Provincial Linen Solution for Health Care to be Implemented

A new provincial linen service that will significantly improve quality for patients and residents has been announced. A new state-of-the-art processing plant that will utilize the latest technology to ensure the highest standard of infection prevention and control, improve the quality of linen and linen service, and improve employee safety will be located in Regina.

The plant will be built, owned and operated by a third party provider, K-Bro Linen Systems, contingent on the successful completion of labour relations consultations and subsequent contract negotiations with K-Bro. It is estimated that this solution will save the health system approximately $93 million over the next ten years through lower operating expenses and capital cost avoidance. The plant will be fully implemented in about two years.

“These changes will put the needs of patients first. This solution will ensure a high standard of infection prevention and improved patient safety, through improved processes and delivery of a better product,” said Health Minister Dustin Duncan. “Sharing services between health regions will also create efficiencies and contribute to cost savings and a more sustainable health system -- helping us achieve our goal of better health, better care and better value for Saskatchewan people.”

The central laundries now serving Saskatchewan’s health care system, located in Regina, Prince Albert, Weyburn, Yorkton and Moose Jaw, are aging and outdated. Several million dollars in capital expenditures would be required to improve all of the facilities. These plants will be replaced by the new plant once it is operational. Smaller laundries that serve long term care and other facilities were not within the scope of this project. Personal linen for long term care residents will continue to be processed locally.

During the two year transition period the regional health authorities will work with unions and staff to develop mitigation strategies to reduce the impacts on staff.

“There are many benefits in having an experienced third party contractor deliver this service. Our ability to implement best practices and leverage economies of scale and shared expertise will ensure the new provincial linen service will make a significant difference to the patient experience.”

For more information about the Provincial Linen System visit www.3shealth.ca