



# Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region

## News Release

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For immediate release

### Grants bring new health workers to Mamawetan Churchill River

The Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region (MCRHR) is benefiting from health recruitment grants introduced by the provincial government this past October. Taking advantage of these incentives, as of April 1, three new health workers have relocated to the region and are providing care to the region's residents.

In total, 120 new health care workers have accepted recruitment grants to work in Saskatchewan. Of these workers, 75 are nurses and 45 are from the broader health workforce, including professionals such as respiratory therapists, physical therapists, and medical laboratory technologists. More than one-third come from Alberta. On average, they have committed to work in the province for two-and-a-half years in exchange for their grants.

"Keeping and attracting key health providers in urban, rural and northern communities is a top priority of this government," Health Minister Len Taylor said. "I am pleased with the enthusiastic response to our recruitment grants, and I'm confident we are well on our way toward even further success in recruiting health workers to Saskatchewan and keeping them here."

The Saskatchewan Relocation Program and the Saskatchewan Rural, Northern and Hard-to-Recruit Program flow from the government's \$25 million retention and recruitment plan announced this past fall. Through these two grant programs, the government is targeting to recruit 600 new health employees to fill vacancies over the next two years – approximately 400 nurses and 200 employees from the broader health workforce.

"Recruiting new employees to fill vacancies is important for providing service in northern communities," said Kathy Chisholm, MCRHR's Chief Executive Officer, "and it also helps us retain current employees, by assisting them with workload and the ability to plan vacation time."

In addition to the staff hired by the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region, two new nurses working with First Nations located in the health region have qualified for the programs.

These programs have been designed and recommended by committees that were established in September to advise the Minister on how the \$25 million retention and recruitment plan money should be directed, working within the framework of the national recognized strategy, the *Health Workforce Action Plan*.

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