



News Release

Children's Hospital site determined

(June 9, 2010) Saskatoon – Royal University Hospital is the site for the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan. This choice is a unanimous recommendation from the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan site validation panel. Members of the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority endorsed that recommendation at its monthly meeting this afternoon.

The panel which is comprised of members from the public, industry, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatoon Regional Health Authority, University of Saskatchewan and Ministry of Health has been meeting since mid-April to review options for the location of the hospital.

The panel had a set of criteria including quality and patient safety, capital and operating costs. External experts were brought in to assist in the panel's deliberations. Members of the public were also invited to share their views on the location choices through the Validation Panel's website. A total of 115 submissions were received while 8,500 views of the site were recorded.

"We were extremely pleased with how many people took the time to tell us where they thought the hospital should be located," says Jim Rhode, Chair, Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan Site Validation Panel. "This is a decision that is very important to Saskatchewan families."

"Many members of the public felt Saskatoon City Hospital was the best site for the new Children's Hospital because of its location near Kinsmen Park," says Cheryl McCallum, Public Member of the Panel. "While a park like this close by would be nice, it's not as important to me as having a hospital that can provide safe, quality care for me and my children."

Mike Stensrud, Saskatoon Regional Health Authority Board member told the panel, "The quality of care for the children is directly related to timely access to the life-saving services offered at the Trauma and Cardiac Units now located at Royal University Hospital. It will cost near \$600 million to duplicate the full range of services for the Children's Hospital should have at the SCH site, not including the Cancer Clinic, then we will struggle to staff it appropriately. In human terms, I cannot imagine transporting chronically or critically sick kids between facilities."

With the site for the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan now determined, planning for the \$200 million facility can now really begin including work on the architectural drawings.

A formal sod turning will be held once the exact spot at the Royal University Hospital site has been selected for the building.

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