



Statement

March 31, 2009

Central Health has reviewed its decisions with respect to diagnostic imaging services and ambulance, in light of concerns raised at the meeting of March 12, 2009.

With respect to relief for diagnostic imaging services, Central Health agrees that the current circumstances are not optimal; however, a plan is in place to ensure that X-Ray services will be available when clients need them through the support of secondary health centres. In the meantime, a number of options are currently being explored and in the not too distant future it is hoped that a more stable relief system will be in place. Once a solution is in place, the community will be advised.

The changes for ambulance services will commence on April 1, 2009. The current low volume from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily is the major contributor to these changes. Central Health has a finite amount of resources and while we strive to make the best possible use of them, this never overrides our first duty – to provide safe and quality programs and services. The exact same service delivery model for ambulance services is in place and working well in many parts of the region. The changes regarding ambulance services will be monitored at six and twelve months. The monitoring results will be shared with representatives of the appropriate councils at those times.

As explained at the March 12, 2009 meeting, the lack of an ultrasound service is directly related to our inability to recruit an ultrasound technician. Recruitment continues and the community will be advised when someone has been successfully recruited to this position.