



News Release

Region moves one step closer to construction of Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan

(February 10, 2010) Saskatoon – Saskatoon Health Region is pleased to announce the hiring of the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan (CHS) project manager. ZW Group, based out of Ottawa, will oversee the design and construction of the province's new children's hospital. The Region is also about to award the tender for the prime architect for the design phase.

"The Region and the provincial government remain committed to a children's hospital," says Jim Rhode, chair, Saskatoon Regional Health Authority. "With both these developments, it is timely to look at site validation as a natural next step in this planning process."

"There has been significant discussion in the community on whether or not building a new \$200 million dollar facility co-located with Royal University Hospital (RUH) makes the most sense," says Maura Davies, President and CEO, Saskatoon Health Region. "As part of our due diligence for a project of this size and importance to the people of Saskatchewan, and before moving forward with detailed design, we will work with the project manager to validate the site from a number of perspectives."

These perspectives include the following:

- o impact on patient care and the patient/family experience
- o capital costs
- o incremental operating costs
- o impact and fit with other relevant capital plans (e.g. City of Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan, Cancer Centre)
- o ability to accommodate required key clinical service co-locations (to be determined in consultation with senior Region clinical leaders)
- o implications for location and relocation of other clinical services and staff
- o impact on Saskatoon Health Region's ability to accommodate future population changes and health care needs for the next ten years

Site validation will also include considering these perspectives through a feasibility analysis of both the relative costs and benefits of the following three options:

- o using the existing Saskatoon City Hospital (SCH) building for maternal and children services;
- o constructing new space to accommodate maternal and children services at SCH;
- o constructing new space to accommodate maternal children services at RUH.

In 2007, the Ministry of Health accepted the Region's proposal to locate the CHS at Royal University Hospital site. This site was chosen after extensively consulting with staff, physicians, and volunteers. It was also chosen as an appropriate site based on the fact that it is in close proximity to existing maternal and pediatric services, the University of Saskatchewan and Cancer Centre.

This review will be conducted by an expert panel including the new project manager and architect. It will also include members of the public, staff, and physicians along with representation from the University of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Health and Saskatoon Regional Health Authority.

"The Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan has been and will continue to be the provincial foundation raising money for a new children's hospital, regardless of its site location," said Brynn Boback-Lane, President and CEO, Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan. "We are pleased to see the Region taking the right steps to make the right choice."

The review is expected to take three months and the recommendations will be made public.

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