



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Region completes comprehensive health assessment**

**Dauphin-** The Parkland Regional Health Authority (PRHA) has completed its third extensive Community Health Assessment (CHA). The 2009 CHA describes and measures the health status of the Parkland population. It provides important health information that will be used to consider Region-wide health priorities into the future.

The PRHA's Executive Director of Program and Planning, Maggie Campbell, says a very comprehensive process is used to complete the detailed report.

"The Health Assessment process involves staff, volunteers, and residents of the Parkland Region. The community consultation part of the process is also very significant in that it allows the PRHA to strengthen relationships with the health partners and stakeholders that we, as a Region, serve. As a result, health policy makers and program/service providers will have an evidence-based document to use when developing short and long-term plans within the PRHA," Campbell stated.

The Region's last Community Health Assessment was completed in 2004. Although there have been many positive changes in health status indicators for Parkland residents since that time, the 2009 CHA shows that there is a strong connection between socio-economic status and health status.

"Using the population health framework, we know health is determined just as much or more by economic, social, environmental and cultural factors as it is by genetic or medical factors. These set of factors, known as the 'determinants of health', work together like a jigsaw puzzle to contribute to the health of individuals, families and communities. Together, with all of our stakeholders and health partners, we hope to build upon the strengths within these 'determinants' and focus our efforts on reducing disparities in health status."

The complete 260-page report is available on line at [www.prha.mb.ca](http://www.prha.mb.ca). A summary version is being prepared and will be unveiled to the general public within the next few months.

For more information,  
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