

**For Release:** September 20, 2018

Two palliative care rooms were opened at the Yorkton Regional Health Centre on Sep. 20 in a brief ceremony hosted by The Health Foundation of East Central Saskatchewan.

“I am so glad we were able to work with the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the many people who donated to bring these rooms about,” Ross Fisher, Executive Director of The Health Foundation told supporters and healthcare staff present.

“The support we received from so many individuals speaks to the generosity of the people in this region of Saskatchewan. We are used to having to work together to bring about the kind of community we want, and this is another example of how people will support initiatives that make sense for the community,” Mr. Fisher stated.

Palliative care is health care for patients and families facing life-ending illness. The focus is helping patients to achieve the best possible quality of life right to the end. Palliative care is sometimes considered end-of-life care, with a main focus on comfort.

To provide a comfortable palliative care environment for patients and their families these two rooms were renovated, included installing ceiling tracks in the rooms for patient lifts, renovating the washrooms, and purchasing furniture that will allow family to remain comfortable and close to their loved one with the option to stay through the night. In addition, equipment such as vital signs monitors and medication carts was purchased.

The Health Foundation recognized donors who went out of their way to support this project, in some cases involving friends, neighbours and community in their fundraising, or involving their customers, and making a very significant donation. Those special contributors are:

- Bailey’s Funeral Home and Cremation Care
- Brayden Ottenbreit Close Cuts for Cancer, Local Initiatives
- Yorkton Hyundai, Whitewood Chrysler Dodge, Moosomin Dodge and their Dealer Principal Ron Kaban
- St. Gerard’s Catholic Women’s League
- Young’s Plant World
- The estate of Margaret Knoll
- In-memory of John Daum and Kay Daum
- Daxton Kulcsar
- Steve, Kim and Mathew Procyshe
- Randy and Doreen Prokopchuk

More than 500 people contributed to the renovations. In addition to the two palliative care rooms another room is being renovated to be a bath and shower room. Currently the hospital has one tub

room, which is not sufficient for the needs of patients. Renovating the three rooms and putting in place the necessary equipment cost more than \$100,000.

Palliative care is about people and helping them come to terms with the end of life. Family and friends want to be with their loved ones at the end; they want to share those last moments and help as best they can by holding their hand, helping them to eat, keeping them comfortable, letting them know they are loved.

“For the Health Foundation, putting these rooms into service is about bringing that about. The Health Foundation would like to express our appreciation to everyone involved in this project. You have made a difference in people’s lives,” Mr. Fisher concluded.

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For further information, please contact Ross Fisher, Executive Director, at 786-0507