

Spirit of Mamawetan

Volume 2, Issue 2

Together in Wellness

February 28, 2009



Welcome!

Welcome to the following employees who have joined the health region during February.

Emily Colli
Receptionist/Office Assistant

Brandy Dareichuk
Health Records Clerk/Medical Transcriptionist

Arleen Eninew
SCA/HHA – Creighton

Darrell Hakes
Maintenance Services Worker

Laurie Marple
Addictions Counsellor – Diploma

Darlene Misponas
SCA/HHA – Long Term Care

Glenn Solidarios
Nurse C - Pinehouse

Theresa Ulriksen
Environmental Services Worker

RHA Board appointed



Joe Hordyski of La Ronge was appointed Chair of the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority on February 6, 2009.

On February 6, 2009, the Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Health, appointed eight members to the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority.

New to the Board are:
Joe Hordyski, Chair, La Ronge
Ina Fietz Ray, Vice-Chair, Sandy Bay
Leon Charles, Grandmother's Bay
Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth, Wollaston Lake

Returning Board Members are:
Al Rivard, La Ronge
Josie Searson, La Ronge
Louise Wiens, La Ronge
Ron Woytowich, La Ronge

You can find brief biographies on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health website:
<http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/mamawetan-board-member-bios>

The Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region acknowledges, with gratitude, the departing Board Members for their dedicated service: **Peter Bear**, Sandy Bay; **Larry Beatty**, Deschambault Lake; **Mary Denechezhe** (former vice-chair), Wollaston Lake; **William Dumais**, Southend; **Al Loke**, La Ronge; **Charlene Logan**, Creighton; and **Ida Ratt-Natomagan**, Pinehouse. Some have served since the formation of health districts in 1997, and prior to that, on the La Ronge Hospital Board. Thank you!

Mission, Vision and Values

At the February 27, 2009 meeting, the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority reaffirmed the region's **Mission**:
Working together in wellness to promote, enhance and maintain quality of life.

The members also approved slight modifications to the external vision and internal vision:
External Vision
Vibrant and diverse communities, rich in northern heritage, tradition and culture.
Internal Vision
A safe, respectful environment of teamwork, learning, and continuous quality improvement, representative of the communities we serve.

(See the next page for Values.)

Values - WE ACT Together

The region's values statement has been updated and expanded, and approved by the Board. These values guide our day to day work in health care, whether we are providing direct client care, or whether we have indirect or supportive roles.

Wholistic Approach: Compassionate care, recognizing and supporting physical, mental, spiritual, social and emotional well-being.

Equity: Social justice through fair and equitable access to health services for all people.

Accountability: Having the courage to do what is right, guided by honesty, transparency, and responsibility to our stakeholders.

Competence: A commitment to the continual pursuit of excellence through gaining knowledge, implementing research based best practice guidelines and standards within an ethical framework.

Trust: Built upon respect and valuing the unique worth of each individual in our relationships, decisions, and actions.

Team Approach: Working together through cooperation and recognizing each other's contributions to achieve a common goal.

Share the joy!

Connor Lee Allan
Jesney born to
Melissa and Derek
Jesney on January 20,
2009.



Safia Wyn Carter
born to Nicole and
Jeff Carter on
December 11, 2008.

Do you or your work team have some news to share? Send your submissions to Linda.Mikolayenko@mcrha.sk.ca

Ethics - What? Ethics Committee - Why?

Submitted by Sharyn Swann on behalf of the Ethics Committee

We all come up against ethical questions and dilemmas daily in the work we do, but don't often think of them as "ethics" at the time. So, what are "ethics" and why do we need an "Ethics Committee"? I will try to answer these questions from my point of view.

First of all, I believe Ethics are the guiding principles by which we live. We all have core values that we live by in our daily lives. We all have Codes of Ethics from our professional associations which we must adhere to in our work lives. Mostly, we don't need to think about these because they are deeply rooted in our beings and the way we work and live. They become an "ethical dilemma" when two of these cores principles or values come into conflict. That is, if we do one thing we violate another value that we hold dearly. For example, our friend has a new haircut that we think is terrible. Do we honour our value about telling the truth or do we honour our value of not hurting people we care about? Or, in a work situation, we have a patient in palliative care who has a large family who wants to be with the patient. Do we honour our value of providing the best possible medical care, the value of family's rights to be together or the value of the rights to privacy of the other patients on the ward?

The Committee is not the moral police...

So why do we need an Ethics Committee? Are they the "moral police"? Will they tell us what to do when faced with an ethical dilemma? The answer is quite simply "No!". The committee is not the moral police nor will the members be able to tell us what to do. What the Committee is able to do is to guide us through a decision making process that allows us to involve all the right people, consider all the circumstances creating the dilemma, weigh the pros and cons of each option and make our decision transparent. By going through this kind of process we are able to make a decision that everyone can agree to, and that we have some comfort with. This will then reduce the risk of us second guessing ourselves and experiencing "moral distress".

Victoria Seaville Klein of the Provincial Health Ethics Network of Alberta will present two information sessions on **March 24, 2009**.

An Introduction to Health Ethics (for all interested staff) from 9:00 to 12:00 noon, in La Ronge and available via telehealth in Creighton, Sandy Bay and Pinehouse.

Health Ethics Committees for Ethics Committee Members, interested Board Members and Senior Management from 1:30-3:30 p.m.