



Quarterly Change

Addressing the Canadian Medical Association's annual meeting in Whitehorse in early September, **HEALTH MINISTER ALLAN ROCK** announced:

- A \$2,200,000 project, funded under the Health Transition Fund, which may result in a standardized system for medical-procedure waiting lists. A Western Canadian consortium of 19 representatives from the medical, service delivery and research communities will work to standardize what is meant by 'waiting time,' and develop pilot tools and information systems to help health decision makers with resource allocation.



TOM CLOSSON, former President and CEO of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, has joined the Capital Health Region in Victoria, British Columbia as President and CEO. The Region is responsible for all health services for a population of 340,000 with an annual budget of \$500,000,000.

The **FOURTH ANNUAL ALBERTA HEALTH SURVEY**, released in late July by Alberta Ministry of Health, shows Albertans are feeling positive about the quality of health services they receive. Key results, include:

- 76 percent of respondents reported they personally received health services in the past year;
- 86 percent of those who received health services reported the quality of care as excellent or good;
- 81 percent who had received health services at a hospital felt the quality of care was either excellent or good;
- 73 percent indicated it was easy or very easy to obtain health services;
- 56 percent of survey participants rated the overall health care system as excellent or good.

Health Canada's **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH INFO-STRUCTURE** has released its interim report, *Connecting for Better Health: Strategic Issues*, containing preliminary thinking and recommendations for a national health info-structure. Individuals and groups are invited to submit comments on the Report by November 6, 1998 to assist the Advisory Council in developing its final strategy and recommendations, due out in early 1999. The Report is available from the Office of Health and the Information Highway (OHII) web site at: <http://www.hc-gc.ca/ohih-bsi>. Comments should be faxed to the OHII at (613) 952-3226 or emailed to ohih-bsi@www.hc-sc.gc.ca.

DR. JOHN WOOTON was recently named the first Executive Director of the Office of Rural Health at Health Canada, and will advise the federal Minister of Health on issues related to the health of rural Canadians. Dr. Wooton, whose practice is based in Shawville, Quebec, has served as Chairman of the Rural Practice Committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and as Scientific Editor for the Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine.



Saskatchewan has a new team to manage its health system. In September, former Education Minister, **PAT ATKINSON** was appointed Minister of Health, replacing Clay Serby. Judy Junor, MLA, was appointed Associate Minister of Health.

In **MANITOBA**, the government recently announced \$30,000,000 in additional health funding for hospital service improvements within the Winnipeg Hospital Authority. This first phase of improvements are aimed at improving patient services and easing waiting lists for diagnostic and surgical procedures.

ONTARIO has established a provincial task force to examine nursing services in the province with a view to identifying how changes in the profession have affected patient care and how the health system can be improved. For more information contact: Jeremy Adams, Office of the Minister of Health 416 327-4311

The **BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH** is accepting applications for up to 10 primary care demonstration projects designed to deliver primary care through multidisciplinary teams of healthcare providers. Eligible applicants include local health authorities, health professionals, university departments and other non-profit health organizations. More than \$9,500,000 has been granted to the project by the federal Health Transition Fund. The results of the project will be shared with other provinces and territories.

Saskatchewan also marked another first in Canadian healthcare with the formation of the **CHIEF OF STAFF ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN (COSAS)**. The association's primary purpose is to help chiefs of staff in developing effective management skills.



Also in Manitoba, **TOM CARSON** was recently appointed Deputy Minister of Health replacing Frank DeCock.



Effective September 1st, **DR. PEGGY LEATT**, Chair of the Department of Health Administration at the University of Toronto, and Executive Editor of Hospital Quarterly, is on secondment from the University and has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC). She replaces Mark Rochon, the HSRC's founding CEO, who has accepted the position of founding President and CEO of the new hospital that will result from the amalgamation of the Rehabilitation Institute of Toronto, the Lyndhurst Hospital and the Toronto Rehabilitation Centre.

ONTARIO'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH has released its Rural and Northern Health Parameters and Benchmarks report which was developed in collaboration with the Ontario Hospital Association to provide planning tools to help hospitals in rural and northern communities organize services in their communities. The Report also confirms the need to maintain all existing hospital sites in rural and northern Ontario and to ensure 24-hour access to care.

Also in September, **FRANK MARKEL** was named Executive Director of the Joint Policy and Planning Committee, a partnership of the Ontario Ministry of the Health and Ontario's hospitals through the Ontario Hospital Association, which was formed to facilitate and make recommendations on hospital reform. Dr. Markel was formerly Executive Vice-President of the Rehabilitation Institute of Toronto.

The **ONTARIO HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION (OHMISA)** has entered into discussions with the Healthcare Information and Management Society (HIMSS) to establish the first Canadian chapter of this international group operating from Atlanta, Georgia. For more information contact Frank Scarpino at: fscarpino@kingshealthcentre.ca

Nova Scotia has appointed its first Commissioner of Cancer Care. **DR. ANDREW PADMOS**, an oncologist from Kingston, Ontario, will assume responsibility for the overall planning, coordination and evaluation of cancer services and facilities in Nova Scotia. The Province has also established a Cancer Care Advisory Board which will work with the Commissioner and advise the Minister of Health.



Check out this **HEWLETT-PACKARD WEB SITE** — <http://www.hp.com/go/health-care2000>. It is designed to help customers determine the Year-2000 compliance status of all the HP medical equipment and systems currently in use in their facilities, as well as for products being evaluated for purchase.

The **NEW BRUNSWICK HEALTH SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE** is holding 25 province-wide meetings as it seeks input about concerns with its healthcare system. Based on the results of the public meetings, the Committee will make recommendations on priority areas to be addressed over the next five to 10 years.

AETNA HEALTH MANAGEMENT INC. has established Corporate Health Solutions Inc., a new Aetna Health partner company dedicated to the sale and distribution of health and disability management products to Canadian employers. The Managing Director is Gordon Larock.

THE KING'S FUND, an independent health charity supporting the health and healthcare of the people of London U.K., recently introduced a discussion area for healthcare and health policy professionals on its Web site. With a first topic of "Access to Elective Care," the aim is to enable participants with knowledge of differing health systems to compare experiences with particular instruments and analytical methods. The discussion group can be found at <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/discussion/default.htm>.



BAYER has announced its intention to list its wholly owned subsidiary, Agfa, on the stock exchange in the second quarter of 1999 with the intent of creating entrepreneurial freedom and new financing opportunities.



On October 2 Versa Services became **ARAMARK CANADA**. The company will focus on creating "unlimited partnerships" with its clients and on finding innovative ways to manage all their outsourcing needs, not just food service or building maintenance.

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Hospital Quarterly's next **PUBLISHER'S BOARD FOR INNOVATION** meeting will be held January 20, 1999 at Woman's College Hospital. Host will be Dr. Anna Day. Sponsor will be Sanofi. Subject: Patients As Consumers. For more information call Anton Hart at 416 864-9667 or email him at: ahart@longwoods.com



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