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**PROVINCE UPGRADING MEDICAL LABORATORY
IN FLIN FLON: SELINGER**

FLIN FLON—The medical laboratory in the Flin Flon General Hospital will receive a \$212,500 upgrade, improving working conditions for lab staff and benefiting patient care, Premier Selinger announced here today.

“Laboratories provide key diagnostic information that health-care professionals need to assess and treat patients,” said Selinger. “This lab upgrade will greatly enhance the ability of laboratory staff to perform their jobs safely and efficiently, while also improving service for patients.”

Run by Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM), the not-for-profit corporation responsible for all of Manitoba’s front-line public laboratory and rural diagnostic imaging services, the Flin Flon lab is part of a 79-site network across Manitoba which also includes the recently expanded and redeveloped Westman Laboratory in Brandon.

“Technology is continually evolving; keeping pace with equipment advancements is only one piece of the puzzle. We also need to ensure that we have modern facilities to safely and efficiently carry out diagnostic activities,” said Judy Black, regional diagnostic manager DSM. “We are grateful that the province recognizes the important role that our staff plays in the region’s health.”

Improvements to the laboratory will contribute to a safer work place and will include a redesign of the reception and waiting areas that will provide greater privacy and confidentiality for patients, Selinger noted.

The project will incorporate workflow efficiencies into the design and will bring the laboratory up to current workplace health and safety standards and position it to meet the stringent laboratory accreditation standards required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, the premier said. Renovations are being planned in stages to ensure diagnostic services can be provided while the work is underway.

Selinger also noted the recent upgrades to DSM’s ultrasound department at the Flin Flon General Hospital. Renovation of 600 square foot has enabled ultrasound services to relocate to the same area as other imaging services. The \$245,500 project involved necessary improvements to air quality and ventilation. As well as improving the environmental comfort and safety of both patients and staff, the co-located diagnostic imaging department has improved customer service with a common receptionist receiving all patients, the premier said.