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# THE MELVILLE Advance

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## Hospital Aux. disbanding after 110 years

By Jacob Miller  
Grasslands News

After 110 years of serving the community the St. Peter's Hospital Auxiliary has decided to disband.

The group disbanded after the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected their ability to fundraise.

Former president LaVern Chapiel explained that the group was low on members, which led to the group disbanding.

"We had 12 elderly members and we called a meeting to ask for new members, we had five or six prospects and then COVID came around the corner," said Chapiel.

"We didn't get together for two years and the new executive decided to disband the auxiliary."

The auxiliary started in 1940 when the Sisters of St. Martha came to the Melville area to start a hospital and they needed volunteers, so women in the area formed the Hospital Aid.

The original group helped with the war effort during the 1940s by canvassing for money by holding teas, serving the community by visiting people in the hospital, gave gifts to kids in the hospital and knit projects for the hospital.

The group changed their name to the Hospital Auxiliary and shifted focus to raising funds for the hospital.

"We raised money by having tea and bake sales, and we bought a good number of items for the hospital."

- SEE HEALTH AUX. DISBANDS, 13



JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

### Important discussions

Leader of the Saskatchewan NDP Carla Beck (right) stopped to have lunch with Mayor of Melville Walter Streelasky at Rail City Industries before heading to Yorkton to continue her tour. Beck was in Melville to tour St. Peter's Hospital and address concerns about the recent emergency service disruptions.

## Beck in Melville for hospital tour

By Jacob Miller  
Grasslands News

Leader of the Saskatchewan NDP and official Opposition, Carla Beck, stopped in Melville

on July 20 for a tour of St. Peter's Hospital.

Beck toured the hospital and spoke with health care workers and hospital staff on the issues they are facing at the facility.

"We came today to draw attention to some of the very big challenges that we're seeing in health care right across the board," said Beck.

Beck has been on a tour across the province visiting communities and seeing what the issues are on the ground.

"We've been on the road for the last three weeks, meeting in communities across the province and affordability has emerged as a huge issue for people, but the other thing that is really top of mind is health care and the state of our health care system."

Across the province there have been 37 different service disruptions at hospitals. Melville's St. Peter's Hospital has seen

six different disruptions to emergency services over the past month.

"In every corner of the province people are right to be worried," said Beck.

"This is a scenario that's been played out across the province; 37 different places with service disruptions; we see it in Broadview that hasn't seen a reopening since COVID was bigger."

Currently the Saskatchewan Health Authority's plan to fix the staffing shortages is to hire more employees, one Beck doesn't think is enough.

"It's very difficult to get people to change jobs; people living in one center who are working full time in the next center over to switch for a part time or temporary position, let alone it's much more difficult to get people to move across the province or across the country or even internationally for positions that have no guar-

antee of hours, have no guarantee of more than a one year term," said Beck.

Beck said that one of the issues she had heard from workers was the ability to train locally in the communities where they reside, saying that this might help with staffing shortages.

"People who might be interested in the local area want to ensure that they have access to training opportunities, that it would allow them to train for the most part in their home communities to access jobs that are available."

Judy Henley, Melville resident and president of CUPE Saskatchewan, said that St. Peter's Hospital is dealing with staffing shortages across the board, not just doctors or nurses.

"It's right from dietary, housekeeping, diagnostic imaging, continuing care aides, we are short

- SEE BECK, VISITS 13



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### Auxiliary group

The St. Peter's Hospital Auxiliary in 2016. The group has donated their time and money for the betterment of the St. Peter's Hospital in Melville. From 1988 to 2019 they have raised over \$70,000 for equipment and other items to the hospital.

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