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For Immediate Release

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## News Release

### **“Physician Recruitment to Pierceland and Goodsoil Ongoing”**

Prairie North Health Region is recruiting to replace a physician in the communities of Pierceland and Goodsoil.

Dr. Natha, a physician in the Pierceland and Goodsoil area, will complete his last day of work with the Region on August 5. “Dr. Natha is leaving for personal reasons,” says Glennys Uzelman, Vice President of Primary Health Services. “PNHR thanks him for the five years of service he provided to these communities and wishes him all the best in future endeavors”.

Recruitment to the Pierceland/Goodsoil area is difficult but ongoing. In the meantime, health care professionals and community representatives have met to strategize on how best to provide health care services to Pierceland, Goodsoil and area. In addition, nurse practitioner Elaine Wall continues to provide services one day a week in Goodsoil.

“Physician and nurse practitioner recruitment and retention are issues that most health regions in the province are struggling with and unfortunately Prairie North is no exception,” says Uzelman. “We recognize the difficulties and the challenges that these communities face in accessing timely health care services as we continue our recruitment efforts.”

Prairie North works in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Physician Recruitment Agency to recruit physicians to the province and specifically PNHR. Physician recruitment and retention efforts will be further enhanced in the Region by the addition of a Medical Administration Coordinator. The Medical Administration Coordinator will act as a liaison between the Region and potential recruits, serving to foster further physician engagement and interest in our Region. To date recruitment and retention work has been supported by a variety of individuals within the Region.

Nurse practitioners have been difficult to recruit, although the Region continues to put much effort into recruitment initiatives such as education and career fairs. PNHR has also developed the “Grow Your Own” strategy which focuses on encouraging registered nurses already employed with the Region to take advanced nurse practitioner education and training. The Region assists in this education and training through incentive programs, flexible work schedules and bursaries.

PNHR continues to work with community leaders to recruit physicians and nurse practitioners to Pierceland, Goodsoil and area and will continue to keep the communities informed of its progress.

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#### MEDIA:

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