



*Saskatoon
Community
Clinic*

Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Ltd.

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Media Release

For Public Release on October 19, 2010

Saskatoon Community Clinic celebrates new location, expansion of services at Westside Clinic

The Saskatoon Community Clinic is celebrating the new location and expansion of health care services at its Westside Clinic on **Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 10 a.m.** The Clinic recently moved from the Riversdale neighbourhood to a larger facility in Pleasant Hill to accommodate increased programming offered in partnership with other agencies. The move has been made possible through increased funding from the Ministry of Health and contributions from the Saskatoon Community Clinic Foundation.

“We are very excited about the possibilities the move has provided,” said Anne Doucette, President of the Saskatoon Community Clinic. “Our Westside Clinic patients, many of whom have complex health issues, will experience improved access to health care services and programs including family physicians, nurse practitioners, specialists, pre- and postnatal care, chronic disease management, and addiction and mental health programs. New services will also be offered, including a dental clinic.”

“We are committed to supporting those who are most vulnerable in our society, and ensuring they have the best quality of life possible,” Health Minister Don McMorris said. “This Clinic is to be commended for their tremendous efforts. It offers a range of services that meet the needs of the clients it serves and will go a long way in improving lives in inner-city Saskatoon.”

“The move was made possible through the efforts of many,” noted Patrick Lapointe, Community Clinic Administrator. “The dental clinic will be offered by the College of Dentistry. The expanded presence of the College of Medicine and Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH) will allow more health science students to experience the type of care provided at the Westside Clinic. The Saskatoon Health Region has located chronic disease management and mental health and addiction services in our new building. Increased services for patients living with HIV will be offered by our doctors due to new funding provided to the Saskatoon Community Clinic through the provincial Ministry of Health’s HIV strategy.”

“The College of Dentistry is pleased and honoured to join the Westside Clinic family,” said Dr. Uswak, Dean of the College of Dentistry. “We look forward to becoming part of the community and ensuring that its oral health needs are met. In addition, our dental clinic will expand our contributions to the SWITCH program and the interprofessional education of health science practitioners and students.”

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“YOUR HEALTH CARE CO-OP”

“The College of Medicine is very excited about our partnership with the Westside Clinic, and especially the opportunity for expanded capacity through SWITCH. By bringing health sciences students together in an interprofessional learning and service environment, we are addressing the health care needs of our community and inspiring a greater understanding of the social determinants of health in our learners,” said Dr. Albritton, Dean of the College of Medicine.

“We are proud to continue an active partnership with the Community Clinic in providing excellent primary health care,” said Shan Landry, Vice President, Community Services, Saskatoon Health Region.

Carole Courtney, SWITCH Coordinator, noted “SWITCH students and professionals could not be happier to be part of the Westside Clinic family. We wish the Community Clinic continued success in their new building.”

The purchase and renovation costs of the new facility are \$1.9 million. The Government of Saskatchewan contributed \$810,000 towards purchase and renovation costs. The Saskatoon Community Clinic Foundation contributed \$275,000. The Saskatoon Community Clinic contributed \$350,000 through the sale of its former property. Lease agreements with partnering organizations will fund the remaining costs over a 12-year period.

“On behalf of our hundreds of contributors who helped make this possible, the Saskatoon Community Clinic Foundation is delighted to support this major expansion of needed health services in our community,” said Laurence Thompson, President of the Foundation.

The Westside Clinic is owned and operated by the Saskatoon Community Clinic, a citizen sponsored primary health care co-operative with two locations. It also offers services at its downtown Saskatoon location on 2nd Avenue. The Westside location, established in 1975, offers programs to meet the needs of inner city residents valuing diversity, recognizing the realities of inner city life and serving a largely Aboriginal population.

The opening ceremony will include a prayer and blessing from Elder Louise McKinney followed by remarks from the Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Health, and representatives from the Saskatoon Community Clinic, University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine and Dentistry, SWITCH, Saskatoon Health Region and the Saskatoon Community Clinic Foundation.

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Date, Time, Location of Grand Opening Ceremony:
Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Westside Clinic
1528 20th Street West

Presentations will begin at 10 a.m.

Prayer and blessing, Elder Louise McKinney

Remarks from Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Health

Saskatoon Community Clinic, University of Saskatchewan Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry,

SWITCH, Saskatoon Health Region, Community Clinic Foundation

Tours of the facility immediately following.

Interviews can be arranged in Cree.

Contact Ingrid Larson, Member and Public Relations Director (652-0300)