



Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region

News Release

July 19, 2010

For immediate release

Air medevac service enhanced in Northern Saskatchewan

The Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region is pleased to announce enhanced access to medical air transport for its residents. The region, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has selected Transwest Air to provide a dedicated basic to intermediate air medevac service to complement the Provincial Air Ambulance service that already responds to urgent situations.

"With so many of our residents living so far away from major medical facilities, there has been a long-standing need to provide better access for patients," said health region Chief Executive Officer, Kathy Chisholm. "Even in non-emergency cases, ground ambulance is not always feasible. This dedicated service will ensure more timely patient transfers."

As the need for medical air transportation arises, health professionals in the region will communicate their requests to the Provincial Aeromedical Coordination Centre which will arrange for appropriate dispatch.

"We want to provide every Saskatchewan resident with access to the health services they need, regardless of where they live," Health Minister Don McMorris said. "This agreement will help ensure more structured and higher quality air medevac services for northern Saskatchewan."

The province will provide \$150,000 in funding to support the service.

Transwest Air, a Saskatchewan-based airline which has been in operation for the past ten years, was chosen after an extensive process that involved looking at proposals from various providers, both locally, and from across the province.

"Our company will be dedicating 24/7 availability of aircraft, flight crew and qualified air medical personnel," said Deb Wrightson, Customer Relations and Sales Manager for Transwest Air.

The service took effect July 10, 2010 and will operate out of La Ronge, one of Transwest's largest bases.

The Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region provides service to over 22,750 residents spread over a geographical region that covers nearly 25% of the province.

-30-

For more information or to arrange for interviews, please contact:
Linda Mikolayenko, Director of Communications, (306) 425-4812

Together in Wellness
www.mcrrha.sk.ca