



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**April 29, 2008**

### **“New Mammography Suite Opening Highlights BUH Foundation Day”**

Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation, Battlefords Union Hospital, and Prairie North Health Region are pleased to officially re-open the hospital's expanded and upgraded Mammography Suite, complete with new digital mammography equipment that will improve the service for PNHR residents.

Re-opening of the Suite was celebrated as part of BUH Foundation Day, April 29, 2008 at BUH. The Day was organized by the Foundation to extend appreciation and recognition to the many donors who have made the Foundation the tremendous success it has been in its 18-year history, and to celebrate its recent accomplishments.

Official re-opening of the Mammography Suite kicked off the BUHF Day event that also highlighted a number of recent significant equipment purchases supported by the Foundation and community partners, including stress test equipment, a new blood analyzer for the laboratory, and an electrocardiograph (ECG) machine for the emergency department. BUH Foundation Day also included recognition of the 2005/2006 computed tomography (CT) project for diagnostic imaging.

BUH's new Mammography Suite is located in the Diagnostic Imaging Department. The new \$636,000 digital mammography machine was fully installed and operational in late February. BUH Foundation provided \$400,000 toward the purchase, with major support from the Gold Eagle Community Development Corporation (GECDC). The province contributed \$143,000 toward the purchase. The remainder came from PNHR capital funds.

“We are excited to have been able to provide the major funding necessary to purchase this important new piece of equipment,” said BUH Foundation Chairperson Jay Crockett.

“Our Breast Health Fund Campaign was launched in November 2006 and was a tremendous success. The generous support of our community and in particular the GECDC once again enabled us to achieve our goal. We are honoured to assist our partners at Battlefords Union Hospital and Prairie North Health Region to save lives by continuing to offer local breast screening services to residents of The Battlefords and surrounding area,” Crockett said.

PNHR Chief Executive Officer David Fan applauded the generous commitment of BUH Foundation in continually taking on the challenge of major fundraising to support the hospital, and local and area residents.

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Fan said, "Time and again, BUH Foundation comes through and proves its outstanding value to this community. With the extraordinary support of its donors and volunteers, the Foundation has fulfilled its mandate of enhancing patient care at Battlefords Union Hospital. Thank you."

PNHR Regional Director of Diagnostic Imaging Services Cheryl Mitchell explained that the new digital mammography equipment provides faster, more accurate diagnosis for residents of Prairie North Health Region.

"The new digital mammography unit will be fully compatible with the province's new Radiology Information System (RIS) and Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS) once the systems are fully implemented at the hospital later this year," Mitchell said. "The new machine lets radiologists view more detailed images for earlier detection and earlier treatment. Residents of northwest Saskatchewan requiring a mammogram can be confident they are receiving the best diagnostic services available, thanks to the generous support of Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation, and people in and around the region."

The new unit replaces a machine that was 14 years old and had reached the end of its useful life. The BUH Diagnostic Imaging department also underwent approximately \$15,000 in renovations and expansion to accommodate the new equipment and improve the care environment for patients and staff.

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For more information, contact:

Renee Belyk  
Executive Director  
Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation  
(306) 446-6652

Linda Lewis  
Communications Officer  
Prairie North Health Region  
(306) 446-6625