

Cancer Centre ranked #1

Special

For the fourth time in six years, the Cape Breton Cancer Centre has been informed that it has maintained its #1 rating, having achieved the highest performance in five out of six categories in a national patient satisfaction survey.

"It's a phenomenal achievement," says Mona Baryluk, Director of the Cancer Centre. "This accomplishment reflects the special relationship that exists between the patients and our staff. The staff go the extra mile to meet

the needs of the patients and their families."

In the 2009 Cancer Patient Satisfaction Survey done by NRC Picker between July and December 2009, the Centre ranked highest in five out of six categories including physical comfort, information, communication and education, coordination and continuity of care, emotional support and respect for patient preference. In the other area, access to care, it scored 81.4 per cent, 1.2 per cent below the Canadian high performer of 82.6 per cent.

Survey respondents had to be 18 years and older and receiving outpatient treatment at the Cape Breton Cancer Centre, the Nova Scotia Cancer Centre or any of the satellite oncology sites. The Centre previously ranked first in the 2005, 2006 and 2008 surveys.

Baryluk says the Centre has a great support network that helps deliver care to cancer patients.

"The Cape Breton District Health Authority is committed to delivery of care in the patient's home community and we are grateful for the support of our colleagues in the delivery of chemotherapy in hospitals throughout the District," she says. "We are very fortunate to have the support of other services which help us deliver care in a timely manner, including pharmacy, diagnostic imaging, social work, laboratory and nutrition services. The efforts of the entire team are applauded through these surveys."

While the results of the surveys highlight the Centre's accomplishments, they also show areas that need improvement.

"You won't stay at number one if you're not able to provide the space and equipment for people to work with, that's why the expansion of the Cancer Centre is so important," says John Malcolm, District CEO. "We have to keep pace with changing technologies and therapies/treatments in order to attract and retain the health professionals we need to continue to provide quality cancer care to our patients."

Cancer Care Nova Scotia, commissioned NRC Picker to conduct the Cancer Patient Satisfaction Survey, in partnership with the District and Capital Health. Cancer Care Nova Scotia is a program of the Department of Health, created to reduce the burden of cancer on individuals, families and the health care system through prevention, screening, education and research.

Grant helps promote youth fitness



Thanks to a Wellness Grant from the Victoria County Community Health Board, youth aged 12-14 became acquainted with the workings of a professional, albeit small, fitness gym. Pictured above, working out on the elliptical trainer at the Syn Gym in Bay St. Lawrence, is Samuel MacNeil. The program, called "Youth Pumping Iron," ran from mid-February to mid-April and aimed at encouraging regular use of a gym as part of personal wellness.

Commitment to digital infrastructure in rural Canada



Liberal Rural Caucus Chair and MP for Sydney-Victoria is pictured at the podium with Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff (l) and Maxim Jean-Louis (r), CEO of Contact North. Contact North provides distance education in Northern Ontario. The three announced the Liberal commitment to full high-speed Internet and expanded mobile phone coverage in rural Canada.

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While using distance learning technology to connect to Sioux Lookout over the Internet, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff announced that a future Liberal government will achieve the goal of 100 percent high-speed internet connectivity within three years of being elected, and expand mobile phone coverage for rural and remote Canada. The Liberal leader was joined by Liberal Rural caucus Chair MP Mark Eyking.

"Too many rural communities can't access essential services like education, healthcare or economic development because we don't have the digital infrastructure to deliver them," said Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff. "That's why I'm committing a future Liberal government to 100 percent high-speed internet for every rural, remote and Northern community in our country."

Using proceeds from the upcoming spectrum auction slated for 2011, a Liberal government would invest to achieve an interim target of 100 percent high-speed internet connectivity of at least 1.5 Mbps for all Canadian communities within three years of being elected. A Liberal government would also seek to set a more ambitious goal for 2017, Canada's 150th anniversary as a country.

"While railways and highways were the essential infrastructure of the 20th century, fibre optic lines, satellites and wireless towers, are the digital infrastructure needed to connect our communities and strengthen our econo-

my in the 21st century," said Liberal Rural Caucus Chair Mark Eyking. "In all regions of Canada, families and businesses depend on access to the internet and mobile phone coverage."

The Liberal commitment to rural high-speed internet is the fourth and final part of the Liberal Party's "Rural Canada Matters" initiative. In recent weeks, Mr. Ignatieff has also announced plans to attract doctors and nurses to underserved rural communities, create a National Food Policy, and support for volunteer firefighters.

"We're presenting Canadians with a clear choice," said Mr. Ignatieff. "The Liberal choice is to pay down the deficit and invest in priorities like expanding internet and mobile phone access throughout Canada, while Stephen Harper has chosen more tax cuts for corporations that our country and our families can't afford."

At the recent Canada at 150 conference in Montreal, Mr. Ignatieff announced that a Liberal government will freeze corporate income tax rates in Canada. The Harper Conservative government's priority is to continue cutting Canada's corporate income tax rates - already among the lowest in the G7 - from 18% to 15% when our country can't afford to. A Liberal government would use the savings from a corporate income tax freeze - between \$5 billion and \$6 billion a year - to invest in deficit reduction and initiatives like a National Food Policy or attracting doctors and nurses to rural Canada.



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