



Board Notes

The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting June 25, 2008 in North Battleford. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Presentation - CUPE Strategy for Full Utilization of LPNs

- √ CUPE Local 5111 President Brian Manegre and Vice-President Deb Haftner were joined by CUPE Provincial President Gordon Campbell and several PNHR Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in a presentation to PNHR Board members on "A *Practical* Solution to the Nursing Shortage" -- CUPE's strategy for the full utilization of LPN professional skills. CUPE is making similar presentations to each Saskatchewan Regional Health Authority, seeking support for the union's effort to recognize the vital contribution LPNs make to health care services, and to expand the use of LPNs to their full scope-of-practice. CUPE is asking Prairie North to sign on to its recommendations, as follows:
 - A commitment to ensure full utilization of LPN skills;
 - Examination of current nursing vacancies;
 - Conversion of more LPN jobs into full-time positions;
 - Development of clear policies for health employers;
 - Education of Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses on LPN competencies.
- √ PNRHA Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady advised that Prairie North Board members and Senior Managers are committed to full scope-of-practice for LPNs. Board members recognize that although progress has been made over the past few years on using LPNs to their full scope-of-practice, more work is needed to encourage a collaborative practice model at the grassroots level. Senior Managers in Prairie North will continue to promote inter-professional understanding of mutual roles, skills and training; and will continue to promote professional collegiality, mutual respect and support in the workplace.

Ratification of Collective Agreement

- √ Prairie North Regional Health Authority ratified the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations' (SAHO's) final offer to the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) for a 2008-2012 Collective Agreement.



Board Notes

(Continued)

2007-08 Audited Financial Statement

- √ PNRHA Board members approved the Audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008. PNHR ended the 2007-08 with a deficit of \$620,306. VP Finance Jerry Keller emphasized that PNHR will be concentrating on achieving a balanced budget for 2008-09, despite submission of a deficit budget plan for the new fiscal year.

Regional Health Authority Board Membership

- √ Board Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady advised that the current term for RHA Board members expires on July 24, 2008. *The Regional Health Services Act* Section 16 provides that each member of a regional health authority is appointed at the pleasure of the government and holds office for a term of not more than three years and thereafter until the member is reappointed or a successor is appointed. Minister of Health Don McMorris has requested all current RHA Board members to continue to serve on their respective Boards until the early fall when the government will review composition of the RHA Boards.

Board Meetings

- √ Upcoming PNRHA Board meetings are scheduled as follows. All regular meetings are open to the public.

√ Wed. Aug. 27/08	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
√ Wed. Sept. 24/08	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. Oct. 29/08	Turtleford	
√ Wed. Nov. 26/08	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
√ Wed. Dec. 17/08	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. Jan. 28/09	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital

***** How to Reach Us *****

If you have questions or concerns about the information provided in this edition of Board Notes, please contact:

Page 2

June 25, 2008

Prairie North Health Region - Battlefords Office
1092 - 107 Street, North Battleford, SK S9A 1Z1
Phone: (306) 446-6606
Fax: (306) 446-4114