



Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region

News Release

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For immediate release

Health authority approves 2007-2008 balanced budget

The Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority approved a balanced budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year at its regular meeting held in La Ronge on May 25, 2007. The budget totals \$20.34 million. This is an increase of \$1.38 million, or almost 7.25%, over last year.

“The goal is to provide continued access to health services, while responding to new and changing needs,” said Al Rivard, Chairperson of the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority.

One of the new initiatives is a program through the Premier’s Project Hope to provide community support to people with addictions in La Ronge. This program will be administered by a non-profit organization, NorthSask Special Needs Housing, Employment, Recreation Inc.

“We are hopeful that this will help meet some of the needs of our most vulnerable clients and contribute to their well-being,” added Rivard.

Mental Health Services are also being enhanced with a new counsellor in Sandy Bay, and Children’s Action Plan initiatives in Pinehouse. As well, the region will be submitting a plan to access funding for an outreach worker in Children’s Mental Health Services for the La Ronge area.

“Patient and employee safety is another priority for our region,” said Chief Executive Officer Kathy Chisholm. “With this in mind, our plan is to establish a new Employee and Patient Safety Co-ordinator position. As well, MCRHR, as a member of the Co-Managed Population Health Unit, has approved the hiring of an Infection Control Nurse.”

In addition to the above, the region received \$130,000 for capital equipment from Saskatchewan Health specifically targeted for medical and information technology equipment, and equipment designed for patient care and safer workplaces. Included in this, are plans to upgrade the communications system to a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

The Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region serves a population of over 21,000 spread over a large northern geographical region and has facilities in La Ronge, Creighton, Pinehouse, Sandy Bay and Weyakwin.