable. Therefore, our government is investing close to $30 million in capital equipment and improvements. If we want our health care system to still be up and running for future generations, we must act now to upgrade technologies, machinery, and even buildings.

As an example, about $130 million of our hospital equipment is beyond its estimated useful life. That is cause for concern, and that is why our government has decided to do something now to change the situation before it worsens. We realize that we need to make key investments that are fiscally responsible if we want New Brunswick’s health care system to be sustainable.

As part of those strategic investments, I am particularly pleased to announce today that Perth-

Andover will have a new community hospital. We have budgeted $1 million to start planning the work on this project.

Our government will also invest $1 million at the Chaleur Regional Hospital in Bathurst to initiate a phased approach to construction so that we can address long-standing space constraints.

We are also continuing to invest in planning and design work for a new surgical suite at the Dr. Georges-L. Dumont Hospital.

The department has set $1 million aside for planning and design work to expand the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital and to establish a primary health care clinic in Fredericton. We are also continuing work with the RHA to establish a similar clinic in Oromocto.

To help fight cancer, we will invest $4 million to establish a breast health centre at the Dumont hospital, and an approximate $5 million has been budgeted for the new oncology clinic at the Moncton Hospital, which is being developed in partnership with the Friends of the Moncton Hospital.

Other projects include $300 000 for a new health centre in Stanley; $3.4 million for the Edmundston addictions centre; and $1.6 million to continue construction at the Restigouche

Hospital Center in Campbellton.

I really believe that all the projects that I have mentioned will help us rebuild New Brunswick’s health care and transform it into a sustainable and efficient system. I am now available for questions.