**Nov. 29th 2019** **Media Backgrounder**

**Ponderosa Primary Care Centre:
Penticton’s new team-based primary care clinic**

**What is the Ponderosa Primary Care Centre?**

* Ponderosa Primary Care Centre is a new team-based family medicine clinic, the first of its kind opening in the region thanks to Ministry of Health Primary Care Network funding announced in April.
* The Centre houses 6 family physicians and 2 nurse practitioners who will be working as a part of a team to deliver primary care services to our community.
* The Ponderosa care team also includes 2 registered nurses, a registered dietitian, social worker, and an occupational therapist, which ensures easy referrals and wrap-around care for patients. A physiotherapist and a pharmacist will soon join the Centre. The space is also shared by 2 specialists.

**Who can access the Centre?**

* Ponderosa provides care for patients who have moved with previous providers to the Centre, or who have been attached to providers working at the Centre through the centralized waitlist.
* PATIENTS NEEDING A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER WILL BE ATTACHED TO A FAMILY PHYSICIAN OR NURSE PRACTITIONER IN THE COMMUNITY FROM THE CENTRALIZED PATIENT ATTACHMENT LIST found on the SOS Division of Family Practice Website. For details and to sign up that you are looking for a provider, please visit: **www.divisions.bc.ca/sos.**
* Providers across the region are using the waitlist to attach patients, as they have room in their practices.

**What’s new and exciting?**

* The Centre offers extended hours for its attached patients: (M-Th) 8am -8pm; (F) 8am-4pm
* Team-based care is the way of the future. Ponderosa serves as a model as we move towards integrating team-based care into more of our region’s larger clinics.
* Team-based care is good for patients, and an excellent way to recruit new providers who want to work in larger clinics with teams to the region.

**Who is involved?**

The Penticton Indian Band, Interior Health, Osoyoos Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Upper Similkameen Indian Band and the SOS Okanagan Similkameen Division of Family Practice have partnered to implement Primary Care Network solutions into our region, with funding and assistance from the BC Ministry of Health and Doctors of BC.

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