



# Board Notes

The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting November 26, 2008 in Lloydminster. Board members are pleased to share the following:

## Presentation - Long-Term Care Waitlists

- ✓ Prairie North Health Region VP of Integrated Health Services Barbara Jiricka presented a report to the Board detailing long-term care waitlists and wait times in PNHR communities for the first half of the 2008/09 operating year. The report showed a fairly consistent, small number of people on long-term care waitlists in PNHR's rural communities and Meadow Lake between April and September this year. The waitlists are larger and show more variation in PNHR's two largest communities. The average wait time varies greatly by community and in each community on a month by month basis.
- ✓ Jiricka noted that the numbers capture the picture at precise points in time - the beginning of each month. Waitlists and wait times depend on many factors including the demographics and health of residents, the turnover rate in each facility, the number of available beds, and more. Also important is that individuals prefer to remain in their own homes as long as possible, provided that adequate and appropriate supports are in place. Board members agreed that while the information is interesting and must be monitored, the more valuable picture is of waitlist/wait time trends over a period of years. Jiricka advised that when a bed becomes vacant in long-term care, it is usually filled within 2 to 3 days to allow for cleaning and necessary improvements.

## Appointments - Lakeland Community Health Advisory Network

- ✓ The PNRHA Board appointed three new members to the Lakeland Community Health Advisory Network (CHAN) which serves the Edam, St. Walburg and Turtleford areas and surrounding communities. Joining the committee are Frank Simonot of St. Walburg, Linda Okanee of Thunderchild First Nation, and Muriel Conacher of the RM of Mervin. The appointments bring to 12 the number of members on the CHAN, following the recent resignation of Maryanne Jansen of St. Walburg. The Lakeland CHAN was formed in March 2008 at the request of local residents to provide input and advice to the PNRHA Board on broad issues related to the health of their communities.

## Financial Report

- ✓ Financial statements to the end of October 2008 show PNHR in a surplus position of \$1.5 million. Revenues are up nearly \$2 million, while expenditures are lower by \$700,000. VP of Finance Jerry Keller explained that most of the added revenue is from the province to cover expenses under the new nursing contract. Keller noted that some program enhancements for Lloydminster are not yet in place. He expects a truer picture of PNHR's financial status once nurse contract obligations are paid and all Lloydminster initiatives are implemented.



## Board Notes

(Continued)

### Update - Syringe Issue

- √ Board members were updated on developments relating to the issue that surfaced at the end of October regarding re-use of syringes to administer medications via IV to patients in the Operating Room at Lloydminster Hospital. PNHR VP of Integrated Health Services Barbara Jiricka reviewed the chronology of events from the time the practice was reported, reviewed and subsequently made public, until the present. She noted that once the practice was identified in Prairie North, it was immediately stopped. She also noted that once the issue had surfaced in PNHR, other Saskatchewan Health Regions reviewed their practices. Four discovered similar issues in limited programs within their jurisdictions. While medical experts identified the risk to patients as extremely low, a detailed risk assessment was launched in Prairie North, with the Region promising to inform the community of the outcome of the assessment, any recommendations, and next steps.
- √ Jiricka advised the Board that the assessment is being conducted and coordinated at a provincial level through a team of experts. The public is to be updated on the review's findings and recommendations once the assessment and evaluation is complete.

### Board Meetings

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

√ 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
√ Wed. Apr. 29/09	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
√ Wed. May 27/09	Maidstone	
√ Wed. June 24/09	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union 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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