

# Spirit of Mamawetan

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Together in Wellness

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## Open Dialogue

On behalf of Al Rivard, Board Chair, and myself, I want to thank everyone who attended the open dialogue sessions we held in November and December. We very much appreciated the hospitality shown us, as well as the participation and discussions at each of the five sessions. There were several commonalities in things we heard. We heard about capital infrastructure issues such as sound proofing, storage space, and teaching space. We heard of recruitment and retention ideas, including the need to provide community orientation for family members. We heard of the need to strengthen communication both formally and informally—the need for a space for staff to gather and staff conferences. We also heard stories about the work you do and we even got to see a video in Pinehouse. There is work to do. We look forward to meeting again.

- Kathy Chisholm, CEO

## Good news travels fast

When Chalsey Robinson passed her Canadian Health Information Management Association exam, Teresa Watt sent out an email right away to all staff and we were all able to share in the congratulations.

When Jody Roy joined the Dental Health team, Kim Christiansen included a photo of Jody in her email, so we could immediately put a face to the name.

Good news can, and should, travel fast. So what is the role of a newsletter that only gets published on an occasional basis?

Communication is an essential part of who we are and what we do. As we continually look for ways to update our communications methods, we are acknowledging that there are different ways to

reach staff and the general public.

Our revised website is primarily how we can convey current information to our clients. There are also plans to print and distribute a "report to the community" highlighting regional goals and initiatives.

Although these can also be a source of news for our employees, the intention of this newsletter is to supplement the usual communication channels of staff meetings and memos.

The idea is to celebrate the theme implicit in our region's name. "Mamawetan" is the Cree word for "getting together", so we'll be looking for bits of news



A team approach is one of our region's values. In May, 2007, SGEU, SUN local 249 and MCRHR Management joined efforts to host a teamwork barbeque in La Ronge. Pictured above are Maureen Howell, SGEU local president, and Kathy Chisholm, CEO.

and photos that reflect just that. This first issue is an attempt to "catch up" on some of the stories since the last Community and Staff Newsletter in the spring of 2007. We're hoping staff will get into the "spirit" of this concept, and we look forward to your submissions:

Linda.Mikolayenko@mccrrha.sk.ca

## Celebrating 35 years of service!



Margaret Irving (right) was recognized for 35 years of health care service in the north with a presentation by Barb Biliske, Executive Director of Acute and Continuing Care.

Margaret began her career in housekeeping at the old La Ronge

Hospital, moving into a supervisory position and then training as a Special Care Aide and eventually becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1998.

"I really enjoy working with the Elders," says Margaret.

Congratulations!

**Ruth Bacon recognized by Lieutenant-Governor**

Food Services worker at the La Ronge Health Centre, Ruth Bacon, received a Northern Student Achievement Award in October. Ruth has been upgrading her education through the Masinahakana Online School. Congratulations!



**SRNA award for Brenda Mishak Beckman**



Colleagues joined in the celebration at the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association Awards Banquet in Prince Albert in May when Brenda Mishak Beckman was presented with the Jean Wilson Employer of the Year Award. The award recognizes an individual who has "demonstrated leadership in providing accessible, responsive and integrated health services and creating a positive work environment for registered nurses conducive to enhancing teamwork and maintaining a high client satisfaction".

Pictured above are: (back row, left to right) Heather Keith, Deanna Bartok, Pam Molnar, Jennifer Johnson, Ellen Klassen, Merle Ramshaw; (front row, l to r) Jennifer Radloff, Brenda Mishak Beckman, Kim Schommer, Michelle Bakos and Kathy Chisholm.



**Visitors are always welcome at the La Ronge Health Centre!**

**Golf tournament fun**

Both golfers and volunteers got into the spirit of the fundraising golf tournament held at the Eagle Point Resort in La Ronge last June with big smiles and bright costumes.

The 2007 golf tournament raised over \$13,000 towards the purchase and installation of diagnostic equipment at the La Ronge Health Centre.

Plans are underway for this year's tournament. It will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

Once again, we are looking for golfers, volunteers and sponsors. So, get involved and join in the fun.

Check our website for details as they become available!

Pictured bottom left: Susan Halland, Kathy Chisholm, Carina Calow, Janet Gray. Below: Al Rivard & Charlene Logan. Top right: Dorla Watt. Bottom right: Ellen Klassen.

