



March 30, 2011



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting March 30, 2011 in Lloydminster. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Presentation - Lloydminster Continuing Care Facilities

- √ Rob Saunders of the Lloydminster and District Health Advisory Council (LDHAC) asked for clarification around the new Lloydminster Continuing Care Capital Project and the future of the 55-bed wing of the Dr. Cooke Extended Care Centre (DCECC) that the new project will replace. Saunders explained that concern arose at a recent informational meeting about the new project, that the oldest wing of DCECC is to be demolished once the new long-term care (LTC) facility is complete. He questioned whether the DCECC wing, once vacated, could be rehabilitated and continue to accommodate much needed LTC spaces for the expanding Lloydminster population in need of long-term care. Saunders added that the LDHAC does not want the old DCECC wing demolished. The group also questions the ability to expand the new long-term care home about to be built and whether an assisted living component will be added to the site.
- √ PNRHA Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady advised that DCECC belongs to Alberta, and the new Lloydminster continuing care facility is Alberta's project. When the new facility was announced by Alberta in early 2008, the commitment was to build a 60-bed LTC home on a new site, to replace the older 55-bed wing at DCECC. The net gain was to be five LTC beds for Lloydminster. The intent was always to demolish most of the oldest DCECC wing, with only a small amount of space left for redevelopment. The other 50-bed DCECC wing, built in the early 1990s, would remain. O'Grady stated that with completion of the new continuing care home approximately 18 months away, now is a good time to bring forward the community's concerns about the future of the oldest DCECC wing and revisit the LTC needs for Lloydminster and area. She agreed to take the concerns forward to Alberta Health Services, and encouraged Saunders and others to also voice their concerns to Alberta officials.
- √ O'Grady explained that current plans for the new Lloydminster continuing care home do not include possible future expansion of the facility itself. The site, however, does allow for future development of a potential stand-alone three-storey 120-bed assisted living complex. At this stage, Alberta has never committed to the additional construction. The potential project will also be raised with Alberta officials.

2011/12 Provincial and PNHR Budget

- √ CEO David Fan advised Board members of Prairie North Health Region's funding allocations in the 2011-12 Saskatchewan budget announced March 23, 2011. PNHR is to receive \$183 million in base operating funding for the new fiscal year - \$20 million (12%) more than the Region's 2010-11 base funding of \$163 million. Fan explained that the majority of the increase (over \$13 million) is to cover collective bargaining obligations for Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) and Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) workers. A further \$2.9 million is being provided to cover inflationary costs for drugs, supplies, utilities, etc. PNHR is receiving \$1.4 million in new money to provide services for the Region's growing population, and to increase the number of CT scans done in the year ahead. Offsetting the increase is \$1.3 million in efficiency targets PNHR is to achieve in 2011-12, in attendance support, shared services, and general efficiencies. PNHR will now work to prepare its 2011-12 budget which will come to the Board for approval at the end of May.

Tobacco Reduction Strategy

- ✓ Prairie North Regional Health Authority has approved a new Tobacco and Smoke-free Policy for the Region, effective April 1, 2011. Highlights of the policy were presented to the Board by Erin Bland, PNHR Health Promotions Coordinator and lead on development of the policy. The policy aims to foster an environment that protects clients, staff and the public from second-hand tobacco smoke and that reinforces a social norm of being tobacco-free.
- ✓ After an approximate 10-month period to inform and educate PNHR clients, employees, physicians, and the public about requirements and responsibilities under the policy, all PNHR property will go tobacco and smoke-free as of Weedless Wednesday, January 18, 2012. On that date, tobacco use or smoking will no longer be permitted in buildings, on grounds, and in/on parking areas owned or operated by Prairie North Health Region, nor in any facilities or spaces leased by PNHR. Four exemptions apply: residents of special care homes owned or operated by Prairie North and residents of Saskatchewan Hospital will be able to smoke only in designated outdoor locations of PNHR property; and ceremonial use of tobacco and prescribed use of medicinal marijuana will be permitted in PNHR facilities. Compliance with the policy provisions will be the responsibility of all PNHR clients, employees, physicians, and the public.
- ✓ The policy also provides help and support to PNHR clients, employees and physicians who wish to stop using tobacco products. Training and education will be delivered to direct care providers to conduct brief tobacco cessation intervention with clients. The Region will be working over the next many months to communicate the details and provisions of the policy to all stakeholders.

Infection Prevention and Control Plan

- ✓ PNRHA Board members gave formal approval to the Region's first-ever comprehensive Infection Prevention and Control Plan. The plan aims to improve patient outcomes by preventing and controlling the spread of health care associated infections, and to reduce the risks for infections in clients related to the use of devices and procedures performed during their care. The plan also aims to promote awareness of the principles of preventing and controlling the spread of infection among PNHR staff, patients/residents/clients, and visitors.
- ✓ The plan brings together a number of infection prevention and control initiatives, practices, and procedures already underway in Prairie North, and is intended to ensure that the Region is in compliance with Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards for Healthcare, and Accreditation Canada Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) and Standards.

Board Meetings

- ✓ All regular meetings are open to the public. Upcoming PNRHA Board meetings are as follows. *Please note change in location for the April 27 meeting. The meeting was to be held in Meadow Lake, but has been moved to Lloydminster*

✓ Wed. Apr. 27/11	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
✓ Wed. May 25/11	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ Wed. June 29/11	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ -----	<i>No July Meeting</i>	-----
✓ Wed. Aug. 31/11	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital

How to Reach Us

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