



NEWS RELEASE

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Greater Moncton - New Brunswick's Health Centre of Excellence

MONCTON (NB) – February 17, 2009 – The Mayors from Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview along with Enterprise Greater Moncton announced today the positioning of Greater Moncton as New Brunswick's Health Centre of Excellence. Mayors George LeBlanc, Jean LeBlanc and Clarence Sweetland spoke of Greater Moncton's success, its diverse economy and its prolific and bilingual workforce as strong assets to becoming New Brunswick's Health Centre of Excellence.

The health sector is among one of the most important industries in Greater Moncton with its two major teaching hospitals, cutting-edge companies, as well as universities and colleges where training in health related fields has a presence. Continuous population increases, combined with infrastructure growth in the three municipalities are also other factors contributing to making Greater Moncton the most important player in terms of health and economy in New Brunswick.

"Highlighting our capacity in the health sector will help us raise the profile of our community in terms of quality of life, and serve us well in our ongoing efforts to attract and retain people and businesses," says Moncton Mayor George LeBlanc.

"Such designation makes our area attractive for economic development through job creation, R&D investment, and growth of the health sector which offers long term economic development opportunities for our region. We want to see investment from both the public and the private sectors," said Dieppe Mayor Jean LeBlanc.

Essential elements are required to stimulate the economy of the health sector, including institutions devoted to training health professionals and related sectors, strategies to promote and support R & D in health, as well as services and clinical care that offer both field expertise and a growth-stimulated environment.

The Greater Moncton initiative is based on **five pillars of excellence**:

1. Quality and Diversity in the Delivery of Health Services
2. Quality Training of Health Professionals
3. Quality Health Research and Development
4. Quality of Business, Health Technologies and Innovation
5. Quality of the Communities' Commitment in Health

“More than 30 companies operate in health-related fields in the Greater Moncton area, not including numerous senior citizen facilities, fitness centres, pharmacies, dental offices, eye care centres, physiotherapy clinics and other similar disciplines. These companies represent more than 1,100 employees and an approximate payroll of \$44 million per year.” indicated Robert Goguen, Chair of Enterprise Greater Moncton. “It is definitely an economic asset for our community.”

The three Mayors have mandated Enterprise Greater Moncton along with local economic development agencies and identified health stakeholders to establish an advisory board that will lead the development of a regional health strategy.

“The time has come to rally forces and work together to enable progress in the health field”, indicated Riverview Mayor Clarence Sweetland. “We need to focus resources and actions on transformational strategies that will promote our vision as leaders.”

Greater Moncton and health in numbers...

- 40 study programs
- 1,600 students (including 125 in medicine)
- 75 researchers
- 5.5 million \$ per year in R&D funding
- 600 physicians
- 150 physicians involved in teaching medicine
- 2 major teaching hospitals
- 6,000 jobs in the public health related fields
- 1,100 jobs in the private sector
- Approximately 10% of the workforce

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