

News Release

For Immediate Release:

Regional Health Authority B Unveils New Organizational Structure

August 8, 2008 –Regional Health Authority B's (RHA B) new organizational structure was unveiled by Donald J. Peters, President and CEO of RHA B, during a news conference today.

As part of transformational changes announced by Health Minister Michael Murphy to put the needs of patients first, the eight existing Regional Health Authorities will merge into two new ones, temporarily named RHA A and B. The new structure will provide New Brunswickers with access to a larger network of services and health care providers within their region while also producing a more effective health care system.

"I am very excited about our new executive team," said Peters. "Their leadership skills, years of experience and health care expertise will ensure a smooth execution of our new strategic direction. These organizational changes will also ensure the best possible care is delivered to our patients."

The New Executive Management Team is:

Michael Chisholm, Vice President of Corporate and Chief Financial Officer

Nancy Savage, Vice President of Clinical Services

Gary Foley, Vice President of Professional Services

Geri Geldart, Vice President of Nursing Affairs

Dr. Édouard Hendriks, Vice President of Medical Affairs

Janet Hogan, Vice President of Communications and Community Relations

Fonda Kazi, Vice President of Community and Primary Health Care Services

Vacant, Vice President of Support Services

Nancy Roberts, Vice President of Health Services, Quality and Research

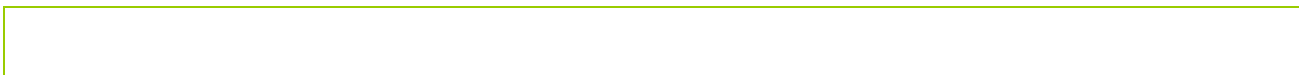
Vicki Squires, Vice President of Organizational Development

There will be five Executive Directors who will be responsible for the day to day clinical operations, they are:

Dean Cummings: Upper River Valley Hospital, Hotel-Dieu of St. Joseph and Tobique Valley Hospital.

Susan Ness: The Moncton Hospital and Sackville Memorial Hospital

Marilyn Underhill: Miramichi Regional Hospital



Margaret Melanson: Saint John Regional Hospital, Charlotte County Hospital, Grand Manan Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and Sussex Health Centre.

Vacant: Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital and Oromocto Hospital.

The two vacant positions will be filled in the next couple of weeks.

RHA B will be operational on September 1, 2008 – right on schedule, Peters said. Day-to-day patient care will continue as usual without any interruption.

“In fact, this is our top priority as we move forward with the amalgamation,” he said.

Although many challenges lie ahead as the new structure of RHA B is put into place, Peters said, New Brunswickers can look forward to many benefits.

"This is a really exciting time for all of us as we continue to improve health care services by standardizing processes and delivery service." he said.

Background

On March 11, 2008, Health Minister Michael Murphy announced a new structure for New Brunswick health care.

The changes involve:

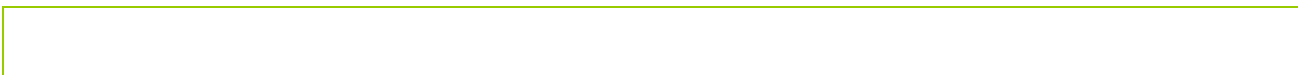
- a transition from eight Regional Health Authorities to two. The transition will be complete by Sept. 1;
- the creation of the New Brunswick Health Council, with a dual mandate to provide residents with opportunities for meaningful input and dialogue on health matters, and to ensure that the health-care system is accountable to New Brunswickers; and
- the consolidation, under a new public sector company, of selected non-clinical services now carried out by the health authorities.

The two new RHAs will create a standardized method of health care throughout the province and work cooperatively together to ensure patients receive a consistently high standard of care throughout New Brunswick in either official language.

Structure of New Health Authorities:

RHA A will include the previous RHA 1 Beauséjour (Moncton), RHA 4 (Edmundston), RHA 5 (Campbellton) and RHA 6 (Bathurst). RHA A will be based in Bathurst.

RHA B will include the previous RHA1 South East (Moncton), RHA 2 (Saint John), RHA 3 (Fredericton), and RHA 7 (Miramichi). RHA B will be based in Miramichi.



For more information on the structural changes, visit the Department of Health website at: www.gnb.ca/Health

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