



April 2010



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting April 28, 2010 in North Battleford. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Lloydminster Ambulance Service

- √ Prairie North Regional Health Authority is working to clarify responsibility for ambulance services in Lloydminster. PNRHA Board members passed a motion to terminate the Health Region's existing contract with Lloydminster Emergency Care Services (LECS) on the basis that the Region does not have the legislative authority to contract for ambulance services in Alberta. The termination is subject to approval and/or recommendations from Saskatchewan's Minister of Health, under provisions of The Ambulance Act.
- √ PNHR CEO David Fan explained that LECS continues to provide ambulance service on both sides of the Saskatchewan/Alberta at Lloydminster, under the terms of a contract that dates back to 1999 and that the Health Region inherited when the Region was formed in 2002. However, with recent legislative changes in Alberta and based on legal counsel obtained by Prairie North, PNHR does not have the authority or responsibility to contract for or provide ambulance services in Alberta. PNHR is responsible to ensure ambulance services are provided in Saskatchewan related to Lloydminster and is prepared to enter into a new agreement for ambulance service for the Saskatchewan side of the Lloydminster border area. Alberta Health Services will be responsible to ensure provision of ambulance service on the Alberta side.
- √ Fan stressed that as the jurisdictional and contractual matters are sorted out, ambulance services in Lloydminster will continue to be provided. He assured Lloydminster and area residents on both sides of the border that ambulance services will continue as they do now, while new service agreements are being negotiated.

Presentation - Canadian Union of Public Employees

- √ CUPE Local 5111 President and CUPE Bargaining Committee member Brian Manegre again spoke to PNRHA Board members about the lack of a collective agreement between the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) and CUPE. Manegre repeated CUPE's desire for a fair and equitable negotiated settlement between both sides at the bargaining table. He urged the PNRHA Board to take a stand and a lead in answering the questions he posed to the Board at its meeting a month earlier. He also shared information on a number of parity issues and posed new questions to which he requested answers.
- √ PNRHA Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady again declined to respond to the questions, reiterating that the Board cannot discuss the articles being bargained. She advised that Board members have talked about the questions and have encouraged SAHO to return to the bargaining table. O'Grady noted that a meeting is set for April 29 between SAHO and CUPE representatives. She is encouraged by that and hopes it achieves movement in getting a contract that is fair to everyone. O'Grady also said that PNHR's Board and management appreciates the positive working relationship the Region has with CUPE. She thanked Manegre, along with President of the CUPE Health Care Council Gordon Campbell, and CUPE members for attending the meeting.

Physician Update

- √ In his report to the Board, CEO David Fan advised that a paediatrician has been recruited for The Battlefords. Dr. Muhammad Anees is expected to arrive in the community in July, from South Africa. Preparations are underway to accommodate the arrival and facilitate establishment of paediatric services.
- √ PNHR has secured the services of a locum obstetrician/gynaecologist to provide coverage in The Battlefords while the community's two Ob/Gyn specialists challenge their fellowship exams. Dr. Abayomi Oyewole is an Irish-trained Canadian permanent resident and will be in The Battlefords for May, June and July. For the longer term, PNHR intends to have a third obstetrician/gynaecologist at Battlefords Union Hospital (BUH).
- √ Fan reported that Dr. Erik Engelbrecht is relocating from Hudson Bay to The Battlefords to assume a full-time Emergency Room Physician (ERP) position at BUH. Dr. Engelbrecht is also a practicing GP/Anaesthetist.
- √ For Meadow Lake, recruitment of two additional full-time, full-service family physicians continues. Medical services in Meadow Lake continue to be supported by locum physicians for coverage and relief.

Lloydminster Long-Term Care Facility

- √ PNHR has been advised that Alberta is proceeding with development in Lloydminster of the new 60-bed long-term care facility originally announced in early 2008. PNHR VP of Development and Operations Lionel Chabot told Board members that the Lloydminster Continuing Care Capital Project Steering Committee is back in full swing to move forward with the project. The Committee will be meeting on May 27, 2010, followed by detailed design work from June through October. The project is anticipated to go to tender in January 2011, followed by awarding of the contract in February, and site work beginning in March/April 2011. The timetable for completion is September 2012.
- √ Board members were delighted with the news. The project has been at a standstill over the past year awaiting final word from Alberta as to when it would proceed and what the nature and scope of the facility would be. The new facility will be located on a new site on the Alberta side of Lloydminster and is a project of the Alberta government. The new LTC home will replace the oldest 55-bed wing of the current Dr. Cooke Extended Care Centre which is owned by Alberta and operated by Prairie North.

Board Meetings

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

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| √ Wed. May 26/10 | Lloydminster | Lloydminster Hospital |
| √ Wed. June 30/10 | The Battlefords | Battlefords Union Hospital |
| √ No July meeting | | |
| √ Wed. Aug. 25/10 | Turtleford | To be determined |
| √ Wed. Sept. 29/10 | Meadow Lake | Northwest Health Facility |
| √ Wed. Oct. 27/10 | Lloydminster | Lloydminster Hospital |
| √ Wed. Nov. 24/10 | North Battleford | Battlefords Union Hospital |

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

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