

Blood Products Inventory Lean Team – Health

Quality Service

What if you or a family member needed blood? You would want to know that the right product is available at the right time and that supplies are not being wasted. Members of the Blood Products Inventory Lean Team are ensuring that blood products are being managed in an effective way.

With support from the health regions, through the provincial Transfusion Medicine Working Group, the team has improved handling processes to reduce waste and maintain the quality of blood products. Optimal inventory levels were set and standardized ordering practices were established resulting in fresher products, less waste and reduced costs. Increases in the efficiency of the inventory management process have resulted in a 24 per cent improvement in the discard rate for red blood cells.

Patients benefit by receiving fresher blood and donors benefit by having donations utilized more efficiently. Health Regions and Canadian Blood Services also benefit by less production and handling of excess blood inventory resulting in less waste, reduced costs and less human resources devoted to managing blood inventory.

This program is supporting health care professionals in their quest to provide the highest quality health services to the people of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Moira McKinnon, Improving the Health of Saskatchewan People – Health

Leadership

As Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Moira McKinnon has been the voice of calm during public health emergencies, quickly identifying issues, assessing scientific evidence and recommending a course of action to best preserve the public good.

She played a key role during the H1N1 pandemic reducing the spread and impact of the virus through the early deployment of antiviral and vaccinations among vulnerable, remote and isolated populations. She placed a particular focus on community engagement and education working with community stakeholders, First Nations and health care practitioners to ensure ownership of the strategy.

Her leadership during the H1N1 pandemic has been recognized nationally and will be used as a template to guide future pandemic planning by the province. Dr McKinnon also led the response to the HIV epidemic in Saskatchewan developing a four-year strategy in consultation with community and health providers.

Her leadership has been integral to the development of several public health initiatives: the Multi-Lateral Information Sharing Agreement on Surveillance and Response to Infectious Diseases, and Public Health Events; the Operational Framework for Mutual Aid Surge Requests for Health Care Professionals; National Surveillance Infrastructure; and Public Health Communications.

Ireland Labour Recruitment Mission Team – Economy

Quality Service

The Ireland Labour Recruitment Mission Team is contributing to the Saskatchewan Advantage. The team accompanied a delegation of 27 Saskatchewan employers including more than 70 representatives who had made their way to Ireland for a nine day labour recruitment mission. Because of their efforts, more than 285 positions were offered to qualified candidates.

Meeting their goal of recruiting no less than 100 skilled workers to fill high-need positions in the province, the Ireland Labour Recruitment Mission Team was able to implement a successful recruitment mission with much praise from participants.

The team worked to provide around the clock service by supporting both Saskatchewan employers and job candidates with immigration services facilitated through the first on-line immigration application system in Canada. The team demonstrated innovation by providing immediate solutions for pressing labour market challenges, exceptional customer service to candidates and delegates and found creative solutions to working with newcomers and their families to ensure they were supported.

The influx of families immigrating to our province contributes to Saskatchewan's social and cultural diversity while supporting the province's long-term economic growth.

Results-Based Regulation Code Secretariat Team – Environment

Innovation

Rules and regulations are an important part of our world, no less so when it comes to protecting the environment. The Results-Based Regulation Code Secretariat is a collection of people dedicated to providing a sound environmental management model for the province.

Key to this model is the Saskatchewan Environmental Code (the Code). The Code was built from the ground up and has a wide scope, covering resource management and environmental protection activities.

The purpose of the Code is to enhance environmental protection, provide regulatory clarity and reduce regulatory burden on investors and operations. The Code allows proponents to explore new ways to achieve required environmental outcomes and has received interest from across the country and the United States.

The Code is unique in that it was developed using a collaborative and consensus driven process involving a wide range of stakeholders working together in the best interest of the environment. Affected stakeholders are looking forward to the efficiencies and a streamlining of government processes offered by the Code.

Wollaston Lake Housing Project Team – Social Services and Government Relations

Quality Service

Fourteen families in the Northern Settlement of Wollaston Lake now have a quality place to call home. The Wollaston Lake Housing Project Team worked with partners to source funding and develop effective relationships in order to provide safe, quality housing units for the community.

Partnership and cooperation are what made this project a success and the Wollaston Lake Housing Project Team ensured that both occurred. The team worked with the Wollaston Lake Local Advisory Committee to establish a new non-profit corporation, the Wollaston Lake Housing Group Corporation, to construct, manage and maintain the units in partnership with Points North Group of Companies.

In addition to the new homes for the community, employment opportunities were created through the use of local labour, and Points North worked with the community to offer training and education opportunities to empower residents to be responsible for the oversight and maintenance of the units.

This initiative was a win-win for the community of Wollaston Lake, Ministries of Social Services and Government Relations- Northern Municipal Services, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy, the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Authority, and Northern Lights School Division.

Youth Advisory Group Team – Central Services

Leadership

The Corporate Mentorship Program is meeting the career development needs of the public service and setting employees up for success. Members of the Youth Advisory Group presented a business case to senior leadership, which was approved for implementation at the corporate level. They then secured funding through the Productivity Fund and partnered with several consultants to design and ultimately roll out the program across executive government. The corporate nature of the program is unique, as there has never before been a mechanism to break through ministry silos and provide employee mentorship opportunities right across government.

The group assessed and selected matching software, worked with a mentoring consultant to tailor the program materials and started off the program with a large kick-off event. Their efforts were met with great success. The initial pilot projected 60 registered mentors, but to date more than 110 have signed up and been matched with mentees from across government.

Online collaboration and discussion tools help mentors and mentees connect and develop the skills that will help them stay engaged and actively shape their careers in the public service. This program is contributing to the success of the public service and to the strength of the provincial government.