

PRHA Board plans community consultations over the next year

The Parkland Regional Health Authority (PRHA) Board is trying out a new approach to stakeholder/ownership communication. The first of four district **community consultation meetings** during the fiscal year took place **April 26th, 2011** at **Tootinaowaziibeeng (Valley River) First Nation**. Key health stakeholders and partners were invited to participate.

The April meeting represented the PRHA's West District. There will also be district consultations planned for the North District (**Swan River**) **May 26th**, the East District (**Crane River**) on **September 26th** and Central District (**Dauphin**) on **February 27, 2012**.



West District Community Consultations– The PRHA Board met with individuals and organization leaders as part of its stakeholder communication efforts at Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve (Valley River First Nation) April 26, 2011. From left are Blair Rattlesnake (Health Administrator), Tom Bohun (Mayor of Grandview), Dennis Cameron (Chief) and Jeanette Ironstand (former Health Administrator).

PRHA smoke-free grounds

The Parkland Regional Health Authority (PRHA) is committed to providing leadership in health promotion and disease and injury prevention. In adhering to this core principle, the PRHA Board has approved of a Smoke-Free Grounds initiative and associated policy implementation framework. All work sites within the PRHA will have **smoke-free grounds** effective **April 1, 2012**. As well, PRHA affiliate organizations (acute care, long term care and ambulance services) will be requested to develop site-specific plans for implementation on April 1, 2012.

The policy will exempt personal care homes, where residents are allowed to smoke in designated areas as per the provincial 2004 Non-Smokers Health Protection Act (NSHPA).

The PRHA Workplace Wellness Committee has identified seven key areas that require detailed operational plans to support implementation of the Smoke-Free Grounds Policy. They include:

- Communications
- Client-centered support
- Staff support
- Enforcement
- Mental health
- Home-based services
- Evaluation

The general public can expect updates and communiqués associated with this initiative during the next year.

Board appointments made



PRHA Board 2011/2012– Standing, from left, are Harry Showdra (Swan River), Paul Overgaard (Dauphin), Alex Grimaldi (Dauphin), Anne Lacquette (Mallard), Monica Black (Bowsman), Robert Hanson (Mafeking), John Tichon (Fork River) and Dr. Andy Maxwell (Swan River). Front left, kneeling, are Mary Hudyma, Chairperson (Dauphin), Rowena Powell, Vice-Chairperson (Roblin), Sharon Basaraba (Gilbert Plains), Pat Delaurier (Ste. Rose), Chuck Morden (McCreary) and Gerald Shewchuk (Dauphin).

Manitoba Health Minister Theresa Oswald has appointed new members to the Board of Directors of the Parkland Regional Health Authority. New appointments include Dr. Andy Maxwell of Swan River and Chuck Morden of McCreary.

Four previous members have been reappointed for a second, three-year term. They include Chairperson Mary Hudyma of Dauphin, Sharon Basaraba (Gilbert Plains), Pat Delaurier (Ste. Rose) and Robert Hanson (Mafeking). Hudyma says the Board is proceeding with some very exciting plans in the months ahead.

“Our Board is seeing through the first year of our new five-year Strategic Health Plan (2011-2016) and we are also working towards enhanced client-centered care with a focus on quality and patient safety,” Hudyma stated.

Hudyma acknowledged the contributions of Bev Clearsky (Swan River) whose Board term officially expired on March 31, 2011. Other Board members whose terms continue include:

- Monica Black (Bowsman)
- Rowena Powell (Roblin)
- Alex Grimaldi (Dauphin)
- Gerald Shewchuk (Dauphin)
- Anne Lacquette (Mallard)
- Harry Showdra (Swan River)
- Paul Overgaard (Dauphin)
- John Tichon (Fork River)

The first regular meeting of the new Board was held in Tootinaowaziibeeng (Valley River First Nation) on April 26, 2011.

PRHA sets AGM date

The Parkland Regional Health Authority Board has set its 2010/2011 **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** date. The AGM will be held this year in Swan River on **August 29, 2011**.

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PRHA hires Physician Assistant

The Parkland Regional Health Authority (PRHA) is excited with the recent addition of a **physician assistant** to the regional health care team. One of the initial graduates from the province's university-based graduate-level physician assistant program accepted a position as **surgical assistant at Dauphin Regional Health Centre (DRHC)** effective April 26, 2011.



PRHA Physician Assistant Kevin Thiele, at right.

Kevin Thiele of **Dauphin** was one of 10 individuals who graduated from the University of Manitoba's groundbreaking Physician Assistant Education Program in late 2010. Physician assistants are highly-skilled health care professionals who can act as a **'physician extender'** and complement duties performed by doctors. They can perform a wide range of procedures, including conducting patient exams, ordering diagnostic tests, and prescribing needed medications and treatments.

"The PRHA, thanks to a funding commitment from Manitoba Health, is happy to announce yet another milestone in its ongoing goal to improve access and enhance client flow within our Region," stated Kevin McKnight, Chief Executive Officer of Parkland RHA.

This first-of-its-kind provincial initiative, announced in 2008, sees Program graduates obtain a 'master of physician assistant studies' degree.

Once students graduate they can register with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba to practice in a delegated relationship with physicians. Manitoba was the first Canadian province to introduce legislation which allowed physician assistants to register with its College and practice.

Province supports two major projects in Swan River

Manitoba Health is providing the PRHA with funding for two major programs in Swan River. The PRHA will receive just over \$46-thousand for capital equipment to support a maxillo-facial (**dental**) **surgery program in Swan River**. The Program will be headed by Dr. Chimilar of Winnipeg. Further program details will be announced in the next few months.

On March 18, 2011, the Province announced funding support for a new **cataract surgery program in Swan River**. Premier Greg Selinger, along with Manitoba Health Minister Theresa Oswald and Swan River MLA, and Deputy Premier, Rosann Wowchuk, indicated that the Region will receive \$400-thousand to implement the cataract surgery program.

PRHA CEO Kevin McKnight stated that the addition will support plans to improve access to programs and services, as well as client flow, for the entire Region.



Representatives of Swan River Valley Lions Clubs along with PRHA CEO Kevin McKnight.

Specialized equipment for the new surgery program is being acquired through local fundraising efforts of **Lions Clubs** within the **Swan River Valley**.

The PRHA is in the midst of developing further details necessary to implement the program. Once additional program requirements and supports are finalized, the Region will be making further information available to the public.

PRHA volunteer service awards

Nominations will once again be accepted in the following categories:

- Individual Volunteers (4);
(one award per each of the PRHA districts)
- Youth;
- Community group.

The deadline for nominations this year is **June 15th**.

Go to the PRHA website (www.prha.mb.ca) for nomination criteria, nomination forms, and additional details. Or call (204) 622-6237.



2010 award recipients

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.