



Heartland Health Region

Healthy People, Health Communities and Service Excellence in an enduring System

HealthLine
1-877-800-0002
healthlineonline.ca

Date: April 1, 2011
For Immediate Release

Provincial Funding Helps Improve Patient Safety in Heartland's Facilities



Care Team Manager for the Biggar Hospital/Biggar Diamond Lodge, Deb Kurulak-Milne tours Randy Weekes, MLA for Biggar through the facility showing him the improved handicapped access doors to the building, one of the improvements provided through the Ready for Growth VFA funding

Heartland Health Region is nearing the completion of \$4.3 million dollars in projects to make health facilities across the region safer and more comfortable for patients, long-term care residents, employees and visitors.

Funding from the provincial government's \$1.5 billion Ready for Growth infrastructure initiative has enabled Heartland to make numerous upgrades, including replacing the roofs of nine health facilities, upgrading air conditioning and ventilation in five facilities, and upgrading fire alarms and nurse call systems in nine facilities.

"The government is committed to infrastructure renewal in Heartland Health Region, making the health system safer and more secure for patients, clients, visitors and health providers," says Randy Weekes, MLA for Biggar, on behalf of Health Minister Don McMorris. "These investments are one more way this government is putting patients first."

Corporate Office ❖ P.O. Box 2110, Rosetown, SK S0L 2V0

Tel: (306) 882-4111, ext 233 ❖ Fax: (306) 882-1389 ❖ Email: leanne.paproski@hrha.sk.ca

Visit Heartland's website at www.hrha.sk.ca!

Weekes toured Biggar Hospital today to see work on improvements to patient baths, and the impact of the new roof, upgraded fire alarm and nurse call systems and the installation of handicap-accessible doors.

“The \$4.3 million in funding for capital repairs and upgrades have gone a long way to improve our buildings and has helped address many of our highest infrastructure priorities” says Director of Environmental Services, Wayne Pierrepoint.

Since 2008, the region has spent approximately \$2.9 million on roofing systems, \$456,000 on air conditioning and ventilation upgrades, \$280,000 for life safety system upgrades, \$300,000 to replace worn flooring systems, \$90,000 for improved handicap-accessible doors and \$35,000 for water heater upgrades. Another roof repair project will resume this spring.

The region is also developing plans for the replacement of long-term care homes in Kerrobert, Biggar and Rosetown.

-30-

Media:

For more information or to arrange interviews contact:
LeAnne Paproski
Communications Coordinator (306) 882-4111 ext 233