

April 11, 2008

**SWAN RIVER DIALYSIS EXPANDED;
WAIT TIMES CUT: OSWALD**

The province will provide \$45,000 to add another dialysis chair to the Swan Valley Health Centre in Swan River and expand the capacity for dialysis treatment there to four stations, Health Minister Theresa Oswald announced today.

“This investment will cut waits for dialysis in Swan River,” said Oswald. “Our government has made investing in rural health care a key priority and we remain committed to ensuring Manitobans get the best care possible, closer to home.”

“A year and a half ago we cut the ribbon on a new, state-of-the-art dialysis unit headquartered at the redeveloped \$33-million hospital opened in Swan River in 2005,” said Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Rosann Wowchuk. “Today we’re building on those investments and we will continue to invest in quality care across rural Manitoba.”

“Along with our partners we’re pleased to offer this third phase of dialysis expansion at this hospital,” said Betty Lou Burke, program director of the Manitoba Renal Program. “In addition to these expansions, our program will continue to provide renal health outreach services aimed at early identification and prevention of chronic kidney disease.”

With this announcement, the total number of dialysis stations in Manitoba is 180 including 68 throughout rural Manitoba and 112 in urban centres. The Parkland Regional Health Authority also offers dialysis at the Dauphin Regional Health Centre.

“The Parkland Regional Health Authority welcomes the expansion of the dialysis unit at Swan Valley Health Centre,” said PRHA chief executive officer Allan Bradley. “Renovations are underway and we anticipate the expansion to a fourth dialysis station will be completed in June.”

Today’s announcement builds on previous recent investments in dialysis including:

- bringing two dialysis stations to Swan River in 2006,
- expanding Swan River to three stations in 2007, and
- committing to a \$20-million renal program last year including the creation of a six-station unit in Russell, developing a new six-station unit in Percy E. Moore Hospital at Peguis First Nation, creating a two-station unit at Berens River and a four-station unit in Gimli, doubling the capacity to four stations at Norway House and adding 10 stations to the Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg.