

Hospital Parking Motion : Carol Day

Resolution: Richmond City Council write to the Provincial Government and the Vancouver Coast Health Authority to ask the Province and VCH to provide one hour free parking for patients and family of patients at BC hospitals.

Rational: Hospital visits are stressful and parking tickets and Violation tickets make it more stressful

: Violation Tickets for running out of time, ticket not displayed properly, parking in restricted areas etc. cost \$80.00

: Failure to pay the Violation ticket results in a collection company being contracted to collect funds, which means many many phone calls from the collection company

: Infractions that can be defended require the person who has received the ticket to call the Parking company and plea their case so the penalty can be waived.

[VANCOUVER ISLAND](#)

# Province reviewing paid parking at B.C. hospitals



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VICTORIA – British Columbia Health Minister Adrian Dix says he's taking a serious look at making parking free at hospitals in the province.

"The premier takes it seriously, he's instructed me to work on it," Dix said Tuesday. "We're going to work on an issue that may not result in free parking but hopefully will result in more relief for people."

Currently, most hospital parking in B.C. is pay parking. Only two hospitals run by Island Health offer parking free of charge in Campbell River and Courtenay.

But delegates at the recent federal NDP convention in Victoria voted in support of making parking free for patients and families at hospitals across B.C.

Dix said he is reviewing the issue and says he understands why so many residents find it frustrating to pay for parking or to face fines while at the hospital.

"We're looking at the issue and taking it seriously because people in those circumstances have talked to us about it," he said.

Jon Buss founded an advocacy group, [Hospitalpayparking.ca](#), that's been pushing for free hospital parking in B.C. He calls the ongoing review a good first step.

"We need to see some action. I'd like to see the minister indicate that there's going to be some kind of schedule, some kind of actionable response."

The province currently generates about \$40 million a year through paid parking at hospitals. Island Health alone makes approximately \$8 million annually in gross revenue through parking.

Much of that revenue is used to cover the costs of maintaining lots and providing security.







Parking at VGH runs between \$3 and \$3.75 per half hour. PHOTO: DAN TOULGOET



# Hospital parking fees add to stress

## PARKING FEES ARE UNDER REVIEW BY HEALTH MINISTER

CINDY E. HARNETT | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix says the elimination of hospital parking fees is a complicated issue that he is reviewing with Premier John Horgan. But he's not promising any action.

"There's very few issues that people feel more strongly about in the health-care system than the paid-parking question," Dix said at a news conference in Victoria in November.

Hospital parking fees bring in about \$40 million in gross revenue each year across the province, up from \$15 million in 2003, Dix said.

During the NDP's recent convention in Victoria, delegates called on the province to eliminate parking fees for patients

and families. They asked that this be done in an evidence-based way to prevent abuse by those who are not patients or family members, such as people working or visiting other locations near hospitals.

A resolution passed by delegates called hospital parking fees "a hardship during some of the most stressful moments in a family's life." It also said they "give private

companies the chance to profit from parking violations incurred by sick or grieving people using a publicly run service."

Pay parking at hospitals is not

consistent on Vancouver Island. People visiting patients at Victoria General, Royal Jubilee and Saanich

Peninsula hospitals pay parking fees. At the Campbell River and Comox Valley North Island hospitals, parking is free.

"It's a challenging and it's a complicated issue that the premier has directed me to look at," Dix said. "And so we're doing that right now — and so the resolution at the party convention will inform that process as well."

On the mainland, during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, Fraser Health received nearly \$15 million in parking revenue and Coastal Health garnered about \$5.5 million. The budget of each health authority is roughly \$3.5 billion per year.

Much of the revenue from parking fees goes to hospital foundations and to support health-care services. In cases where there is a need or

*...the elimination of hospital parking fees is a complicated issue...*

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people are in hospital for a long time, health authorities frequently waive the parking fees, Dix said.

Almost all of the parking management at B.C. hospitals is contracted out. It's challenging in some communities to offer and police low-cost parking, he said.

"It's a significant concern people have. I hear about it all the time," Dix said.

Health authorities are involved in his review, Dix said. The cost of all options will be considered. Some health authorities encourage staff to take transit

to work and some have set up shuttle bus services, he said.

"It's a significant review we're taking. I've been taking the issue very seriously."

HospitalPayParking.ca, an online site aimed at ending "the obligatory pay parking trap and [advocating a] transition to something better that works for everyone," applauded the unanimous passing of the NDP convention resolution.

"Perhaps our droning on about hospital pay parking in B.C. needing

*Almost all of the parking management in B.C. at hospitals is contracted out.*

reform has finally sunk in."

Opposition health critic Norm Letnick said he raised the issue of pay parking in May and Dix said

he was reviewing it then. "The review is taking a long time," Letnick said.

The province has a responsibility "to answer the question on what it wants to do on the pay parking issue," he said, adding that he would be happy to work across party lines on a solution. **HY**

WITH FILES FROM SANDRA THOMAS

## VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH **Public Parking Rates**

FACILITY	LOT LOCATION	LOT #	FIRST 1/2 HOUR	FIRST HOUR	EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR	DAY/ EVENING RATE	24HR RATE	EVENING (5PM-6AM) & WEEKEND	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
<b>GFS</b>	GF Strong	213	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$8.50				\$115.00
<b>LGH</b>	North Shore Hospice PAY-BY-PHONE ONLY	196	\$1.75	\$3.50	\$3.50		\$14.25	\$6.00		
	LGH Main Parkade LEVEL 1-3	144	\$1.75	\$3.50	\$3.50		\$14.25	\$6.00	\$48.00	\$66.75
	LGH HOpe Centre	146	\$1.75	\$3.50	\$3.50		\$14.25	\$6.00	\$48.00	\$66.75
	LGH Evergreen House	145		\$1.75	\$1.75		\$14.25	\$6.00	\$48.00	\$66.75
	LGH Rehab Centre OFF E, 13TH ST	195	\$1.75	\$3.50	\$3.50					
<b>VGH</b>	Vancouver General Hospital Parkade	186	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00		\$18.75		\$64.50	
	JPP Upper Ramp	189	\$3.75	\$7.50	\$7.50					
	JPP Lower Ramp	188	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$18.75 7AM-5PM M-F				
	Emergency	191	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00					
	Courtyard	187	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$18.75 6AM-5PM M-F	\$8.25			
<b>ECC</b>	Eye Care Centre	194	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$18.75 6AM-5PM M-F				
<b>SCC</b>	Skin Care Centre	193	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$10.00 7AM-7PM M-F CODE REQUIRED				
<b>DHCC</b>	Diamond Health Care Centre Parkade	184	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00		\$18.75		\$64.50	
<b>RH</b>	Richmond Hospital Parkade & Exterior Lot	202		\$3.50	\$3.50		\$15.00		\$35.25	\$63.00
<b>Minoru</b>	Minoru Residences	208		\$3.00	\$3.00		\$15.00			