

Interlake-Eastern RHA Community Update from CEO Ron Van Denakker



Pictured above, Nancy Muller, clinical team manager for primary health care in Lake Winnipeg East sub region with CEO Ron Van Denakker.

I'm providing an update on the east side of the region and in particular, the area primarily under Clinical Team Manager Nancy Muller which primarily includes the communities of Pine Falls, Lac du Bonnet, Pinawa, Whitemouth and Beausejour. Primary health care means the health care providers that patients visit for their regular health care needs and often serve as the first point of contact with the health care system. Emergency services are under a different umbrella but I will be speaking to them in part below. In our health care world, the lines between primary health care and emergency or acute care are often very blurred.

Emergency department stabilization this summer

We know that weekends bring cottagers and vacationers into our region and with this, the need for stable emergency department coverage is heightened. Thanks to the collaboration of our physicians, a plan has been put in place that should bring additional physicians to work in our emergency departments over the summer. In locations where a physician is unavailable, with the support of our physicians in other sites, we will continue to maintain services at sites through nurse managed care.

Physician recruitment efforts continue

Throughout the year, our physician recruitment activities include a focus on medical students with the hope that they will practice in our region long term. Last month, we had 11 medical students shadow physicians in Selkirk,

Pine Falls, Pinawa and Lac du Bonnet and Teulon for Rural Week. These are students who may not have been exposed to rural practice before their visit to our region. We were delighted with the feedback that we received from these students and thank both our staff and our physicians for making their collective experience such a positive one. We also have 12 students who are starting this month in the Home for the Summer program. The Home for the Summer program brings students who may have grown up in the region, whose families live in the region or who have some other strong connection to the area, into the region in paid summer employment positions. Those students are working with physicians in Stonewall, Pine Falls, Lac du Bonnet, Beausejour, Selkirk, Eriksdale and Pinawa. We know that they will have an outstanding experience that will further strengthen their ties to Interlake-Eastern RHA. In September, 80 to 100 medical residents will be participating in the Family Medicine Resident Retreat taking place in Selkirk. These physicians will be practice ready within the next 12 to 24 months and many are actively reviewing future practice opportunities. We are very pleased to be able to showcase the many practice sites in our region and to talk about the incredible work and lifestyle options that our communities offer.

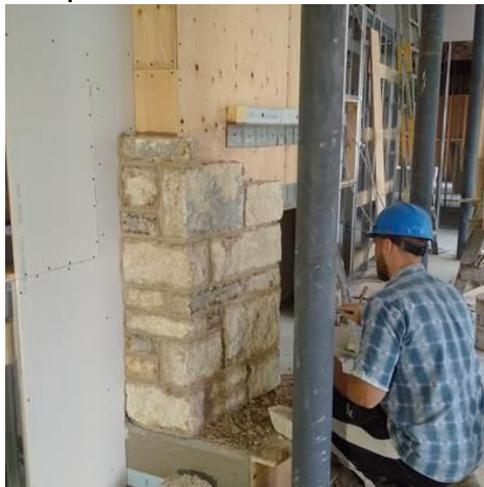
In addition to the arrival of Dr. Siamak Sayfee in Pinawa, we are pleased to welcome two international medical graduates who will be starting their practices with our region this summer. We also look forward to welcoming an additional eight international medical graduates in the coming year; the majority of whom will be practice-ready next summer.

As always, efforts are ongoing in recruiting individual physicians or physician groups into the region.

Mobile clinic attends three sites in eastern part of region

The mobile clinic attends Seymourville on Tuesdays, Grand Marais on Thursdays, Prawda on Fridays and, in the west, Gypsumville on Wednesdays once per week. It is staffed by a driver, a primary care nurse and a nurse practitioner. I would like to highlight if you live in or near the Prawda area, and are in need of a health care provider, the mobile clinic can accommodate more patients on Fridays between 9:45 am to 4:30 pm at Reynolds Community Club. Patients can phone 1-855-295-8296 to check the schedule or make an appointment. Thus far, the mobile clinic has seen over 433 patients and has received positive feedback from those seeking care in the community. Thank you to our valued community partners for helping us get the mobile clinic on the road!

Pine Falls primary health care services update



Construction on the Pine Falls Traditional Healing Centre waiting room fireplace.

The Pine Falls Primary Health Care Complex recently received money from the Pine Falls hospital foundation to purchase a holter monitor for the lab in Pine Falls Health Complex. Lab staff have been trained on the holter monitor and are now offering the service in Pine Falls which means patients don't have to travel to Pinawa for this service. This holter monitor allows medical care providers to monitor a heart's electrical activity for up to a two

day period. The Foundation is also actively engaged with us on other possible medical equipment donations. We are very grateful for their commitment to health care in the Pine Falls community.

We're targeting a 2017 opening for Powerview-Pine Falls Health Complex & Traditional Healing Centre (Giigewigamig). Planning is underway for the move of clinic and other primary health care staff and services. This facility will include a new primary health care centre and Manitoba's first traditional healing centre that has space for traditional healers, elders, an additional nurse practitioner, a First Nation and Métis outreach liaison, a medical lab assistant and spaces for support services. The First Nation communities of Sagkeeng, Black River and Hollow Water have come together to create the Giigewigamig First Nation Health Authority. -"Giigewigamig" means "A place of healing," in Ojibway. Giigewigamig First Nation Health Authority will manage program development of the new traditional healing centre with RHA support where requested. Care will be provided to anyone wishing to pursue traditional healing.

In terms of Physician staffing, we recently wished Dr. Manisha Chumber and her family well in their relocation out of the province. We are pleased to continue to benefit from the care provided by Dr. Ali, Dr. Mohammed, Dr. Ota and Dr. Lambrechts in the Pine Falls area. We are grateful for their continued service.

Beausejour primary health care services update

Dr. Abu Yakub started in the Beausejour Primary Health Care Centre on January 25 and has been providing primary health care services to the community. Dr. Sadiqa Kahn is leaving her practice in the region at the end of the month. We thank her for her service and wish her well on her next endeavor. We also have a nurse practitioner, Hessie Sookermany-Loeppky, who has started seeing and accepting new clients in Beausejour - please call 204-268-2288 to make an appointment with her at the Beausejour HEW or primary health care centre.

We also continue to benefit from the medical services provided by Dr. Schmidt, Dr. Partyka, Dr. Van Rensburg and Dr. Zeiler. Thanks to this group of physicians for their ongoing care to patients.

Whitemouth, Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa primary health care services update

In May, the communities of Pinawa, Whitemouth and Lac du Bonnet were showcased to another physician from the UK through the Waterford Global recruitment project. Dr. Chris Williams was impressed with everything he saw and experienced and we look forward to moving forward with his potential relocation to Canada. We are hopeful these efforts will result in another physician practicing with the Lac du Bonnet/Whitemouth/Pinawa group.

In Pinawa we have welcomed Dr. Siamek Sayfee who began his practice on June 1st. We will however, be wishing a fond farewell to Dr. Asma Manzar who will be leaving her practice and the province later this month.

Clinicians in Whitemouth, Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa will be working together to collaboratively deliver primary health care services in these communities. The physicians and nurse practitioners are all accepting new patients and are pleased to be able to see patients in all of these communities. Dr. Manish Garg and Dr. Siamek Sayfee continue to have their practices open to new patients from Pinawa, Whitemouth and Lac DuBonnet. nurse practitioner Derek Edwards will now be available to patients over extended 10 hour shifts. With this, he will be at the Whitemouth Primary Health Care Centre for a full 10 hour day on Monday, a half day on Tuesday, and a full 10 hour day again on Wednesday. The balance of Derek's time will be spent in Pinawa. We believe that these extended hours will be a benefit to the Whitemouth community and allow for increased numbers of appointments when Derek is in the community. The second nurse practitioner in the group, Lisa Novakowski, works Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at the Lac du Bonnet clinic with the balance of her time also being spent in Pinawa. Dr. Garg and Dr. Sayfee will also be supplementing care in all of these communities with schedules to be formalized in the weeks ahead. As always, their schedules will need to align with their support of the Pinawa Hospital emergency department.

To make an appointment with a clinician, please contact any of their locations to register as a patient and take advantage of health care closer to home: Pinawa Primary Health Care Health Centre (204 753 2351), Lac Du Bonnet Primary Health Care Centre (204 345 8173), Whitemouth Primary Health Care Centre (204 348 2291).

In conclusion

Thank you to all of our staff, practitioners in the area, as well as to locum (visiting) physicians that continue to help us deliver sustainable, reliable health care every day. A big thank you to the Eastern Region Community Health Committee, chaired by Blair Skinner, who work closely with us to address the community's health care needs.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! Interlake-Eastern RHA has a Facebook page, *Interlake-Eastern Health* where we post what's happening in our region along with our twitter handle, *Interlake-Eastern RHA*. Follow us to stay informed!

If there are any questions, concerns or ideas community members are encouraged to contact Nancy Muller, clinical team manager, primary health care, Lake Winnipeg East Sub-region at 204 268 7446.