

DR. STEPHEN DUCKETT

**PRESIDENT AND CEO
ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES**

OPENING OF EAST EDMONTON HEALTH CENTRE

7910-112 AVENUE
EDMONTON

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2010
1:30 PM

- Thank you. I am extremely pleased to be able to be here today to share in recognizing the opening of this centre. Health centres like this are the cornerstone of our health system. As a primary health care model, this centre includes services that play an important role in maintaining the health of the residents of this community. Programs and services here focus on health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and chronic disease management.
- These aspects of health provision are an investment in Alberta. This centre truly represents an investment. An investment in your health, an investment in our staff, and an investment in our future.
- This new Centre, located on the grounds of the former Cromdale School replaces the nearby Eastwood Public Health Centre, a location that was leased. This new centre is owned by Alberta Health Services and its development and design was in part a joint effort with this community and the City of Edmonton. We all worked together to address concerns around maintaining green space and protecting trees while preserving architectural elements unique to this area and refitting the unique school that this building is attached to.
- We are looking forward to continuing to work together to meet the health needs of this community with the range of preventative and supportive services offered for families.
- This ideal location has allowed us to consolidate some services into a one-stop shop for families who will need to travel less to access services now

under one roof. Home Care and Adult Addiction and Mental Health Services are also now co-located on the site along with Child and Family Services offering families on-site access to Social Workers for support.

- When originally announced by Capital Health in 2007, this centre was described as a new primary health care centre that was designed specifically to meet the unique needs of area residents which would include an Urgent Care and Family Medicine physicians.
- I am proud to be a part of this opening that is delivering on this original promise. Future growth, including Urgent Care and Family Medicine will go ahead over time. Alberta Health Services remains committed to adding these services as well as on site lab and diagnostic imaging. This commitment can be met because of the Alberta Government's 5-year fund planning announced in this year's provincial budget. which will provide stable, predictable funding for health – a first in Canada.
- Knowing what our funding will be five years down the road better enables us to plan major innovations and initiatives. These initiatives might take two or three years to provide a return, but they are necessary for the longer-term sustainability of our health system.
- By settling down to the business at hand and creating stability for our staff, programs and services, we can focus key priorities of improving health-care access, quality and sustainability for all Albertans.

- Having a health centre like this in the heart of a community helps the staff and programs and services become part of that community – helping individuals to be as healthy as possible. With easy access to support, they can readily utilize the tools and services to help them take control of the factors in their life that impact their health.
- Staff and programs moved into this location in December, as Del and Marianne mentioned. Over the last six months, this centre has already proven to be an asset to this community and the health system. A good return on our investment.
- Thank you for being here today to help us celebrate this centre – an investment in our health system today and for the future.

- END -