

February 18, 2011

Health minister appoints 5 new AHS board members

Additional appointments under active consideration

Edmonton... Health and Wellness Minister Gene Zwozdesky has appointed 5 new members to the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Board effective immediately, each for a 3-year term.

The new board members are: Ray Block (Edmonton/Athabasca), Dr. Ruth Collins-Nakai (Edmonton), Don Johnson (Barnwell), Dr. Eldon Smith (Calgary), and Sheila Weatherill (Edmonton). The terms of all 5 board members will run until March 31, 2014.

“The Albertans we are adding to the board possess an array of skills, experience and knowledge that will help ensure continued strong board governance of AHS. These new board members will serve Albertans well as we continue to implement our 5-Year Health Action Plan,” said Zwozdesky.

Appointments to the AHS board are made as required. All applications are kept on file to ensure a pool of qualified individuals is always available.

Ray Block is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Mental Health Board. He is the Vice-President, Finance and Administration at Athabasca University and has a PhD in Public Health Sciences from the University of Alberta.

Dr. Collins-Nakai has worked as a cardiologist, researcher, and professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta. She is currently Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee at Exciton Technologies Inc.

Don Johnson is a councillor with the Municipal District of Taber and spent 6 years as the president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. He also served as a member of the Minister’s Advisory Committee on Health.

Dr. Smith is Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Calgary, where he served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He has also served on hospital boards and on the board of the former Calgary Health Region.

Sheila Weatherill served 10 years as President and CEO of Capital Health. She served as a board member of the Canadian Institute for Health Information and is Past Chair of the Association of Canadian Academic Health Organizations.

AHS board appointments at **10:30 a.m. in the Rotunda at the Alberta Legislature.**

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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