



December 2010



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting December 15, 2010 in Maidstone. Board members are pleased to share the following:



### Ambulance Fees

- ✿ Board members have approved an increase in ambulance fees, consistent with the rate hikes announced by the provincial government this week. The ambulance pick-up fee in Prairie North Health Region will rise by \$25. The rate charged per kilometre will increase by 10 cents. PNHR is also seeking a \$20 per hour increase in the patient waiting time rate to bring it to the same level charged by other Saskatchewan Health Regions.
- ✿ The increases mean that the basic pick-up rate for all ambulance services in Prairie North - except those of WPD Ambulance in North Battleford - will rise to \$245 per call, from its current level of \$220. All of these services except WPD provide a basic life support (BLS) level of ambulance care. WPD provides an advanced life support (ALS) level of care with paramedic service and currently charges a pick-up fee of \$300 per call. The rate will rise to \$325 per call - the same as that permitted for all ALS/paramedic ambulance services in Saskatchewan. The rate charged per kilometre is the same for all ambulance services.
- ✿ PNHR's patient waiting time fee is currently \$80 per hour. The rate in six other health regions is \$100 per hour. Prairie North wishes to move to the higher rate to be on par with these regions and to better reflect actual costs.
- ✿ The Health Region must now notify the Minister of Health of the Board's decision and motion to revise PNHR's ambulance rates. The new rates come into effect 30 days after the Minister receives the notification.
- ✿ Prairie North owns and operates ambulance services in Cut Knife, Maidstone, Meadow Lake and Neilburg. PNHR contracts with private emergency medical service (EMS) providers in Lloydminster, North Battleford and St. Walburg. Onion Lake EMS is operated by Onion Lake Developments Ltd.



*Season's Greetings to All  
from the Board and Management of  
Prairie North Health Region*



## Physician Update



CEO David Fan provided an update on recruitment of family physicians and specialists to Prairie North Health Region, as follows:

- 🌲 Dr. Obiora Ajegbo, an Irish-trained obstetrician/gynaecologist, will provide locum coverage in North Battleford, effective February 1, 2011, while the Region's other three O&G specialists in the community take time off to prepare for their Royal College exams.
- 🌲 Dr. Johan von Willich, a general surgeon from South Africa, has agreed to provide a six-month locum in Lloydminster effective March 1, 2011.
- 🌲 Dr. John van der Merwe, a South African family physician, will be joining the Border City Clinic in Lloydminster after undergoing the new Saskatchewan International Medical Graduate (IMG) assessment process starting in early January 2011.
- 🌲 Dr. Ilse Stander, who has been practicing in Maidstone, will be joining the Border City Clinic in Lloydminster in the New Year.
- 🌲 Dr. Rosemarie Cambridge, a family physician from South Africa, will undergo the IMG assessment process in the New Year and will join her husband Dr. Sean Cambridge who has recently arrived in Meadow Lake.



## Renal Dialysis

- ✓ In response to an inquiry from the Board, VP of Integrated Health Services Barbara Jiricka reported that the establishment of a satellite renal dialysis unit for Meadow Lake does not appear to be in the offing any time soon. Jiricka advised that the priorities for the provincial Chronic Kidney Disease Steering Committee are home hemodialysis, addressing the Yorkton waitlist, and standardizing water treatment equipment for home hemodialysis to improve the quality of water for patients in rural Saskatchewan.



## Board Meetings

- ✓ All regular meetings are open to the public. *Please note the change in the date for the February meeting. It has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 2, 2011.*

✓ Wed. Jan. 26/11	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
***** Wed. Mar. 2/11	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital *****
✓ Wed. Mar. 30/11	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
✓ Wed. Apr. 27/11	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
✓ Wed. May 25/11	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital

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

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