



## **Statement of the Bishops of Alberta on the Unification of Catholic Health Facilities in Alberta**

Following a year of review and consultation by the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation (ACHC), the Bishops of Alberta on July 31 approved a single governance model for Catholic health service providers in Alberta.

This decision will bring all 16 Catholic health facilities together under one board and one administration, which will operate under the interim name Catholic Health of Alberta. The new organization will direct and manage facilities in nine communities across Alberta – including almost 2,400 beds, more than 8,800 workers, 2,700 volunteers and a budget in excess of \$514 million.

The Bishops as ACHC Members have appointed a six-member Board chaired by W. John Brennan, currently Board Chair of Caritas Health Group in Edmonton. This new board replaces the current ACHC Board of Directors effective August 7, 2008. The plan calls for the new governance and management structure to be completed by October 1, 2008

The Bishops have also endorsed a recommendation by the corporation's Transition Team that the new board appoint Patrick Dumelie, President of Caritas Health Group, as Interim CEO of the consolidated organization.

As of October 1, 2008, all current boards of directors for the local facilities will no longer have governance roles but will instead take on responsibility for identifying and addressing local needs. These community-based boards will be accountable to the new Catholic Health of Alberta Board, which will be expanded to 11 members.

We offer our thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Board and management of the ACHC, particularly the chair, Tom Wispinski, and CEO, Michael Shea, who have given outstanding service in these roles over the years.

We believe the new consolidated organization will be well positioned to strengthen and revitalize a 145-year legacy of Catholic health providers meeting the needs of Albertans with compassion, resourcefulness and dedication.

All our facilities will benefit from the co-ordination of programs and services, sharing of expertise and resources, improved communications and a single point of leadership and accountability.

The new organization will build on a proven track record of working effectively within regional health systems to meet community needs. It will work closely with the new Alberta Health Services Board and other providers across the province to ensure that the Catholic organizations deliver quality, compassionate and holistic care to all.

The Church's mission of caring for the sick and vulnerable stems from our Lord's own words recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: "I was sick, and you cared for me" (Mt 25:36). Our Catholic health care institutions respond to this call each day in a manner that affirms the human dignity of the patient and offers the sick and dying a reason to hope.

The Bishops of Alberta believe these changes, which have the support of all 16 facilities, Boards and administration, will strengthen the ability of the institutions to fulfill this mission as they deliver quality services to all those in need.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Archbishop Richard W. Smith  
Chair of the Members  
Alberta Catholic Health Corporation

August 7, 2008