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NATIONAL LEADER IN HEALTH CARE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TAKES POSITION AS CIO OF MANITOBA EHEALTH

WINNIPEG, MB – Manitoba eHealth is pleased to announce the appointment of Roger Girard as its Chief Information Officer (CIO).

Girard started his duties as CIO for Manitoba eHealth on January 14, 2008, where he is leading the organization in building an Electronic Health Record (EHR) for the province.

The pursuit of an EHR has been the focus of Girard's career. He started in Manitoba, where he played a key role in the implementation of the first shared services Information Technology (IT) program in North America. Girard then went on to lead the amalgamation of the IT functions of five hospitals in Quebec. He was also the CIO for the Calgary Health Region, where he directed their Y2K effort.

More recently, he spent the past seven years in Ontario helping the Ministry of Health and their new Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) implement EHRs. He held the role of Executive Lead for Ontario's public health renewal program post-SARS, before becoming the Chief e-Health Strategist for Ontario. Prior to coming to Manitoba eHealth, he was the Integrated Vice President and Regional CIO of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN.

Girard recognizes that the road to a provincial EHR is long and complex, but he believes the journey will be worth it. " eHealth is about providing the right information at the right time to the right people so that people and their families have access to the information they need to maintain their health and to access the services they require."

"Our strategy is based on collaboration with all parties, the Regional Health Authorities, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba, CancerCare Manitoba, The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, providers and their colleges and associations, to deliver on our shared vision," says Girard.

Girard is the recipient of the 2006 President's Award from Canada's Health Informatics Association (COACH). He holds a Masters in Business Administration from Concordia University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Manitoba.

Manitoba eHealth is a provincial program responsible for the management and delivery of health care related Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This includes coordinating the implementation of a provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR) solution for Manitobans. An EHR is a secure and private lifetime record of an individual's health and care history, available electronically to authorized health providers. Patients benefit as their health providers have reliable access to their current medical and patient records, allowing for quicker decision making and reducing time spent waiting for information.

For more information about Manitoba eHealth go to www.manitoba-ehealth.ca

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