



# NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

*April 13, 2007*

## **Roblin links to MB Telehealth Program**

*Community becomes PRHA's fourth site*

**Roblin, MB.** – The Parkland Regional Health Authority (PRHA), and MBTelehealth today officially recognized the community of Roblin as the Parkland Region's fourth site within the MB Telehealth Network. With the addition of Roblin in Parkland's *Western District*, there are now Telehealth sites in all four RHA districts including Dauphin (*Central*), Ste. Rose (*Eastern*), and Swan River (*Northern*).

Director of MBTelehealth, Liz Loewen, welcomed Roblin to the expanding provincial Telehealth Program. Loewen says outside of Winnipeg, the Parkland continues to have a high utilization rate for Telehealth services.

"We welcome the Roblin site to the MBTelehealth Network and look forward to continuing to work with Parkland Regional Health Authority in their use of this technology," Loewen stated.

PRHA Interim Chief Executive Officer Mavis Wood says Telehealth allows the Region to further expand its ability to deliver quality health care services closer to home. She adds, expanding the network to Roblin was made possible due to an extraordinary monetary contribution from a Roblin resident.

"We sincerely appreciate the generosity of Mr. Jim Ritchie for recognizing the benefits of Telehealth and for his local \$25,000 contribution. Mr. Ritchie's donation assisted with the capital costs of installing the Telehealth equipment, as well as some of the associated operating costs. The PRHA wishes to thank Mr. Ritchie for his extraordinary contribution towards this very important health service for Parkland residents," Wood added.

Telehealth makes it easier for Parkland residents who would otherwise have to travel to Winnipeg to access some specialist care. Besides better access to timely care, the Telehealth Network also facilitates greater collaboration among health care professionals, provides educational and professional development opportunities for staff and physicians, and finally, reduces travel costs for some administrative meetings.

Dauphin-Roblin MLA Stan Struthers says local residents will see immediate benefits via the Telehealth Program.

"This service helps people access specialized care and treatment while reducing the time they spend travelling to medical appointments," said Struthers.

"We're happy to be a part of a program that ensures all Manitobans have access to better care sooner and closer to home."

The Roblin site was set up for educational and administrative sessions in February 2007. Bookings for clinical sessions began in early March.

For more information,  
contact the office of the  
**PARKLAND REGIONAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

### **Community Relations Coordinator**

**Blaine Kraushaar**

In Dauphin

Phone: (204) 622-6237

Fax: (204) 622-6232

e-mail:

bkraushaar@prha.mb.ca