

EDGE.

Over the last 10 years in BC, the rate of surgeries across all age groups, particularly seniors, has increased annually.

According to Statistics Canada, wait times were the number one barrier for Canadians accessing specialized health care services in 2005. The number of patients who waited longer than three months for joint replacement surgeries increased from 26 per cent to 39 per cent between 2003 and 2005.

In 2004, the federal government developed a national wait times strategy for five areas of concern: cancer care, cardiac treatment, diagnostic tests such as MRIs, joint replacements and cataract surgeries. The strategy commits \$4.5 billion over six years for priorities such as training and hiring more health professionals, and clearing surgical backlogs.

Over his 35 years at UVic, Joseph Schaafsma's research has ranged from exploring the economic intts

