



## COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT: FLIN FLON AND CREIGHTON

June 17, 2010

A Community Health Status Assessment (CHSA) of the Flin Flon / Creighton area (FF/CR) was completed in 2008 by public health officials from Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Health Status review was aimed to provide an assessment of the overall health status of the population of the area in comparison to Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the NOR-MAN Health Region, and the Mamawetan Churchill River (MCR) Health Region to determine if there were particular areas of concern requiring further health status studies. The assessment was not designed to replace the need for the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA), but rather to provide information to complement the work of the HHRA.

Purposes of HHRA versus the CHSA:

1. The HHRA assesses the potential risks to future health from exposures to the metals of concern at this point in time;
2. The CHSA provides information on the health of the population over the past decade. The CHSA results are influenced by a variety of health determinants such as genetics, income and social status, employment, education, health behaviours (such as lifestyle factors like physical activity, nutrition, smoking), health services, and environmental factors over several past decades. This type of study is not meant to determine which factors influenced the health conditions for FF/CR areas but to give a general overview of the community's general health conditions. This type of study may not identify low level risks from one factor due to the small population size and the fact that many health conditions have multiple causes or influences.

The CHSA reviewed a number of common health conditions and health determinants over a 10 year period, from 1996 through 2005, using information collected from various sources including the Vital Statistics Registry of Saskatchewan, the Vital Statistics Agency of Manitoba, the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Cancer Registries, , the Canadian Community Health Survey conducted by Statistics Canada and Census Canada.

### Conclusions and Notable Differences

Generally, the overall health status of the Flin Flon-Creighton population is as good as, if not better, than the provincial averages for most of the indicators studied.

#### Good News:

##### **A. Lower rates in FF/CR for:**

- overall deaths and overall premature deaths than in Manitoba (MB) and Saskatchewan (SK)
- overall deaths due to heart disease and stroke than in MB and SK
- premature deaths due to lung conditions than in MB and SK
- overall cancer deaths and premature cancer deaths than in MB and SK
- breast cancers than in MB
- prostate cancers than in SK

##### **B. No significant differences:**

- There were no specific types of cancer found to have significantly higher rates in FF/CR than in MB and SK.

#### Areas for Improvement:

- Premature deaths due to injuries in FF/CR were higher over this past decade than in MB and SK.
- Death rates due to lung conditions were higher for the oldest age groups than in MB and SK. However, premature deaths due to respiratory conditions were lower in FF/CR than MB and SK.

The full presentation is available on the Flin Flon Soil Study website: [www.flinflonsoilsstudy.com](http://www.flinflonsoilsstudy.com) and click on Document Library.