



# Board Notes

The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting August 27, 2008 in Meadow Lake. Board members are pleased to share the following:

## **Presentation - North Saskatchewan River Basin Council**

- ✓ Prairie North Regional Health Authority has been asked for a letter of support for the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC) and its work in protecting the source water of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed. The Watershed includes a significant portion of the geographic area of PNRH. Health Region Board members heard a presentation from Katherine Finn, Project Coordinator for the NSRBC. Finn provided Health Board members with an overview of the Council, its work, and its objectives.
- ✓ With the assistance of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and public consultation, the NSRBC has drafted a North Saskatchewan River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan that identifies 144 recommendations and key actions to ensure water quality and availability of water for residents of the watershed now and into the future. Finn stressed that in addition to issues of water conservation, water supply, climate change, and agricultural impacts - to name a few - water is a health issue in terms of quality, access, use, treatment and disposal. She explained that protecting source water means striving to make water safe before it reaches the treatment plant or tap, and protecting ourselves against water-borne illness and disease.
- ✓ Board members asked questions and expressed interest in the Council and its work. Board members will take some time to study materials presented to them by Finn and find out more about the organization, with decision on a possible letter of support to come to a future PNRHA meeting.

## **Philippine Nurse Recruitment Project**

- ✓ Prairie North Health Region is preparing for arrival of nine registered nurses from the Philippines Sept. 16, 2008. As part of the recruitment team's strategy to prepare the Region's workforce, workplace, and communities to welcome the Philippine nurses and support the nurses' transition to their new work life and environment, PNRHA Board members watched and listened to a presentation about the recruitment project.
- ✓ The presentation is intended to educate PNHR staff about the culture and customs of their soon-to-be colleagues from the Philippines. The presentation is aimed at assisting PNHR staff in understanding and supporting the Philippine nurses in their transition to their new workplace. The presentation will be made to staff in PNHR in the coming weeks. Welcoming events are being planned, along with extensive orientation.



## Board Notes

(Continued)

### Philippine Recruitment Project (continued)

- ✓ Sylvestre stressed to Board members that the success of the international recruitment project will depend in large part on the welcome, acceptance, and encouragement the nurses receive in the workplace. Board members were urged to imagine what they would think and feel if they were in the nurses' position and had gone to work and live in the Philippines. Board members expressed their own appreciation and support for the recruitment project to help address the need for more nurses in Prairie North.

### Financial Reports

- ✓ Financial statements for the first four months of the 2008-09 fiscal year show Prairie North Health Region in a slight surplus position. VP of Finance Jerry Keller reported that to the end of July, PNRHA has a surplus of \$235,000. As yet unexpended amounts in compensation are responsible for the positive start. The Region has yet to fully proceed with the planned service expansion in Lloydminster. The first element is expected to come on stream late this fall, with opening of the expanded surgical department. Prairie North continues to keep close watch on its financial position relative to its budget which projects a \$1.2 million deficit for the year as a whole.

### Board Meetings

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

✓ 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
✓ Wed. Feb. 25/09	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ Wed. Mar. 25/09	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility

### \*\*\*\*\* How to Reach Us \*\*\*\*\*

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

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