



Corporate Office  
1092 – 107 Street  
North Battleford S9A 1Z1  
Ph: (306) 446-6606  
Fax: (306) 446-4114

For Immediate Release

April 4, 2011

## News Release

### **“Surgical Capacity to Increase in Prairie North Health Region”**

Prairie North Health Region is receiving \$1.9 million from the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative (SKSI) to expand surgical capacity at Battlefords Union Hospital (BUH) and Lloydminster Hospital. The funding is part of \$40.4 million in additional provincial government funding announced by Health Minister Don McMorris on February 14 for the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative. The additional dollars will enable health regions to complete approximately 5,700 additional surgeries in 2011-12 – an increase of almost eight per cent.

“This additional funding will provide improved and timely access to quality surgical services for our patients and residents in Prairie North Health Region,” said CEO David Fan. “Reducing surgical wait lists will result in better overall surgical experiences for our patients.”

PNHR will be performing an additional 550 day surgeries and 10 inpatient surgeries to the 5,100 surgeries already performed each year for a total target of 5,660 surgeries in the 2011-12 fiscal year. By the end of 2011-12, the province’s goal is to reduce all surgical wait times to less than 12 months, and to have all surgeries taking place within three months by March 31, 2014.

“We’re making it a priority to provide sooner, safer, smarter care that results in shorter wait times and a better surgical experience for patients,” Health Minister Don McMorris said. “We appreciate the strong support of Prairie North Health Region as we work to continuously improve access to surgical services and put our patients first.”

Funds provided to PNHR will be used for renovation and expansion of the day surgery unit at BUH as well as for purchase of equipment for the Central Processing Area (where sterilization of instruments occurs) and Operating Rooms in BUH and Lloydminster Hospital. These improvements and purchases will directly benefit the targeted increases in surgical cases and optimize the flow of surgical patients through the Operating Rooms in Prairie North’s two regional hospitals. Funding will also support additional staffing to accommodate the increased surgical volumes and will support clinical pathway development, specifically hip, knee, spine and prostate pathways. Funds have been allocated to provide additional home care and post-operative rehabilitation services for patients upon discharge from hospital.

The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative was launched in March 2010. Its goals are to transform the surgical patient experience and to ensure that by 2014, no surgical patient in Saskatchewan waits longer than three months for surgery. More information is available at: [www.health.gov.sk.ca/saskatchewan-surgical-initiative](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/saskatchewan-surgical-initiative)

-30-

#### MEDIA:

For more information, contact: Jennifer Lyons, PNHR Communications Officer (306) 446-6002