

For immediate release
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Obstetrics Program at Mineral Springs Hospital Set to Re-open on August 10 *Hospital is successful in recruiting and training new staff in obstetrical care*

Banff, Canada – Banff Mineral Springs Hospital has resolved the staffing issues that necessitated the temporary suspension of obstetric services and will re-open the Obstetrics Program effective August 10, 2009.

“We recognize the tremendous support the community has for the Obstetrics program at the Mineral Springs Hospital and are pleased to be able to share this news.” says Cindy Mulherin, Executive Director. “Over the next couple of months we will put in place the required staffing schedule to provide obstetrical services to women in Banff and the surrounding area. The full complement of trained staff will be in place by mid-August when the program re-opens,” she adds.

The hospital successfully recruited nine new staff members and welcomed back two others from maternity leave. “With the increased staff we are able to fill vacancies and provide education and training in obstetrics for staff.” says Cindy. “Having more nursing staff available for coverage has allowed us to send staff for training and workshops specifically geared toward safe, quality care for mothers and babies,” says Cindy. “Our unit manager has worked very hard to organize a number of educational opportunities available for staff to upgrade their skills.”

Last month, 14 staff from the hospital participated in a Fetal Surveillance course and staff members continue to participate in the MORE OB program. Staff members are also involved in on-line learning to enhance their knowledge base in obstetrics. Twelve staff members will also be attending the Alberta Perinatal Program 2 day workshop on the Fundamentals of Obstetrics on June 5 and 6. In addition, mentorships in both Calgary and Edmonton hospitals are being arranged for staff interested in advancing their practice in the area of obstetrics.

As the hospital moves toward reinstating obstetrical services, women are urged to continue to talk to their physicians about their birth plan. “We have been keeping Dr. Jane Fowke and Dr. Patty Edgar updated on our progress over the past couple of months and they are familiar with our plans,” says Cindy. “I recognize the inconvenience that the closure placed not only on expectant mothers but also on the physicians and have appreciated their patience while we worked through all aspects of recruitment and training in order to get the program appropriately staffed and up and running again.”

The arrangements with Canmore General Hospital remain in place until the program is operational at the hospital on August 10. “We appreciate the cooperation from the staff and physicians at Canmore General in ensuring expectant mothers in the Bow Valley continue to be well cared for,” says Cindy. “We are grateful for their continued support.”

“I am also very proud of the way our team has responded to the challenges in the last few months. Their commitment and hard work is very much appreciated,” adds Cindy.

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