

*Metis Health Knowledge Authority in Manitoba*



HEALTH MINISTER: Marielee Nault



HEALTH CO-MINISTER: Joan Ledoux

## **MMF Health & Wellness Department - Annual Report - September 2012**

The Health & Wellness Department continues to focus on four key strategies: Metis culture-based wellness; Metis health research; Metis health capacity building; and Metis health knowledge authorities. The department uses a holistic approach in all aspects of its work.

The department hosted our first provincial ‘Metis Health Knowledge Exchange’ meeting in Winnipeg, March 12-15, 2012. This event was a created opportunity for each Knowledge Network to share highlights of their collaborative work. Knowledge Network participants, through a facilitated process, contributed to MMF-HWD development of a method to capture ongoing collaborations and changes in how health programs and services are better addressing the needs of the Metis population in Manitoba.



The department continues working with MMF region Knowledge Networks to engage with Regional Health Authorities on health planning, policy, programs and services. We anticipate that engaging directly with RHAs to interpret Metis-specific health information within the context of Metis lives will result in long-term commitment from Manitoba Health and its RHAs to continue involving MMF in this

manner. It is this strong relationship between MMF and the provincial health system that will support identification of access issues of Metis citizens that can be addressed collaboratively through the region Knowledge Networks. It is MMF Region commitment and leadership that has assured the ‘place and space’ for Metis involvement in the provincial health system.

Manitoba Health has undertaken a merger of 11 Regional Health Authorities into five regions. The following MMF region Knowledge Networks are active within the newly merged regions:

1. Northern Region
  - a. The Pas Region Knowledge Network (with Nor-Man RHA)
  - b. Thompson Region Knowledge Network (with Burntwood RHA)
2. Western Region
  - a. Southwest Region Knowledge Network (with Brandon RHA)
  - b. Southwest Region Knowledge Network (with Assiniboine RHA)
  - c. Northwest Region Knowledge Network (with Parkland RHA)
3. Southern Region
  - a. Southeast Region Knowledge Network (with South Eastman RHA)
  - b. Southwest Region Knowledge Network (with Central RHA)
4. Interlake – Eastern Region
  - a. Southeast Region Knowledge Network (with North Eastman RHA)
  - b. Interlake Region Knowledge Network (with Interlake RHA)
5. Winnipeg – Churchill Region
  - a. Winnipeg Region Knowledge Network (with Winnipeg RHA)
  - b. Thompson Region Knowledge Network (with Churchill RHA).

Department staff will continue working with the new RHA leadership to determine the best way forward with the existing and/or merged Knowledge Networks. This merger presents an opportunity for this department to demonstrate support and responsiveness to provincial health system change.

The department continues to undertake research projects to build our body of knowledge that can be used to influence the provincial health system and prospective funding bodies to support Metis health and wellness. As each study is completed, it is disseminated to participant communities, to MMF region Knowledge Networks, and is uploaded to our web pages. Two qualitative studies are nearing completion and we anticipate dissemination activities will occur in the Fall. The study in Northwest Region we call ‘Aging in Place’ involved three region-selected communities. This study examined the health, social and economic supports needed for seniors to remain in their homes longer. A study in The Pas Region we call ‘A Long Way From Here’ examined access to health services in three region-selected communities.