



News Release

Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan open house next step in design

(July 6, 2012) Saskatoon – Patients and families are invited to join Saskatoon Health Region at a maternal and children's hospital design open house on **Thursday, July 26** from **3:30pm to 8:30pm** at **3310 Millar Avenue** in **Saskatoon**. Ideas generated here will help influence the final look and feel for the hospital.

The open house is a key step to advance to the next stage of design for the new hospital, following the creation of early floor plans after 18 months of intense design work by staff, physicians, patients and family representatives. The work, which began in September 2010, was to determine which services would be located next to each other and develop the overall layout of the building.

In August 2011, the early design for the new hospital had an associated cost estimate of \$259 million. This was significantly higher than the funding provided by the provincial government to Saskatoon Health Region to build and construct the facility.

To address the funding gap, Saskatoon Health Region initiated additional lean methodology last fall called 3P (production preparation process). During two week-long sessions in November and December, teams of patients and families, staff and physicians examined data and considered how to improve care processes to create a better experience for patients and families. The teams then created design concepts and developed two dimensional floor plans, three dimensional table top models, and life-size mock ups of certain rooms to test concepts.

The work resulted in an overall design concept for the hospital which architects used to create real floor plans. The result was a savings of \$30 million dollars from the plans created in August 2011 with the new cost estimate for the hospital now at \$229.9 million.

"While significant savings were realized from that effort and a new design emerged for the building, additional funding is still required from the provincial government in order to ensure all the originally planned health services can be incorporated in the facility and to deal with the rising cost of construction," explains Jim Rhode, Saskatoon Regional Health Authority board chair.

In 2009, the provincial government provided \$200 million to Saskatoon Health Region to plan and build the facility. The Health Region expects to earn \$13 million in interest through its investment of those funds. As well, \$1.4 million will be funded within the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan's capital campaign. This leaves a funding gap of \$15.5 million for the facility.

"We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the provincial government through this entire process," says Rhode. "We are hopeful that support will continue, and that together, we can soon introduce Saskatchewan to the early floor plans for the new maternal and children's hospital."

Meanwhile, the project team is moving forward with design and is focusing on gathering ideas from patients and families throughout Saskatchewan. Community design sessions have been held in northern and central Saskatchewan. These sessions have included the team working with more than 300 students from Grades 1 to 12 to get design ideas. Some of these student design activities are available on-line for other Saskatchewan families to submit ideas for the next phase of design.

Visit www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/chs for the activities and for videos on the design process to date.