



# Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region

## News Release

**December 20, 2006**

**For immediate release**

### **Health region property designated smoke-free**

The Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region announces that it is designating all regional property smoke-free, effective January 24, 2007.

“The region is pleased to take leadership in providing a healthier, smoke-free environment,” said Kathy Chisholm, Chief Executive Officer. “We’ve had a no-smoking policy inside our facilities for a number of years, and it has been very well respected. Now we’re extending that to include all our property, including entrances, benches and parking areas. Clients and visitors will no longer risk being exposed to dangerous second-hand smoke.”

The policy will apply to staff and the public, however, provisions are made for detoxification clients and current residents in Long Term Care.

“We also respect the use of sacred tobacco in traditional Aboriginal ceremonies in the La Ronge Health Centre healing room,” added Chisholm.

For those wishing to quit smoking, free tobacco cessation programs are being offered in the new year. The first program, consisting of three sessions, will be held at the La Ronge Health Centre on January 10, 17, & 24, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 425-4840 to register. Sessions are also being planned for Sandy Bay, Pinehouse, Creighton and Weyakwin.

There is also a toll-free Smokers’ Helpline: 1-877-513-5333.

January 24, 2007 was selected as the effective date of this policy as it falls during National Non-Smoking Week and is popularly known as “Weedless Wednesday”.

-30-

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