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Chinook Health Region improves access to community health programs

Lethbridge... The Chinook Health Region will receive more than \$4.5 million from the Alberta government to relocate programs and renovate space to consolidate community health programs at a single facility. This move will enhance local access to community health programs.

This initiative is made up of two separate projects. The first project will involve the relocation of Children's CARE Services (rehabilitation services) and home care services to the Homestead Village facility. The second project will see the relocation of community health services, health protection, population health, wellness and sexual health services to the same facility. These programs are being relocated from various locations throughout the Lethbridge area.

"It makes sense to have these services provided at a single location," said Infrastructure Minister Ty Lund. "It shows innovative planning by the Chinook Health Region to provide efficient health care and I commend all those involved for their work."

The funds come from the Alberta government's Health Sustainability Initiative, which was announced in 2003. The fund is intended to help health regions convert health facilities to alternative uses, introduce new service delivery models, and adapt infrastructure to support changing operational directions and priorities for the health system.

"The collaboration of services at both centres will better meet patient needs," said Health and Wellness Minister Gary Mar. "It will increase efficiency in the delivery high-quality health care and meet the growing demands of the community."

"Bringing the community services together in this new Homestead Village facility means that people in and around Lethbridge will benefit from the seamless delivery of health services," said Lethbridge West MLA Clint Dunford.

Total funding available through the Health Sustainability Initiative is \$68.5 million over three years.

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For further information, contact:

Martin Dupuis
Alberta Infrastructure
Phone: (780) 427-1938

Howard May
Alberta Health and Wellness
Phone: (780) 427-7164

<http://www.infras.gov.ab.ca>

Dial 310-0000 for toll free access outside Edmonton.

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