

The Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation “A SENSE OF HOME” Residence Building Campaign

Mission of the Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation

Founded in 1980, the BRHC Foundation is an independent, non-profit, volunteer-driven charitable corporation. The purpose of the Foundation is to raise funds to help meet community healthcare needs not funded by government. The Foundation relies on donations from individuals, organizations and businesses that have a desire to contribute to the health of their community, as well as from monies raised during various fundraising events and campaigns.

History of the “A Sense of Home” Residence Building Campaign

The need for residence accommodation for cancer patients and their families travelling to Brandon for treatment has been identified as a requirement to aid patients and their families in a time of great emotional, physical and often financial stress. Health care professionals and the community at large have supported the concept of a residence to complement the newly opened Western Manitoba Cancer Centre (see Cancer Centre overview below *).

In April of 2011, a Letter of Agreement was signed between the Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation and the Brandon Regional Health Authority that saw the BRHC Foundation, in keeping with their mission statement, commit to raising the **capital costs of \$2.5 million** for the creation of such a residence. Lead gifts to this project and proceeds from fundraising initiatives already exceed \$750,000. The residence, in turn, will be constructed, maintained and owned by the Brandon Regional Health Authority. The residence will be managed on a cost recovery basis, thereby providing affordable accommodations to patients.

The Foundation’s goal is to raise funds to build a residence that will offer a “sense of home” for regional cancer patients, and their families, who will be receiving treatment at the new Western Manitoba Cancer Centre. The campaign will fund construction of a new, state-of-the-art residence that will offer inviting and affordable accommodations and a comfortable, positive environment for the hundreds of patients who will be travelling to Brandon for cancer treatment.

The location of 521 Frederick Street will offer close and convenient proximity, including easy access for pedestrian traffic, to both the Western Manitoba Cancer Centre and the Brandon Regional Health Centre that will help ease travel time and associated costs.

Some preliminary proposed plans for the residence include:

- 8 rooms, 2 of which will be wheelchair accessible, complete with ensuite bathrooms
- common lounge, kitchen and dining areas
- an outdoor patio area
- a passenger elevator for wheelchair access to all floors
- close proximity to parking ...

... and more, with a mission to provide patients and their families a relaxing home-like atmosphere whenever possible.

The Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation is committed to funding the creation of a residence that will provide a sense of home to out-of-city patients during cancer treatment.

Campaign Co-Chairs: Laurie Murray and Kerry Auriat

*** Overview of The Western Manitoba Cancer Centre**

- The new \$24 million Western Manitoba Cancer Centre opened on June 30, 2011 and is located directly behind Brandon Regional Health Centre Nurses Residence at 300 McTavish Avenue E.
- The Cancer Centre was built to provide residents of Brandon and the surrounding area with chemotherapy services, support services, outpatient care and, **for the first time**, radiation therapy services outside of the city of Winnipeg.
- An estimated 300 – 400 patients per year will now receive radiation therapy at the Western Manitoba Cancer Centre, with numbers expected to rise, saving patients from having to travel thousands of kilometres.
- Patients will travel to Brandon from surrounding communities including the Parkland Regional Health Authority, the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority and the western edge of the Central Regional Health Authority. **These are areas that extend as far north as Swan River, south to the U.S. border, east to Portage la Prairie and west to the Saskatchewan border.**