

## NEWS RELEASE

Monday, January 4, 2010



For immediate release

### Health Region Completes Third Accreditation

Sunrise Health Region has completed its third region-wide accreditation survey. A team of surveyors from Accreditation Canada visited Sunrise from November 1 - 6, 2009. Their task was to evaluate the standards of health care and services that Sunrise provides.

"Accreditation is a voluntary process that allows us to discover how well we measure up to national standards," said Joe Kirwan, Chief Executive Officer for the Sunrise Health Region. "It is a formal evaluation to ensure we are continually reviewing and improving our services for the benefit of our clients."

The surveyors met with a broad range of staff and stakeholders across the Health Region to assess the degree of excellence and extent to which Sunrise meets clients' needs and expectations, based on national standards. Accreditation Canada evaluates health systems across the nation and identifies opportunities for improvement.

"I am very proud of all of our quality improvement teams and all our Sunrise team," said Suann Laurent, Senior Vice President of Health Services. "We continue to make progress towards enhancing our services to optimize our patient's/client's experience. Accreditation is an ongoing process that will continue to drive quality services for the people we serve."

The final report from Accreditation Canada is encouraging as Sunrise continues to show progress in improving patient and staff safety, developing regional policies and procedures, recruiting nursing staff, and providing programming opportunities to clients. Opportunities exist for further development of medication reconciliation upon admission, improved signage for emergency entrances, communication with stakeholders and continued progress in infection control.

"We undertake accreditation reviews to ensure progress and the highest standard of quality care and services, within a culture of safety," said Kirwan. "Utilizing recommendations from the report, we raise the bar across the Sunrise Health Region to improve care for the population that we serve."

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For information about this news release, please contact Sharon Tropin, Director of Communications 306.786.0144.

Encl. Background document

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