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New family physician now practising in Lac La Biche

LAC LA BICHE — Local residents have improved access to primary care with the recent arrival of a new family physician now practising in the community, thanks to ongoing recruitment efforts by Alberta Health Services (AHS) and its partners.

Dr. Cornelius Johannes Nortje is a family general practitioner with a sub-specialty in obstetrics. He moved to Lac La Biche from South Africa last month and is currently accepting new patients at the Lac La Biche Associated Medical Clinic.

“It’s important that local residents continue to have improved access to primary care, and the arrival of Dr. Nortje will help make it easier for local residents to see a family doctor,” says Kim Fleming, AHS North Zone Physician Resource Planner. “Physician recruitment is an ongoing process and it’s important to work closely with local residents and organizations throughout the entire process. On behalf of AHS, it’s a pleasure to welcome Dr. Nortje to Canada.”

Dr. Nortje received his medical training in his hometown of Stellenbosch, at the University of Stellenbosch, and also holds a diploma in HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) Management.

“Medical staff at the clinic are extremely happy to have him at the clinic,” says Dr. Richard Birkill, local family physician and AHS Community Medical Director. “He is a general practitioner surgeon and he will be doing C-sections.”

Dr. Nortje says he and his partner Annette are excited about their Canadian adventure.

“We are looking forward to experiencing small-town life and getting involved in the community,” says Dr. Nortje. “We also enjoy travelling and the outdoors.”

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four 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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