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NEWS RELEASE

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YORKTON HEALTH RECRUITMENT COLLABORATIVE

The City of Yorkton, Sunrise Health Region and five community organizations today announced the formation of a community collaborative. The purpose is to attract and retain physicians and other health care professionals to Yorkton.

Difficulties in recruiting sufficient numbers of physicians affect many communities in Canada and Yorkton is no exception. At present there are 13 family physicians practicing in Yorkton. The desired number is one family physician for every 1,200 residents. Sunrise Health Region recommends that a community the size of Yorkton have 18 family physicians.

Additionally, there is difficulty recruiting some physician specialties and certain classifications of health care professions.

“Sunrise Health Region approached the City Council in January requesting help,” says Mayor James Wilson. “In subsequent meetings the city council and health region agree that the best way to augment recruitment strategies is by harnessing the collective wisdom of the community.”

Joining in the collaborative are the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, local physician representation, Yorkton Tribal Council, The Health Foundation of East Central Saskatchewan and Yorkton Business Improvement District. Representatives from these groups will explore strategies to entice physicians and other health care professionals to the area, and ways to ease their transition into the community.

Recognizing that there are many excellent physicians and health care professionals already committed to the community, the group will also investigate the dynamics that contribute to these health professionals staying.

“The Sunrise Health Region Human Resources Department and the Medical Services Employment Coordinator support the work of cities, towns and existing medical practices in attracting health care professionals to the region,” says Sunrise Regional Health Authority Chairman, Greg Kobylka. “We look forward to exciting new ideas coming from the Yorkton collaborative.”

There has been recent success with the arrival this spring in Yorkton of three physicians including a family physician, medical health officer and a radiologist. The Yorkton Health Recruitment Collaborative hopes to accelerate successful recruitment so that residents of Yorkton have greater access to medical professionals.

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For more information, please contact:

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