



# News Release

March 15, 2013

For immediate release

## Dr. James Irvine receives Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award

Dr. James Irvine, Medical Health Officer for the three northern health authorities, has been honoured with a Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award for his contribution to the health of the population.

The Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Awards are an initiative of AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan and were presented in Regina on Saturday, March 9, 2013. The "Health of the Population" category recognizes those who have contributed to the overall health outcomes of a community and/or reducing health disparities within the community.

Tina Rasmussen is the Chair of the Board of the Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority, which nominated Dr. Irvine for the award. "Dr. Irvine is passionate about improving the health and well-being of northern residents," said Rasmussen. "We truly appreciate the skills and abilities he has, and the character and integrity shown in his leadership and oversight in providing services to the people of the north".

Richard Petit, Chief Executive Officer of the Keewatin Yatthe Health Region, added, "He has been instrumental in the publication of the Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators Reports. While these reports show the health disparities that exist in the north, they also focus on the strengths of Northerners, and help to add clarity to the priorities for action."

In addition to being the Medical Health Officer for the Athabasca Health Authority, Keewatin Yatthe Health Region and the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region, Dr. Irvine is a professor at the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine. He is a former Director of Northern Medical Services and has served as a family physician in La Ronge.

"This is a well-deserved honour," said Andrew McLetchie, CEO of the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region. "Dr. Irvine's collaborative, proactive approach has earned him the respect of colleagues nationally and internationally."

In accepting the award, Dr. Irvine said, "This is truly a reflection of the quality, enthusiasm and innovation of all the teams that I have the privilege to work with across the north."

More information on the Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Awards can be found at:  
<http://aidsprogramssouthsask.com/ads/she.html>

More information on Northern Saskatchewan's Population Health Unit can be found at:  
[www.populationhealthunit.ca](http://www.populationhealthunit.ca)

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