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SCREENING PROGRAM FOR BREAST CANCER OPENS IN NEW REGINA LOCATION

All Saskatchewan women getting mammograms through the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's Screening Program for Breast Cancer now benefit from the most advanced screening and mammography technology. The program installed state of the art digital equipment on its mobile unit and in its Regina offices when the service relocated to 106 - 3275 Pasqua Street, near 25th Avenue.

"Effective screening offers the best chance for early detection and treatment of breast cancer," Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. "Improved cancer care is a high priority for our government. We increased our annual investment in the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to support innovation that increase people's chances of surviving cancer."

Digital mammography has become the standard of care for breast imaging. The images produced are of a much higher quality, especially in dense breast tissue, allowing the radiologists to more easily see abnormalities. Radiologists can also magnify images for better viewing of questionable areas in the breast.

"We know that every woman screened is a potential life saved," said Scott Livingston, CEO of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. "Having digital mammography equipment in our Regina facility as well as the mobile is an important step in improving our ability to detect cancer in its early stages when the outcomes are better for patients."

The cost of the relocation and installation of digital mammography equipment in the Regina office and on the mobile was just over \$1.5 million.

The Screening Program for Breast Cancer is a population-based provincial screening program for the early detection of cancer. The program screens approximately 38,000 women each year between the ages of 50 and 69.

For information on the program or the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency visit www.saskcancer.ca.

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Breast Cancer Facts

Breast Cancer in Canada

- Breast cancer is the number one diagnosed form of the disease in women and the second leading cause of cancer death in Canada.
- Each year, an estimated 22,700 Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 5,100 will die from the disease.
- One in nine Canadian woman will develop breast cancer during their lifetime.

Source: Canadian Cancer Society 2012 www.cancer.ca/statistics

Breast Cancer in Saskatchewan

- Breast cancer is the number one diagnosed form of the disease in women.
- Each year, approximately 690 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 160 die from the disease.

Source: Canadian Cancer Society 2012: www.cancer/statistic

Screening Program for Breast Cancer

- With regular screening, changes in the breast can be detected when they are too small for you or your doctor to feel or see.
- Through the Saskatchewan Screening Program for Breast Cancer, there has been a 36 per cent reduction in the breast cancer mortality rate from 1990 to 2007.
- The program screens approximately 38,000 women each year between the ages of 50 and 69.
- Approximately 75 per cent of all breast cancers diagnosed through the program are early stage.
- The program reminds women when they are due for a mammogram, notifies them of their test results and works with doctors and nurses practitioners to ensure appropriate follow-up of abnormal results.
- The program operates screening centres in Regina and Saskatoon and through satellite sites in Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Swift Current, Prince Albert and North Battleford. A sixth satellite site will be added in Lloydminster in November 2012.
- The Screening Program for Breast Cancer's mobile unit provides mammograms to women in 44 different rural and northern locations.