



News Release

Families, staff, physicians inspire maternal and children's hospital design

(Saskatoon, April 12, 2011) – Kimberley Frie knew she could not pass up this opportunity.

"My daughter has cystic fibrosis and hospital stays are very common," explains Frie. "I wouldn't feel right being given the opportunity to participate, declining and then five years from now complaining this should have been like this and this should have been like that. They are very open to letting all of us speak our piece and what they come back with, I guess we'll see."

Frie is among 18 families who sit on the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan Patient and Family Working Group which is helping staff, physicians, architects and the project team to create a new maternal and children's hospital for Saskatchewan. The group was set up to ensure patients and families were part of the early design stages for Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan.

Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan, located in Saskatoon and connected to the Royal University Hospital, will serve the province's children, teenagers, mothers and pregnant women.

Prior to blueprints being drawn up, the foundation needs to be created for an exceptional facility best suited for the province. This will be done through two phases – schematic design and design development. Since schematic design began in September 2010, there have been four rounds of meetings with 17 groups from different departments and more than 200 people including employees, physicians, patients and parents. Each session has resulted in architects getting valuable feedback, improving early work and returning to the groups for further review.

"Our goal right now is to have the building blocks arranged so that everything is in the right place and it is the right size," says Clint Diener, with ZGF Architects, in association with Henry, Downing, Howlett Architects based in Saskatoon, who are leading the design of the new hospital. "This is important because we need to ensure what we are building is what's best for patients, families, staff and physicians. As we evolve designs based on input, we need to also consider the overall building organization. For example, we look at how patients, families and staff will move through the building."

The Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan project team has also been focused on improvement work. This involves collaborating with families, staff and physicians, tracing the path patients take from the moment they walk in the door to the moment they leave asking, "How can we make the patient experience better?" and making recommendations.

"It's important we take the time needed to get this right," explains Craig Ayers, Saskatoon Health Region's Project Director for Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan. "We want to ensure we are bringing good processes into the new facility and that the design supports an improved way of delivering care."

The project team continues to work with the groups evolving early designs to the point where everyone is comfortable with the overall arrangement of services within the new building. This is expected to be finalized by late June.

For more information on Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan and to keep up to date on the latest developments, visit www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/chs.

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