



Interlake–Eastern
Regional Health Authority

Community Update - April 2016

A summary of Interlake-Eastern RHA key projects and initiatives to keep elected leaders and their communities informed about health care in their community



**Ron Van Denakker, CEO with Brad Dahl,
Facilities Manager**

During these last few months prior to the provincial general election, we have not released any new information to the public as per the *Elections Financing Act*. Now that the election is over, we will be working with the new government to ensure we are still moving towards our goals to bring sustainable, reliable and accessible health care to our region's residents. I've also been meeting with municipal leaders and community groups to listen to concerns that inform our vision as we move forward.

Planning for summer emergency room coverage

Recently, physicians providing emergency room coverage in our region outlined their intent to withdraw support for nurse managed care effective May 1, unless an agreement can be reached with the RHA. We have met with nursing leadership and we continue to meet with physicians who are taking call in our emergency departments to hear their concerns and work together on a nurse managed care exit strategy. We have Manitoba Health support to continue our efforts to keep emergency departments open over the busy summer months with physician support. As a result, we are working with these physicians over the next few weeks to come to an agreement to, optimally, cover emergency departments in our region throughout the busy summer months.

Until we have reached an agreement with physicians in our region and communicated that plan to staff and communities, there will be no change in the delivery of our emergency department services. Just like previous summers, we would plan to use local physician resources and locum (visiting) physicians to provide emergency department services. In addition, we continue to recruit physicians with the objective of keeping our emergency departments open and operating over the long term. We will be communicating an update to you in the next few weeks.

We first introduced nurse managed care to help us keep emergency departments functioning as we worked to attract more doctors to the region. With nurse managed care, nurses do what they normally do by assessing and triaging patients in an emergency department. Interlake-Eastern RHA has introduced phone access to a physician in a separate facility to help determine if the patient can be treated on-site or if transport to another hospital is required. It has been determined that this type of nurse managed care is not in our best interests to pursue over the long-term. That being said, our nursing staff and physicians have worked extremely hard to ensure nurse managed care is as safe and effective as possible. They have worked countless hours to keep our emergency departments open in our communities and for that we are truly thankful and we appreciate their efforts.

Clinical services planning

We know our communities want access to more reliable health care options whether it's the regular care provider that you and your family can get an appointment to see in a reasonable time, or quick access to emergency services. In order to make sure our health care delivery model is sustainable, and a system that our residents can rely on, we need to look at all of the health care services available in the region and make decisions based on that evidence. We are engaged with the province in a clinical services planning project that will help to determine what services are offered where and find the best way to rationalize our services while continuing to provide safe effective health care to all of our residents. In consultation with our community leaders and community residents we want to tailor these services to the needs of the community. These community updates, along with editorials in the newspapers, are just some of the ways I will be communicating with the public on these issues.

Physician recruitment and retention

Interlake-Eastern RHA continues to recruit doctors to practice in our region. The reality is it takes time to attract doctors who intend to establish long-term careers. Typically, these are doctors who have either been raised in the area or who have other connections to the region. We anticipate several new doctors joining us over the next few months and our physician services team is working to follow-up on other leads. We are expecting ten departures of physicians from the region by the end of the summer.

This year we are extending the invitation for 12 medical students to participate in the Home for the Summer program that gives students an opportunity to experience practice in the rural communities they grew up in or have a connection with. In addition, we met with 14 medical students in January. This is an opportunity for us to learn more about their practice interests and share with them the opportunities our region presents.

We're expecting 80 participants plus their families at the upcoming residents' retreat that Interlake-Eastern RHA is hosting in Selkirk in September. Our physician services team plans a variety of events throughout the weekend to showcase the many career and lifestyle opportunities in our region.

When people contact us seeking a primary care provider, we continue to encourage them to call our Family Doctor Finder line at 1.866.690.8260 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday to register. Our Family Doctor Finder connects people to a family doctor or nurse practitioner who can address health care needs on a regular basis. Our regional Family Doctor Finder connector is among the first in the region to be aware of physicians accepting new patients so being on this list is the very best option for those seeking care.

Mobile clinic providing care to Seymourville, Grand Marais, Prawda and Gypsumville

The mobile clinic attends Seymourville, Grand Marais, Prawda and Gypsumville once per week and is staffed by a driver, a primary care nurse and a nurse practitioner. Patients can phone 1-855-295-8296 to check the schedule or make an appointment. Thus far, the mobile clinic has seen over 267 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!

Care to seniors in our region

To address the number of people awaiting placement in our acute care beds because they have nowhere else to go, we have established a working group with representation from our home care program and personal care homes and hospitals to work on strategies to

help address this growing pressure.

We are currently working on a submission to Manitoba Health for consideration of short and long-term options including expansion of home care services.

The hope is that these options will make it easier for community members and their families to find care for their loved ones closer to home.

Capital project status

Selkirk Regional Health Centre construction is still on budget and on track for completion in Spring 2017. We are working with experts from a hospital relocation firm to ensure a smooth transition of staff, equipment and services.

We're targeting a November completion with a January 2017 opening for **Powerview-Pine Falls Health Complex & Giigewigamig**. Planning is underway for the move of clinic and other primary health care staff and services. We continue to work with the Giigewigamig First Nation health authority that includes representation from Hollow Water, Black River and Sagkeeng First Nations on program planning for the traditional healing centre. While all services at Giigewigamig will be available to any person seeking care, the partners in this project have long recognized the healing centre as a significant opportunity to proactively address health care issues documented in our First Nations communities.

Our new Interlake-Eastern Foundation will support capital projects to recruit donations from gracious donors in our in our communities who wish to contribute to the infrastructure of our region. The foundation will officially launch in November, but we are working in the background to communicate opportunities for investment through the foundation over the coming months. Our foundation work is bringing continuity to our fundraising efforts across the region and identifying additional opportunities for donor investment. Look for more information on this foundation in the news or contact Pamela McCallum at 785-4722 or pmccallum@ierha.ca.

Volunteers are the roots of strong communities

Volunteers are an integral part of our health-care system and we are proud to have so many dedicated volunteers in our communities. April marks the beginning of volunteer recognition teas that will be taking place across the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority to say “thank you” to our volunteers for the work they have done to help our patients and our staff. We are truly grateful for all of their support for our staff and patients throughout the year.



Therese Conroy, member of the Board of Directors, thanks a volunteer at the Whitemouth Volunteer Tea.

Palliative Care Manitoba offering bereavement training to rural residents

Palliative Manitoba is responding to requests from communities across Manitoba who want to increase their ability to care for community members who need support after a bereavement. This is a one-time only opportunity that we want to bring to your attention to ensure members of your community can take advantage of this training. Representatives from Palliative Manitoba are visiting three communities in Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority to host free, half-day workshops to teach people how to create support groups to address grief and bereavement needs within their own communities. The training is open to everyone.

Workshop attendees will learn how to help care for people who are experiencing grief. Training addresses how to define and distinguish between loss, grief, and bereavement; varying types of grief; proven communication strategies for speaking to someone who has experienced loss; and the importance of self-care when providing quality grief support.

The communities where the workshop is being held are:

Stonewall Hospital, MPR A and B, May 13, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Gimli Hospital, MPR A and B, May 18, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Beausejour Hospital MPR, A and B, June 16, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

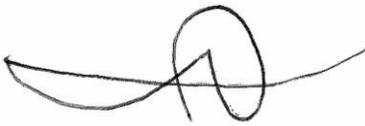
Click for more information: <http://is.gd/bereavementeducationupdate>

For more information and to register, please contact Mike Goldberg with Palliative Manitoba at 1-800-539-0295 or email him at mgoldberg@palliativemanitoba.ca.

Thank you for your support

I hope that this update provides you with a sense of what we have been doing over these last few months. As I have said before, we benefit from your expertise and continued support of our region's programs and services. If any of these topics sparked questions, please do not hesitate to contact with me by email: rvandenakker@ierha.ca and by phone, 204-785-4701.

Until next time,



Ron Van Denakker
Chief Executive Officer



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