

November 14, 2007

Province supports prevention and management of diabetes through 10-year strategy

Alberta celebrates World Diabetes Day with ongoing commitment

Edmonton... Alberta leads a 10-year strategy to raise awareness of diabetes and help those living with diabetes to manage their health.

Since 2003, the provincial strategy has allocated approximately \$50 million to educate Albertans about the risk factors of type 2 diabetes - one of the fastest growing and preventable chronic diseases.

The strategy supports other provincial initiatives to manage and understand the causes of diabetes, including the Alberta Diabetes Institute and Health Research Innovation Facility that was announced today by the University of Alberta. Along with other partners, Alberta contributed an additional \$6 million towards state-of-the-art research equipment at the Institute.

This year, Alberta has allocated \$11.5 million to several programs under the strategy, including:

- **The Mobile Diabetes Screening Initiative**, led by the University of Alberta, uses a team of health professionals who visit off-reserve Aboriginal and 19 northern communities to screen individuals for diabetes and its complications.
- **The Alberta Monitoring for Health Program**, led by the Canadian Diabetes Association, assists low-income Albertans to purchase some diabetes supplies.
- **The Alberta Diabetes Surveillance System Project**, a five-year project led by the Institute of Health Economics, provides diabetes surveillance information on the incidence and prevalence of diabetes in the province.
- **The Healthy Alberta Communities Project**, led by the University of Alberta, aims to prevent cases of type 2 diabetes in three different communities through healthy eating and physical activity.

In Alberta, more than 150,000 adults live with diabetes and more than 14,000 new cases are identified each year. Type 2 diabetes, which is largely prevented by healthy eating and regular physical activity, accounts for 90 to 95 per cent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. The prevalence of diabetes is twice as high in the First Nations population, where 1 in 10 First Nations have diabetes.

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