



Population and Public Health

Office of the Medical Health Officer

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April 17, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Support Letter for Sanctum

Saskatchewan has the highest per capita rate of new HIV infections in Canada. While there has been significant progress in reducing the rate of rise in new cases after the introduction of the Saskatchewan HIV strategy, there are still many new cases reported monthly, and with continued success with the treatment as prevention philosophy, more complex needs clients are needing to get started on anti-retroviral therapy and require a case management approach long term. As the case load has built up, a significant number of clients require short to medium term sub-acute care in an environment where providers are attuned to their unique needs. General hospital wards and emergency wards and their staff are not appropriate settings for this care, and the impact of trying to deal with this population's needs in the acute environment results in higher cost, less effective, and less patient-centred care.

The Saskatoon Health Region Medical Health Officers support the planned development of a hospice for HIV+ people as contemplated by Sanctum. Sanctum's mission, goals and objectives are consistent with the Population and Public Health strategies of Disease prevention, health promotion, health protection and harm reduction.

Sanctum proposes to better serve HIV+ clients through provision of a ten bed hospice solution which would include health and social assistance for clients. Towards this end, Sanctum is embarking on innovative work through partnerships with government and other organizations. Sanctum is in the process of engaging business leaders and community-based and human service organizations in a collaborative fashion to build a sustainable solution from the ground up.

Healthiest people ~ Healthiest communities ~ Exceptional service

The lack of available hospice care for people who are living with complex health and social needs due to HIV infection represents a significant gap in Saskatoon. The current situation often sees these clients accessing relatively more expensive services that do not meet their needs optimally. The approach proposed by Sanctum is consistent with the hot-spotting initiatives currently being contemplated in our province. Consequently, I am pleased to offer a recommendation for support of Sanctum as I believe it can provide a necessary component to our current network of community services in Saskatoon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Neudorf', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Cordell Neudorf
B.Sc., M.D., M.H.Sc., FRCPC
CMHO, Saskatoon Health Region and
Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine

CN:lm