



June 11, 2015: For Immediate Release
Joint news release – Heartland Health Region/Town of Kindersley

**Working Group to Address Primary Health Care
Recommendations for Kindersley and Area**

Heartland Health Region and the Town of Kindersley have formed a collaborative working group to address recommendations included in the Kindersley Primary Health Care Service Needs Assessment Final Report, presented by Western Management Consultants (WMC) at a special meeting of the Kindersley Town Council on Thursday, June 11, 2015.

The Region and Town engaged the services of WMC to assess current and anticipated demand for primary health care services in the Kindersley service area. The report recommends action in seven key areas:

- Develop a comprehensive Primary Health Care Services Plan.
- Targeted investments in selected high priority service areas.
- Establish and affirm governance, decision-making, and accountability structures.
- Review existing physician compensation models and provide recommendations on the direction for compensation that supports patient/family-centred care and a collaborative interdisciplinary team approach to service delivery.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive human resources strategy to attract and retain family physicians and other health care professionals.
- Develop and implement formal measures and mechanisms to evaluate the success of the primary health services delivery model in Kindersley and area.
- Engage key internal and external stakeholders.

Greg Cummings, CEO for Heartland Health Region states that “Community needs assessment is an important part of the strategic and operational planning process for the Health Authority. The Health Region will use these results in combination with the most current available population health data to inform our planning processes as we grow and adapt our services to the changing needs of Kindersley, the surrounding communities, and the Heartland Health Region. We welcome every opportunity to improve our communication strategies and our planning process.”

Mayor John Enns-Wind says, "Kindersley has experienced steady population growth over the past five years, and this trend is expected to continue in the coming years. Ensuring that we have stable and sustainable health care services is an absolute priority for Kindersley and the entire west central Saskatchewan region that we serve."

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The working group will now begin collaborating on action plans and implementation strategies to address the seven recommendations identified in the report. The working group includes members from the Heartland Health Region, Town of Kindersley, a physician and has the potential to add other members as needed.

Work on the assessment began in early 2014, and included engagement with physicians, health care providers, patients and families. Public consultation was also achieved through focus groups and outreach to the community to ask their opinion on what is working well and potential improvements to primary health care services in Kindersley. The working group will continue to engage the community by establishing an enduring structure in the form of a Community Advisory Network to provide Heartland Health Region with ongoing advice respecting the provision of health services in Kindersley and area.

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