

# Health Care in Chestermere and Surrounding Area

Ensuring equitable health care for our citizens

# CRPCN Introductions

- Dr. David Piesas (Medical Director)
- Ms. Dawn Shave (Clinical Innovation Director)
- Ms. Leslie Racz (Community Development Coordinator)

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions Leslie Racz
- Review of current situation Dawn Shave
- Okotoks physician recruitment Dr. David Piesas
- Next Steps: Q & A Leslie Racz

# Background

- In late 2020, the CRPCN learned that two Chestermere clinics were closing, and responded quickly to ensure the continuation of seamless primary care to this vital city.
- In February 2021, CRPCN took over the clinic formerly occupied by Reflections, hired two nurse practitioners, continued CRPCN programs, and retained current staff to ensure uninterrupted care.
- We continue to look for family physicians to support this vital community and surrounding areas.

# Proactive Care

- Primary care is a community-based health system that promotes health and wellness
  - works towards illness prevention
  - chronic disease education, proactive screening, exercise & nutrition
  - mild to moderate mental health support
- Alberta Health Services provides:
  - hospital-based (acute) health care - illness and injury
  - lab and other diagnostics
  - Public Health and Home Care

# The Network

- Although we operate a clinic in Chestermere, our reach extends beyond the physical building.
- We are a network of health care providers.
  - Not every doctor's office can hire the range of health care providers employed by the CRPCN.
  - Imagine what it would take for every clinic in town to staff a dietitian, a diabetes educator, registered nurses, panel manager, foot care
- Our Community Development Coordinator provides the link between our clinics and the community.
- Family doctors who belong to the CRPCN can refer their patients to our team

# As close to home as possible...

- Chestermere and area residents deserve local care, from a doctor with whom they have a trusted relationship.
- Surrounding communities such as Langdon, Indus and Dalemead often seek health services in Chestermere.
- 69.2% of residents in the Local Geographic Area of Chestermere have a Family Doctor outside the community.\*
- Research shows that continuity of care and having a relationship with a family doctor or nurse practitioner provides better health outcomes for patients.

*\* AH Community Profile; Chestermere 2019*

# It makes sense financially

- It is so much more economical to address health care concerns before they require intervention beyond that of primary care.
- The cost per Albertan, per day, for a hospital stay is \$7,988. For primary care ... \$5!\*

**\$7,988**  
per patient, per day



Hospital

**\$5**  
per patient, per day



Primary Care

- Primary care leads the way!



# Chestermere needs doctors

- Dr. Anton Nel, who was crucial to the search for Okotoks physicians, says:

*“Physician recruitment should be a priority for every rural community. A strong primary care foundation is the cornerstone of the health care system.*

*Providing primary care close to home reduces hospital admissions, improving health outcomes and reducing health care costs.*

*There must be a strong collaboration with multiple stakeholders including Town Council, PCN, and AHS in the recruitment process.”*



# Okotoks vs Chestermere

## Okotoks

- Population 28,881
- # of doctors 47

*Ratio: 614 residents per doctor*

- # of docs accepting new patients 8

## Chestermere

- Population 23,735
- # of doctors 8

*Ratio: 2,967 residents per doctor*

- # of docs accepting new patients 0

# Panel Numbers

- Depending on the demographics of patient population, the average full-time physician has 1,000 patients
- In an ideal state, Chestermere would currently have ~23 full-time physicians based on it's population. Once the addition of the population in surrounding areas is included, an ideal state would include an even higher number of physicians

# CRPCN's Recruiting Efforts

- Recruiting ads have been placed with:
  - The College of Family Physicians of Canada
  - University of Alberta
  - University of Calgary
- CRPCN will use its strong relationships with coalitions to get the word out (Senior's, Mental Health, Recreation, Early Childhood)

**Come for the opportunity.**

***Stay for the lifestyle.***

**Are you a physician looking for a place to call home?**

The Calgary Rural Primary Care Network is looking for family physicians to open a practice within our newly opened clinic in Chestermere, Alberta.

We offer a turnkey practice, and the strong patient medical home support provided by the Calgary Rural Primary Care Network.

In this quickly expanding, vibrant, diverse community, we'll use our resources to help you build your panel - easy in this fast-growing city.

Chestermere is a lake community, with so much to offer the outdoor enthusiast.

Plus, you get all the benefits of living in a smaller city, with strong community ties, but with all the access to large-city amenities only a short drive away.

Find out why Chestermere makes sense for you and your family. Check out the city's website at [chestermere.ca](http://chestermere.ca).

Come home to Chestermere.

Please email Executive Director [Stephanie Crichton](mailto:Stephanie.Crichton@crpcn.ca) at [Stephanie.Crichton@crpcn.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Crichton@crpcn.ca) with questions, or to express interest.

#102, 320 West Creek Drive



# CRPCN Offerings in SE Rocky View

**Nursing support (embedded)**

**Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE)**

**Panel Management Support**

**Registered Dietitian**

**Foot care**

**Subsidized Physiotherapy Program**

**Virtual classes**

**Community Development**

**Coordinator**

CRPCN services are supported through physician panels.  
Increased physicians means increased CRPCN services.

# Looking ahead

- Chestermere and surrounding area's population could double by 2030\*
- Local residents will require local health care resources – offered in Chestermere
- With support from Chestermere municipality and Rocky View County recruitment of rural family physicians will become a reality!
- \*between 1998-2018 the population increased by 511.5% - Alberta Health Community Profile; Chestermere 2019

# Next Steps

- Chestermere Physician Recruitment Committee
  - Invitation for Rocky View County representation
  - Initial meeting held June 30 2021
- How can we work together to accomplish the goal of attracting family physicians to Chestermere?
  - Promoting SE Rocky View lifestyle and amenities
  - Highlighting schools and extracurricular activities
  - Providing a “welcome buddy”
  - Advertising, administrative and communications support
- Next Meeting: Fall 2021