



# Heartland Health Region

*Building a region of healthy people and healthy communities!*

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## MEDIA RELEASE

July 15, 2009

For Immediate Release

### **Heartland Regional Health Authority Appoints President/Chief Executive Officer**

The Heartland Regional Health Authority (HRHA) is very pleased to announce the appointment of Greg Cummings as Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/President effective September 1, 2009. Greg replaces Lefa Sproxtton who was filling the role on an interim basis since August of 2008.

Following a thorough search process, the Heartland Regional Health Authority Members look forward to working with Greg. "The detailed recruitment and selection process that the previous Board Authority started made the process of CEO selection a lot easier for the new Board Authority," said Richard Anderson, Chairperson. "Our board is impressed with Greg's experience and credentials and is looking forward to working with him."

From 2006-09 Mr. Cummings served as Assistant Deputy Minister Field Operations and Deputy Minister for the Northwest Territories Department of Health and Social Services. In these capacities he led the Joint Senior Management Committee made up of Health Authority CEOs and H&SS Senior Managers. He also had a key leadership role with the Council of Board Chairs.

Mr. Cummings was Chief Executive Officer for the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (2003-06) and the Tli Cho Community Services Agency(2000-03) where he was responsible for the provision of public health, home care, social services, mental health and integrated primary care clinics.

Greg is a professional Social Worker with many years of experience in the delivery and administration of health and social services programs, both in northern Canada and British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

Throughout the 1990s, he worked as a Director with Vancouver's University Hospital and as a senior manager with the Fraser Valley and Richmond Health Authorities. During this time, he developed his expertise in the management of the continuum of care for the elderly. He managed 450 sub-acute, intermediate, and extended care beds and adult day programs.

During the 1980's Greg worked in northern Manitoba and the Kivalliviq Region of Nunavut. With an undergraduate degree concentrated in Criminology, the early part of his career was spent as a practitioner in the field of Corrections.

Mr. Cummings has Master of Business Administration and Master of Social Work degrees, plus

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**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](mailto:leanne.paproski@hrha.sk.ca)

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significant post graduate work in Continuing Care Management and Adult Education. He has served as a Board Member on the Canadian Healthcare Association and the Mental Health Commission of Canada. He has played a significant role in the development of an electronic health record and a process of system-wide accreditation for the NWT.

Greg says, “I am delighted to be joining the Heartland Health Authority in September. I was born and raised in the rural area referred to as the *heart of the St. John River Valley* in New Brunswick. That’s about 12 miles from the longest covered bridge in the world which you may know is located in "Hartland, NB". Because my roots are in a small community in a rural region most of my career has been based in small communities. Typically access to health services is local, but also requires travel to or from neighboring communities or larger centers. I am passionate about innovative primary care programs that keep services as close to home for people as possible and contribute to the ongoing development of a health system that is affordable and sustainable.”

Lefa Sproxton, Interim President/Chief Executive Officer is pleased. “I’ve spoken with Greg a couple of times and I really look forward to working with him in the transition. He is very warm and friendly and I believe just what Heartland needs. I know that everyone in the organization is eager to meet him and to work with him.”

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