



March 2010



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting March 31, 2010 in Meadow Lake. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Prairie North Budget and Accountability Document 2010-11

- √ CEO David Fan presented Board members with a synopsis of the Region's funding allocations, strategic and operational directions, and performance targets and measures, as identified following release of the Saskatchewan provincial budget March 24, 2010 and as specified in PNHR's 2010-11 Accountability Document from the Ministry of Health.
- √ PNHR is to receive \$163-million in base finding for 2010-11, a \$10-million dollar increase over the 2009-10 base amount. Just over \$6.4-million of the increase is for mandated salary and benefit hikes, and increases for the Region's partnering community-based organizations. \$3.3 million represents amounts that have already been coming to PNHR for specific programs or services, and that are now rolled into the Region's base funding. \$2.5 million is for standard inflationary increases. Only \$398,000 is new program funding and dollars to help address demographically driven volume pressures. On the efficiency side, PNHR is to reduce spending by \$2.2 million by achieving a \$1 million reduction in sick time, overtime, and Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) costs; a \$301,000 reduction through greater sharing of services; and a \$900,000 saving through general efficiencies. No government funding is being provided for capital projects or equipment.
- √ Fan expanded on the efficiency targets. Prairie North is to reduce its wage driven premium hours (WDP) per full-time employee (FTE) by 9%; its sick time hours per FTE by 3%; its WCB time lost claims by 10%; and its WCB time lost days per 100 FTEs by 5%. Fan noted that when final numbers are in, overtime is expected to have cost PNHR \$4.5 million in 2009-10, and \$5.5 million is expected to have been spent on sick time. The total of both is \$10 million: a 10% reduction is \$1 million.
- √ Fan also told the Board that PNHR will be called upon to deliver some of the 3,000 additional surgical procedures to be performed province-wide in 2010-11, under the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative.
- √ Fan advised that PNHR does not yet know its 2010-11 funding from Alberta for service to Albertans in Lloydminster. PNHR was \$3-million short in funding from Alberta in 2009-10. If that shortfall continues into 2010-11, the Region will be another \$3-million short going forward. PNHR's total shortfall for the coming year could be \$5-million.
- √ Work continues on development of Prairie North's 2010-11 operating and capital budgets. They will be presented to the Board for approval at the May 2010 Regular meeting.

Presentation - Canadian Union of Public Employees

- √ For the second consecutive meeting, Board members heard a presentation from CUPE Local 5111 President and CUPE Bargaining Committee member Brian Manegre urging Prairie North Regional Health Authority to pressure the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) to return to the bargaining table and achieve a collective agreement with CUPE and the other health provider unions which are currently without a contract. Manegre raised a number of questions to which he requested answers from the PNRHA Board. He noted that if it wasn't for Saskatchewan's new Essential Services legislation, CUPE would be on strike. He said that even under ES legislation, Prairie North would be affected if CUPE took job action.
- √ PNRHA Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady declined to respond to the questions, pointing out that answering them would lead the Health Region Board into a position of discussing articles under negotiation between SAHO and the provider unions. Only SAHO, not PNRHA has the jurisdiction to negotiate a contract. She stated that PNRHA supports CUPE in its desire to reach an agreement as quickly as possible. She added that the Region recognizes that the current situation without a negotiated contract settlement affects staff morale and therefore the RHA as a whole. O'Grady concluded that the Board appreciates and recognizes the work and value of its CUPE employees.

PNHR Employee Recipient of SHEA Award

- √ PNRHA Board members extended congratulations to Gwenn Kaye of Cut Knife, recipient of this year's Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award (SHEA) for Community Leadership. Announcement of the award was made at the recent SHEA event in Regina. Kay was nominated for the award by her peers at the Cut Knife Health Complex (CKHC).
- √ Kaye works as a Special Care Aide at the Complex where she has been employed since 1987. She is extremely active in the workplace and in her community. She serves as the CUPE Facility Representative for CKHC, and was a driving force in improving the environment of the staff exercise room and raising funds for furnishing of the facility's Palliative Care room. She is a Red Cross volunteer; is Emergency Measures Coordinator for the Town and Rural Municipality of Cut Knife; and was instrumental in founding the West 40 CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) Team for Cut Knife and area. Kaye was also the founder of an annual golf tournament which has raised over \$40,000 toward Breast Cancer research and support.

Congratulations Gwenn!!!!!!

Board Meetings

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

√ Wed. Apr. 28/10	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. May 26/10	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
√ Wed. June 30/10	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. Aug. 25/10	Turtleford	To be determined
√ Wed. Sept. 29/10	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
√ Wed. Oct. 27/10	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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