



**For Immediate Release: October 6, 2015**

## **INTERNATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY ADVOCATE TO SPEAK IN WINNIPEG**

Internationally-recognized patient safety advocate Donna Davis will be in Winnipeg on October 27, 2015 to share her heart-breaking story of losing her son Vance several years ago, and to underscore the importance of patient and family-centred care.

Donna Davis, a nurse and ambulance attendant from Carievale, Saskatchewan, knew something was wrong with her son during his time in hospital but felt staff providing care to her son weren't listening to the concerns she was raising. Her advocacy efforts in the years following her son's death helped change the health system and ultimately lead her to become an advocate for patient safety, and patient and family-centred care.

Davis will be speaking at a free public forum. It takes place on Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 420 Corydon Avenue. The public is encouraged to attend, ask questions, as well as share their thoughts and suggestions on how to better involve patients and families in conversations about their care. The event is co-hosted by the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

"From hosting other forums with Donna Davis, we know that this will be a powerful, emotional, and thought-provoking journey of communication, compassion, and openness for health-care providers, students in the health sciences, and members of the public," said Laurie Thompson, Executive Director of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety.

"The forum is an opportunity for the public and the Region to learn from Davis' experience in another province," said Sandra Fedirchuk, Regional Director, Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

"Every time I tell Vance's story I'm honoring his life," says Davis. "I'm hopeful, really hopeful, that things are changing."

### **For more information, contact:**

George Kolomaya, Communications Consultant, Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety, 204-488-6323, [George@samsonjourney.com](mailto:George@samsonjourney.com).

### **Background information:**

Created in 2004, the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of health care for Manitobans. The Institute's patient safety initiatives like *It's Safe To Ask* have also been replicated across Canada and internationally.

Patient safety can be defined as activities that caregivers, patients and families engage in to prevent harm to patients and work towards providing the safest possible care. Examples are disclosing when things go wrong, studying patient incidents to find ways to try to prevent them, apologizing, creating standard procedures such as checklists, and creating cultures that are open to patient and caregiver team input.