



News Release

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For Immediate Release:

PATIENT SAFETY FORUM SET FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 in BRANDON
International patient safety advocate shares her story of loss and hope
as a way to keep patients and families at the centre of healthcare

Western Regional Health Authority today announced that it will co-host a free patient safety public forum with the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety. The event will take place on Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Victoria Inn, 3550 Victoria Avenue in Brandon, Manitoba.

Internationally-recognized patient safety advocate Donna Davis shares her heart-breaking story of losing her son Vance due to medical care that was intended to help him. Davis, a nurse and ambulance attendant from the tiny village of Carievale, Saskatchewan, knew something was wrong with Vance during his time in hospital after a car accident, but no one would listen to her. Her seven year fight for the truth changed the system and would ultimately lead her to become an internationally-recognized speaker, advocate for patient safety and patient and family centered care.

“Every time I tell Vance’s story I’m honoring his life,” says Donna. “Vance was a fixer in life. Now he’s a fixer in death. I’m hopeful, really hopeful, that things are changing.”

Donna’s journey through a healthcare system that broke down and failed Vance will be the catalyst for an evening of public discussion centering around patient safety issues.

“The intent of hosting the “**We Listen, We Learn, We AdVANCE**” forum is to continually advance a culture throughout the RHA of encouraging dialogue with patients and families, listening carefully to what they are telling us in care situations, and putting them at the centre of healthcare decisions and plans,” says Marg MacDonald, Western RHA Board Chair.

The public is encouraged to attend to ask questions as well as share their thoughts and suggestions to involve patients and families more in care dialogue and discussions.

Refreshments will be served.

“From hosting similar forums, we know that this is a powerful, emotional, and thought-provoking journey of communication, compassion, and openness for health care providers and members of the public,” said Laurie Thompson, Executive Director of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety.

Citizens are urged to visit www.brandonrha.mb.ca for more information, to download and display posters about the forum in and around their community, and to watch a 10 minute video of Donna sharing her story about the loss of her son Vance.

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About The Western Regional Health Authority

The Western RHA provides healthcare services to a population of more than 164,000 people. It employs more than 8,000 staff. It was formed with the amalgamation of the former Assiniboine, Brandon and Parkland RHAs earlier this year. It covers 67,000 square kilometers. More information on the RHA is at <http://www.westernmbrha.ca>

About The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety

Created in 2004, the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS) promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of health care for Manitobans. More information on MIPS is at www.mbips.ca and www.safetoask.ca.