



Board Notes

The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting Sept. 24, 2008 in North Battleford. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Seniors' Fall Strategy

- √ Safe Saskatchewan is a provincial private-public sector coalition with the objective of achieving a continuous reduction in the number of unintentional injuries in Saskatchewan. CEO of Safe Saskatchewan Gord Moker's presentation informed Prairie North Board members that 36% of all unintentional injuries in Saskatchewan are attributed to falls. The direct impact of seniors' falls to the province every year is 3000 hospitalizations with direct costs of \$56 million.
- √ Safe Saskatchewan is developing a proposal for submission to the Ministry of Health on a Provincial Strategy with the primary outcome of enhancing the quality of life for Saskatchewan seniors and their families, and saving millions of dollars in health and social costs by reducing the number of hospitalizations attributed to seniors' falls. Moker is asking for Prairie North Health Region's support from all levels, particularly Board and Senior Management, to dedicate resources to seniors' falls injury prevention and to work together in collaboration with others to make a difference in the lives of our province's seniors and their families.
- √ A Provincial Steering Committee with 32 members established in March 2007 to look at implementation of a Seniors' Fall Injury Prevention Strategy includes representation from all Regional Health Authorities. Director of Continuing Care Joan Zimmer, representing PNHR on the Provincial Steering Committee, advised that the Strategy is about empowering people to make changes in their lives, and increase everyone's awareness of how falls affect them and the risks and consequences of falls.
- √ PNHR works with the communities on various injury prevention initiatives, for example bike safety, use of ski helmets. VP Primary Health Services Glennys Uzelman noted that PNHR is working toward expanding the Falls Prevention program running at River Heights Lodge in North Battleford through a multi-disciplinary team approach.



Board Notes

(Continued)

Seniors Fall Strategy (continued)

- ✓ Prairie North Board Chair Bonnie O'Grady was appreciative of the information being brought forward by the Seniors' Fall Strategy Committee in its efforts to combat the silent epidemic of seniors' falls, which is almost one-third of all injury hospitalizations in Saskatchewan.

New Practitioner Staff Appointments

- ✓ Board members were pleased to welcome the following new physicians to the Region:
 - *The Battlefords:* General surgeon Dr. H. du Plessis and obstetrician/gynaecologist Dr. O. Adelasoye; and general practitioner Dr. S. J. van der Walt at the Primary Health Centre.
 - *Maidstone:* General practitioners Dr. L. Kgobisa, Dr. D. F. Spangenberg and Dr. I. Stander.
 - *Edam:* General practitioner Dr. L. Bhagaloo.
 - *St. Walburg:* General practitioner Dr. R. Nair.

Board Meetings

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

✓ Wed. Oct. 29/08	Turtleford	Seniors Centre
✓ 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	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ Wed. Mar. 25/09	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
✓ Wed. Apr. 29/09	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:

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