



# Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region

## News Release

June 3, 2011

For immediate release

### **Health authority approves 2011-2012 balanced budget**

The Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority approved a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year at a special meeting of the Board held in La Ronge on June 3, 2011. The operating budget of \$28.26 million is designed to achieve the goals set out in the region's strategic plan, which is in line with the Ministry of Health's Strategic and Operational Directions.

"This increase of 7% over last year means that the region will be able to continue to focus on providing quality, accessible programs and services," said Ron Woytowich, Chairperson of the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority. "In addition, anticipated savings as a result of collaborating with other health regions on service agreements is allowing us to redirect money to areas that will have direct benefits for client care."

The region expects to expand its Speech and Language Therapy services to a full-time position. As well, additional dollars will be directed to the basic to intermediate air medevac service.

"We are making an investment in enhancements to the Telehealth system this fiscal year that will generate savings in future years," said Chief Executive Officer Kathy Chisholm.

Telehealth technology saves travel time and expenses for both clients and health care providers, and reduces delays in the provision of care.

The region is committed to participating in the provincial oral health strategy, and will be expanding the dental access program to communities outside La Ronge.

"In all our initiatives, we will be working hard to achieve the best value for money, while improving the patient experience and the health of the residents of the region," added Chisholm.

The Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region serves a population of over 22,500 spread over a large northern geographical region, and employs over 300 people in facilities in La Ronge, Creighton, Pinehouse, Sandy Bay and Weyakwin.

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For more information or to arrange for interviews, please contact:  
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