

February 10, 2011

**KEY COMPONENT OF PROVINCIAL LABORATORY SYSTEM
STRENGTHENED: SELINGER**

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**\$12.2-million Laboratory Expansion,
Redevelopment Now Complete**

BRANDON—A newly expanded and modernized Westman Laboratory was officially opened here today by Premier Greg Selinger.

“This state-of-the-art facility meets and exceeds national standards and includes the latest technology needed for diagnostic testing,” said Selinger. “The \$12.2-million investment in this laboratory will help us meet the growing medical testing requirements of rural Manitoba.”

As part of Diagnostic Services of Manitoba’s (DSM) provincial network, the Westman Laboratory provides a range of laboratory services for the health centre, medical clinics, nursing homes and other health-service centres within the Brandon Regional Health Authority. It is also a referral centre for 117 rural facilities around Manitoba including smaller laboratories and northern nursing stations.

“This beautiful new lab space will enable DSM to provide even better diagnostic testing services for Manitobans while helping recruit and retain front-line staff,” said Health Minister Theresa Oswald. “I commend the staff of DSM for working through construction and renovation while providing the care and timely results so critically important to us all.”

The redevelopment project included the addition of 10,000 square feet and renovation of 9,000 square feet. The redevelopment has significantly improved the work environment for staff, both in terms of workflow efficiencies and environmental safety, comfort and ergonomics, the premier said. Pneumatic tube systems for sending samples directly from the hospital to the lab and state-of-the-art analytical equipment are among the upgrades.

Services provided by the laboratory include hematopathology (blood testing), pathology (tissue testing), cytopathology (cell testing), microbiology (the study of micro-organisms), clinical chemistry, transfusion medicine (preparation of blood and blood products for transfusion) and specimen procurement, management and shipping.

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“The services this lab provides are critical to citizens in the Brandon health region and throughout rural Manitoba,” said Carmel Olson, chief executive officer of the Brandon Regional Health Authority and board member of DSM. “We’re very pleased to see this project now complete and I congratulate our partners, Diagnostic Services Manitoba and Manitoba Health, on a job well done.”

The new construction and renovations were designed to minimize environmental impacts throughout the construction process as well as during normal operations, Selinger said. The project meets provincial green building requirements and is expected to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Development) silver certification. The green features include improved temperature management, ventilation and lighting efficiencies, such as light tubes to direct outside light, and daylight and occupancy sensors.