

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For immediate release  
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### **Ministry of Health Services must do more to lead the home and community care system**

VICTORIA –In a report entitled, *Home and Community Care Services: Meeting Needs and Preparing for the Future*, Auditor General John Doyle concludes that the ministry is not adequately fulfilling its stewardship role. Although some action has been taken to match capacity with the expected demand for these services, improvements in the information used and timely completion of initiatives is required.

The audit found that the ministry has a number of initiatives underway that need to be completed. In addition, Doyle pointed to the need to improve the information available for planning and decision making.

“Home and community care services delivered when required can prevent the use of higher intensity and more costly services,” said Doyle. “These services can not only help improve health outcomes, but support a cost-effective health system.”

Doyle noted that “home and community care services are provided outside of the hospital environment to some of BC’s most vulnerable citizens. As the population ages, these services will become even more important. Good planning will be essential to ensure needs are met.”

The Auditor General makes 8 recommendations to support the improvement of home and community care services planning. Key among them: finalise the strategic direction for the program; integrate program planning with capital, human resource and information technology planning; better incorporate information on population health trends and systems costs into future projections; and, improve the level and quality of information publicly reported on the performance of the system.

The report is available on the Auditor General’s website [www.bcauditor.com](http://www.bcauditor.com).

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### **2008/09 Report #7 – Home and Community Care Services: Meeting Needs and Preparing for the Future**

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A copy of the full report is available on our website at: [www.bcauditor.com](http://www.bcauditor.com)