

news

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BC HEALTH COALITION

For immediate release
November 3, 2004

BC Health Coalition condemns plan to contract out 1,000 more surgeries to private clinics

The plan to contract out about 1,000 day surgeries from St. Paul's Hospital will further weaken the public health care system and won't address wait list problems, says the BC Health Coalition.

"The bottom line is that scarce health care dollars should be going directly towards patient care within our public hospitals, not to added administration costs and profits for investors in private clinics", says coalition coordinator Lesley Moore. "Contracting out doesn't address waiting lists, it simply lures valuable personnel away from the public system."

St. Paul's Hospital plans to contract out orthopedic, urological, gynecological, and ear/nose/throat procedures between mid-November and March, which will cost taxpayers an additional \$800,000.

About 1,400 surgeries were contracted out to Vancouver private clinics in the past two months alone.

In October, the BC Health Coalition criticized the move to contract out 100 hours of children's surgeries per month—noting that four operating rooms at Children's Hospital remain idle, and that ORs at Mt. St. Joseph's that used to perform 100 hours of children's surgeries were closed last year.

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