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## New physician moves practice to Milk River

MILK RIVER – Alberta Health Services, in partnership with the local community, has successfully recruited a new physician to the Town of Milk River.

Dr. Husameddin Alshgagi will relocate to the community in the coming months and is expected to have his practice in full operation by the end of the summer.

“I’m very happy that Dr. Alshgagi will soon be serving the medical needs of Milk River residents,” said Broyce Jacobs, MLA, Carstairs-Taber-Warner. “Physician recruitment is a challenge nationwide, but initiatives like our government’s Rural Physician Action Plan and strong support from local communities like Milk River are making Alberta the most successful jurisdiction in the country in attracting physicians.”

Dr. Alshgagi was born and raised in Libya where he completed medical training in 2003. After finishing his internship in 2005, Dr. Alshgagi began his career as a general practitioner in Tripoli and Jfarah, Libya. He recently moved to Canada and currently resides in Windsor, Ontario.

“We are very excited that Dr. Alshgagi has chosen to come to Milk River,” says Dr. Vanessa Maclean, AHS Medical Director for the South Zone. “He visited recently and was really excited about the community and the prospect of setting up his practice here. I think it will be a great fit for everyone.”

Alberta Health Services engaged in an extensive physician recruitment effort along with the Town of Milk River and the County of Warner. After the loss of two local physicians in December 2009, retired physician, Dr. Elizabeth Lewke-Bogle, temporarily returned to practise to support the community’s health needs.

“We were very fortunate that Dr. Lewke-Bogle was able to step up to help out while we worked to recruit new physicians,” says Dr. Maclean, adding that recruitment efforts will continue. “Ultimately, we would like to have at least two resident physicians in Milk River.”

Milk River has a population of approximately 850.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than 3.7 million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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