



October 14, 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lorri Amos
Nurse Manager - Central Miramichi
Community Health Centre (Doaktown, NB)

Tim Archer
Health Services Consultant
(Saskatoon, SK)

Dorothy Barnard
Board Chair - Dr. WB Kingston Memorial
Community Health Centre (L'Ardoise, NS)

Karen Cederwall
Executive Director - SWITCH Student-Run
Health Centre (Saskatoon, SK)

Nicole Chammartin
Executive Director - Klinik Community
Health (Winnipeg, MB)

Irene Clarence, CHAIR
Executive Director - Mid-Main Community
Health Centre (Vancouver, BC)

Shelley Heartwell, TREASURER
Chief Executive Officer - The Alex
Community Health Centre (Calgary, AB)

Michael Kelly
Executive Director - MFL Occupational
Health Centre (Winnipeg, MB)

Leading Eagle Man
Board Member - Saskatoon Community
Clinic (Saskatoon, SK)

Jane Moloney, PAST CHAIR
Health Services and Policy Consultant
(Ottawa, ON)

Esdras Ngenzi
Executive Director - ACFA / Clinique
francophone de Calgary (Calgary, AB)

Siffan Rahman
Ottawa Newcomer Health Centre Program
Coordinator - Somerset West Community
Health Centre (Ottawa, ON)

Lynne Raskin
Chief Executive Officer - South Riverdale
Community Health Centre (Toronto, ON)

Hersh Sehdev
Executive Director - Kingston Community
Health Centres (Kingston, ON)

Simone Thibault
Executive Director - Centretown
Community Health Centre (Ottawa, ON)

Honourable Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
226 Legislative Building
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister of Health
Room 204, Legislative
Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Honourable Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for
Rural and Remote Health
Room 208, Legislative
Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

RE: Improving health and healthcare in Saskatchewan through wise public investment

Premier Wall, Minister Reiter and Minister Ottenbreit:

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Community Health Centres (CACHC) and Community Health Centre counterparts in Saskatchewan, we invite you to review important findings from the 2016 Canadian Survey of Community Health Centres at: www.cachc.ca/2016survey

Community Health Centres (CHCs) have been called "Medicare's best kept secret". They provide a triple bottom line solution: improved individual health, improved community and population health, and more cost-effective healthcare and social service systems.

CHCs are multi-sector health and healthcare organizations that operate through a comprehensive primary health care approach. Care teams at CHCs are comprised of family physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, counselors and other providers who wrap care around individual needs, ensuring the right care, by the right provider, at the right time. These care services are integrated with a range of health promotion programs, social services, and community health initiatives.

At a time when governments across Canada are looking to strengthen community infrastructure and provide transformative change through more cost-effective public services, we want to take this opportunity to re-introduce you to CHCs.

CHCs have been driving innovation in integrated health and social services across Canada ever since the first CHC (Mount Carmel Clinic) was established 90 years ago, in Winnipeg. They have the potential to address many of our country's most urgent and intersecting priorities, and this holds true for Saskatchewan.

Results from the 2016 Canadian CHCs Survey affirm that CHCs work across multiple sectors (healthcare, seniors services, housing, immigration and settlement, and other sectors), converting our fragmented health and social systems...



The Canadian Association of
Community Health Centres is
the federal voice for
Community Health Centres and
community-oriented, people-
centred primary health care
across Canada.

340 College Street, Suite 500
Toronto, ON, M5T 3A9
T: 416.922.5694
F: 886.404.6040
E: info@cachc.ca

www.cachc.ca
Twitter: @CACHC_ACCSC

...into more accessible and navigable services for people at the local level. What's more, they engage members of the community in identifying evolving needs and priorities in the community.

Not only does this integrated, community-centred approach optimize the various public services upon which Canadians rely, it improves health outcomes and helps build social capital in diverse communities across Canada.

Despite the critical role played by CHCs, results from the 2016 CHCs Survey also paint an alarming picture about serious operational and capital pressures faced by CHCs across the country.

Across Canada, 94% of existing CHCs report significant operational pressures impacting their ability to fulfill their mandate in serving Canadians. 69% of CHCs also report capital funding needs related to outstanding repairs and space enhancements. Moreover, very large numbers of communities throughout Canada, including both rural and urban communities in Saskatchewan, still do not have access to a CHC.

CHCs can play an even more powerful role in helping the Government of Saskatchewan to fulfill its mandate in improving the health and wellbeing of Saskatchewan residents. We sincerely call for your collaboration in stewarding this process.

The need to shift attention and public investment toward the integrated CHC approach is one that must be embraced by all provinces, as well as the federal government. That is why we are strongly encouraging the federal government and provinces to ensure that funding for CHCs is embedded in the forthcoming federal/provincial/territorial Health Accord.

The Health Accord provides a fresh opportunity to advance a shared commitment to transformative change in health and social services across Canada. We respectfully urge the Government of Saskatchewan to echo this call for dedicated funding to the provinces for CHCs.

We appreciate that the provinces/territories and federal government have already made some progress in outlining initial priorities for the forthcoming Health Accord: home care, mental health services, improved prescription drug care, and 'innovation', for instance.

We believe strongly that concurrent investment in CHCs across Canada is essential in order to ensure that implementation of strategies in those areas results in services that are accessible and equitable for all, and that these services are connected to other sectors that impact health.



Over the coming months, our association and provincial counterparts will be providing governments across Canada with further analysis and recommendations on improving the health and wellbeing of Canadians through CHCs.

In the meantime, we would be pleased to discuss the value and potential of CHCs with you and members of your Cabinet. We would also be very honoured to help coordinate visits to existing Saskatchewan CHCs so that you may see firsthand how they are already improving accessibility, quality and impact of public services for individuals, families and communities.

Respectfully yours,

Irene Clarence
Executive Director, Mid-Main CHC
Chair, CACHC Board of Directors
Vancouver, BC

Scott Wolfe
Executive Director, CACHC
Toronto, ON
swolfe@cachc.ca

cc:

Hon. Don Morgan - Deputy Premier, Minister of Education, Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board
Hon. Donna Harpauer - Minister of Government Relations, Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs
Hon. Kevin Doherty - Minister of Finance
Hon. Lyle Stewart - Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Jim Reiter - Minister of Health
Hon. Dustin Duncan - Minister of Energy and Resources, Minister Responsible for SaskTel, Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy
Hon. Gordon Wyant - Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds, Minister Responsible for SaskPower
Hon. Jeremy Harrison - Minister of Economy, Minister Responsible for the Global Transportation Hub (GTH), Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA)
Hon. Scott Moe - Minister of the Environment Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Corporation Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
Hon. Christine Tell - Minister of Central Services, Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission
Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff - Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission (PSC)
Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor - Minister of Social Services, Minister responsible for the Status of Women
Hon. David Marit - Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Hon. Bronwyn Eyre - Minister of Advanced Education
Hon. Joe Hargrave - Minister of Crown Investments Corporation (CIC), Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI), Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC)
Max Hendricks - Deputy Minister of Health
Karen Cederwall – Executive Director, SWITCH Student-Run Health Centre and Saskatchewan Representative to CACHC Board of Directors (Saskatoon)