



# **Reducing Wait Times: Government Action to Date**

**Honourable Colin Hansen  
Minister of Health Services**

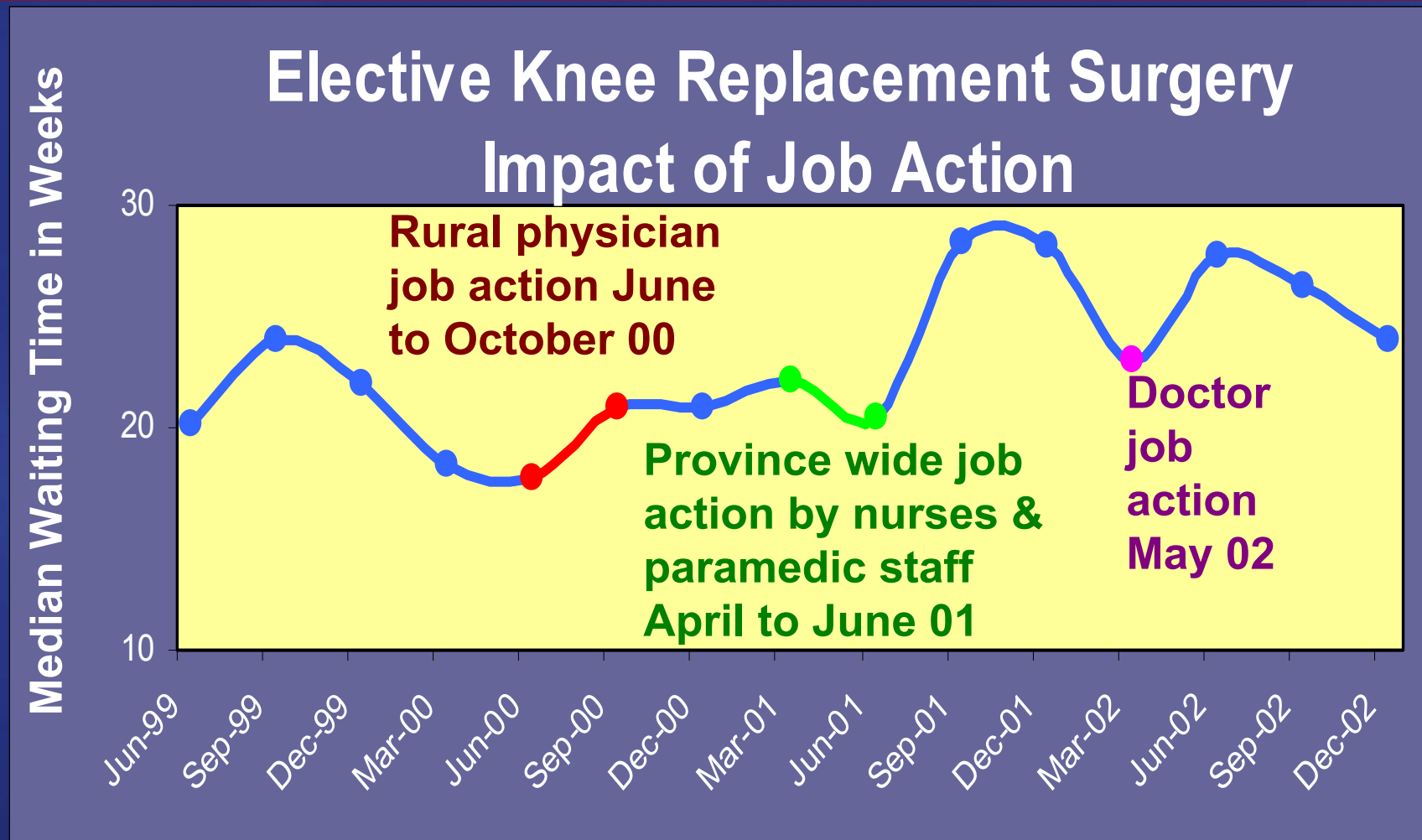
**Open Cabinet**

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## Factors Contributing to Waitlists

- No standards or guidelines for acceptable wait times
- No common assessment of patients' needs
- Need for better data
- Impact of labour disputes
- Impact of aging population

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## Impact of Aging Population

By 2030, there will be:

- Twice as many seniors - 550,000 to 1.35 million
- 433 seniors per 1000 working age people compared to 188 today

Health needs increase dramatically with age

- health system spends an average of \$1,400/yr caring for someone between 25-45
- Jumps to \$18,800 for someone between 85-89

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- More facilities for day surgery
- New centres for thoracic and eye surgery
- Wait times for autism diagnosis reduced from 14 months to under 3 months
- Provincial Health Services Authority developing standards for surgery and other procedures
- Project to improve access to cardiac care
- Health authority surgical reviews underway

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**Surgeries Performed**

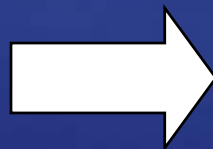
**April 01/02 - April 30/02**

**21,361**

**Surgeries Performed**

**April 01/03 – April 30/03**

**24,703**



**+ 15.5%**

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## Policy Framework to Health Authorities

- Key principle: must be consistent with the Canada Health Act
- Before engaging with a partner to deliver care, health authorities must ensure:
  - a demonstrated public benefit, such as improved access or reduced wait times for patients;
  - value for money; and,
  - accountability.



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