

Parkland Regional Health Authority Report to Communities

-April 2010

Region readies for two more HR initiatives



The PRHA will once again be participating in two very positive and beneficial initiatives this year. The **Home for the Summer Program** and **Rural Week** are both coordinated in conjunction with Manitoba's Office of Rural and Northern Health (ORNH).

The PRHA will be cost sharing two positions with ORNH for Home for the Summer. The goal of the Home for the Summer Program is to **attract rural students** who are enrolled in a health care profession, back to their area to continue learning. Literature shows that **increased exposure to rural practice** during training is correlated to selecting rural/northern practice after graduation. It's anticipated the **two PRHA-sponsored students** will begin in late April or early May.

ORNH Rural Week is held during the second week of May. The goal is to provide rural exposure to **first year medical students** so that they consider coming back to rural Manitoba to practice once they **graduate from medical school**.

Last year, **11 first-year medical students** were in the Region and they rotated through a variety of physician practices, walk in clinics and hospital shifts and rounds.



The PRHA will be cost-sharing two positions with ORNH for the Home for the Summer Program.

Recruitment & Retention update General Surgery

Dr. Johan Rauch is a **general surgeon** the Region has successfully recruited from South Africa. Dr. Rauch is completing his assessment at the provincial level. It's anticipated he will be joining the **surgical team** in Dauphin **April 19th**.

Audiology

The Region has also recruited a full-time **Audiologist**, Ms. Shelly Rose La Rosa, who hails from the Philippines. She will be closely connected with the Provincial Audiologist during early stages of employment to ensure extensive orientation and support for her practice occurs. With this internationally-educated practitioner, the PRHA will be in a position to provide **expanded hearing services** to Parkland residents beginning in **mid-April**.

Physician assistants

The Province has issued a call for proposals regarding the integration of **Physician Assistants (PAs)** into the health care system. Some functions PAs can provide, under licensed physician supervision, include taking medical histories and performing physical exams, ordering and interpreting lab and diagnostic tests, prescribing medications, and providing patient education and counseling. The PRHA will be reviewing **program guidelines and criteria** and will be submitting a proposal to the province by the **May 1st deadline**.

Nursing

The PRHA has attended a number of **job/career fairs** already this spring. (*U of M Nursing Career Fair, Red River College Career Fair, Aboriginal Nurses Conference in Winnipeg, WRTC Career Fair*).

The PRHA has connected with a **number of students** who are looking for **summer job opportunities** with the ultimate goal of providing a **positive work experience** so they hopefully **return to the Region** to work once they graduate.

Aboriginal Human Resources Coordinator hired

The PRHA is pleased to announce that it has hired its first ever **Aboriginal Human Resource Coordinator**. **Mr. Shawn Charlebois** commenced his duties in mid-April. Mr. Charlebois has over ten years experience in managing and developing education programs for Manitoba and Ontario First Nation communities. He will be responsible for leading the PRHA's Aboriginal employment strategy. The **key objectives** of the strategy include:

- **Increasing the percentage** of self-reported First Nation and Metis employees at all levels of the organization (to be representative of the Parkland population of 25 % over time);
- Creating a welcome and **supportive workplace environment** where First Nation and Metis employees can develop and prosper;
- To provide improved service to First Nation and Metis people through a workforce that demonstrates **cultural awareness and responsiveness** (and through increased representation of Parkland's First Nation and Metis population.)

The PRHA looks forward to enhancing partnerships with Aboriginal communities, groups and individuals.

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Keeping Parkland community residents informed

Individuals, families and communities achieving the best possible health and wellness

Community Health Assessment

The PRHA's third **Community Health Assessment** is nearly complete. Details on the final version of the **comprehensive report** are being completed and information about the report's findings and how you can access it will soon be publicly released.

Once every five years, the PRHA undertakes a Community Health Assessment. Through the Assessment process both the **strengths** and the **needs** of the Parkland Region are examined. Both statistical data and community input are considered. The information gathered assists in the establishment of **Region-wide health priorities** and provides opportunities for community involvement.

The PRHA Board uses the information and feedback to refine its **strategic priorities** and **Board Ends (goals)**. A key product of all of this work is the development of the next **PRHA Strategic Plan (2011-2016)**.

New Healthy Living programs

The PRHA launched two new initiatives in March. The Region's first **Teen and Young Adult Clinic** opened within the **Dauphin Community Health Services** Office March 30th. In another milestone, the Region's first licensed **Nurse Practitioner, Janelle Yakimishen**, is operating the Clinic. For more information about the Teen and Young Adult Clinic call **(204) 638-2118**, or log on to the PRHA website.

The Region, in conjunction with Healthy Child Manitoba, also unveiled the **InSight Mentoring Program (known formerly as Stop FASD Program)**. The intensive support program is aimed at women who are pregnant or have recently had a baby and are struggling with alcohol or drug use.

The Insight Mentoring Program will be based out of **Parkland Crossing in Dauphin**. **Twyla Gilroy** is the Region's InSight Mentoring Program Coordinator.

Meeting slated for McCreary

The PRHA has scheduled an open **public information meeting** for **McCreary/Alonsa** area residents on **April 26, 2010**. The meeting is a follow-up to an initial meeting which was held with area residents in November 2009. At that gathering, residents were presented with an update on the transfer of services-to the PRHA- initiated by the McCreary/Alonsa Health Centre Board. The transfer took effect early in fiscal year 2009-2010.

Residents were also provided with information regarding the **PRHA's health planning process** and goals and initiatives as they related to the Region's 2006-2011 Strategic Health Plan.

The Region will present up to date information from its **2009 Community Health Assessment** and obtain community feedback into the development of the Region's next five-year **Strategic Health Plan (2011-2016)**.

The meeting in **McCreary** will be held at the **Community Centre April 26th** from **7-9 p.m.**

Advisory Councils

The PRHA currently has two **Health Advisory Councils** (*Regional Health Advisory Council* and *Regional Mental Health Advisory Council*). Both Councils are currently involved in a thorough review of results contained within the Region's 2009 Community Health Assessment.

Council members are being asked to **provide advice** to the **PRHA Board** regarding **key themes** that have emerged from the **Community Health Assessment**. They are also being asked to identify **potential priorities** for Board consideration and **recommend criteria** the Board might use when establishing future short and long-term planning goals.

A draft report from both Councils will be compiled over the summer. The Councils will review the draft report in September and prepare to deliver the **final version** to the PRHA Board in the **Fall of 2010**.

PRHA enhances its website (www.prha.mb.ca)

The PRHA has recently completed a **major facelift** on its **public website**. The internet site hasn't been formally restructured since 2003/2004.

The revised website has been streamlined to allow easy access to informational pieces like Annual Reports, Programs and Services listings, and PRHA Health Care and Service Locations. The **Media Release** section has been **totally redesigned** to make it easier to access them by title and date. A key new feature of the website allows people to sub-

scribe to the media release section so that they will receive a notice electronically, the moment a new one is posted.

There is a complete **career opportunities** section which includes updated job postings, information about **student practicums** and **bursaries** as well as information on things like relocation assistance.

Additional information is provided about the **PRHA Board** and its **Health Advisory Councils**.

This quarterly information update is produced for the purpose of reaching out to the elected officials of our communities so that they are aware of and are able to share information with their constituents. It is part of PRHA's commitment to communicate with its public on health and health matters. Additional questions regarding information contained within this newsletter can be directed to Blaine Kraushaar, PRHA Community Relations Coordinator, 204-622-6237.