



Heartland Health Region

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

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Heartland Regional Health Authority Approves Design Development for new Biggar Long Term Care Facility

At their regular Board meeting held in Rosetown on Thursday, April 28th, the Heartland Regional Health Authority (HRHA) passed a motion to approve the design development proposal for the new Biggar Long Term Care facility. The next step is for the Ministry of Health to review and approve the proposed design. Projects are sent to the Ministry of Health for approval at various stages of the planning process. Previously, a needs assessment, functional plan, and schematic design have been submitted and approved for the Biggar project.

This brings the Biggar capital project one step closer to the start of construction. The design development proposal is a more detailed plan for the layout of the building. Once this is approved by the Ministry of Health the next step is to prepare more detailed working drawings in preparation for tender. The building design calls for 54 Long Term Care beds. The estimated cost is \$25.7 million including furniture. Heartland Health Region officials are hopeful that construction on the Biggar Long Term care facility will commence late in 2011.

Once the working drawings and tender package, which includes the community contribution agreement, is ready it will go to the board for approval for submission to the Ministry. Once the Ministry approves the package the project will be tendered.

The Government of Saskatchewan announced funding to replace the Hospital and Long-Term Care facility in the community of Biggar in February 2009. The funding was part of the government's plan to accelerate infrastructure spending with its "Ready for Growth" initiative. Since the announcement has been made, the Heartland Health Region and the Biggar Advisory Group have been busy with the planning stages for the new Long Term Care Facility in Biggar.

Heartland Regional Health Authority Board Chair Richard Anderson said, "Our board is very impressed that Biggar has progressed so quickly to come to this stage in their design development. Community representatives and Heartland Health Region staff have worked well together to address the facility needs of our residents in Biggar and area. The Board is pleased to approve an initiative that the people of Biggar and surrounding communities have generously contributed their time, energy and financial support to. We look forward to working with the community of Biggar and surrounding area to build a long term care home that will provide its residents with a high quality of life and puts the needs of Biggar residents first."

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