



Healthy Choices – Healthy People

# Media Release

## Five Hills Health Region

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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Five Hills Health Region to Impact Provincial Surgical Wait Times**

Targeting an increase of 200 day surgery procedures, the Five Hills Health Region is receiving an additional \$1 Million from the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative to expand surgical capacity at the Moose Jaw Union Hospital.

In addition to hospital costs related to performing these additional surgeries, funding will cover costs associated with new equipment requirements as well as increased Rehabilitation and Home Care services for surgical patients. “This is an exciting opportunity for us to provide a more timely response to the surgical needs of Saskatchewan residents,” said Laurie Albinet, Executive Director of Clinical Services at MJUH.

The funding for Five Hills Health Region is part of \$40.4 million in additional provincial funding announced by Health Minister Don McMorris on February 14<sup>th</sup> for the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative. It will enable health regions to complete an additional 5,700 surgeries in 2011-12 – an increase of almost eight per cent. More than a third of this increase will be provided in regional hospitals outside of Regina and Saskatoon.

“We’re making it a priority to provide sooner, safer, smarter care that results in shorter wait times and a better surgical experience for patients,” said Thunder Creek MLA Lyle Stewart, on behalf of Health Minister Don McMorris. “We appreciate the strong support of Five Hills Health Region as we work to continuously improve access to surgical services and put our patients first.”

The Five Hills Health Region is currently meeting provincial target times for surgery locally but the province is working hard to reduce wait times across the province to less than 12 months by the end of 2011-12.

According to Albinet, this funding will have a tangible impact in and out of the operating room. “This investment will enable us to deliver additional surgeries this year, but it will also allow us to do the really important work of making improvements to how our system works to deliver more timely access to surgeries for patients into the future.”

The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative was launched in March 2010. Its goals are to transform the surgical patient experience and to ensure that by 2014, no surgical patient

in Saskatchewan waits longer than three months for surgery. More information is available at: [www.health.gov.sk.ca/saskatchewan-surgical-initiative](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/saskatchewan-surgical-initiative)

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