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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****September 28, 2007**

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## **Dietary staff in five facilities in health region to receive awards**

**Prairie North Health Region:** Dietary staff working in five facilities in the Prairie North Health Region, members of CUPE Local 5111, will be stepping out of the kitchen and into the limelight, as they are honoured for their commitment to food excellence, public service and community spirit.

The Health Care Council of the Canadian Union of Public Employees is presenting Certificates of Recognition and Achievement to dietary staff in Meadow Lake, St. Walburg, Edam, Cut Knife and Turtleford on Monday and Tuesday.

The awards, presented in three categories – Food Excellence, the People’s Choice and Supporting the Local Community – recognize the work of dietary staff and other health providers who prepare hot, nutritious meals from scratch, go the extra distance to improve the quality of life for hospital patients and long-term care residents, and buy locally to support the community.

“Everyone knows the importance of nutrition to health and well-being,” says CUPE Health Care Council President Gordon Campbell. “But it’s particularly true for hospital patients recovering from surgeries and elderly residents living in long-term care facilities.”

The “Food Excellence Certificate” recognizes the work of dietary staff who ‘slave over a hot stove’ to ensure that meal time is the best part of people’s day in hospitals and long-term care facilities across the province, Campbell says.

The award is only presented to facilities that prepare food with fresh ingredients and restrict their use of pre-packaged food products.

A total of 30 certificates will be presented to dietary staff in five health regions.

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This year's recipients of the Food Excellence Award in the Prairie North Health Region are the Northwest Health Facility in Meadow Lake, the St. Walburg Health Complex/Lakeland Lodge and the Lady Minto Health Centre in Edam.

Two facilities – the Cut Knife Health Complex and Riverside Health Complex in Turtleford – are recipients of the People's Choice Award for going the extra distance to make meal times a special event.

**For more information contact: Gordon Campbell at 546-2185.**

**The awards will be presented as follows:**

Lady Minto Health Centre, Edam on October 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Riverside Health Complex in Turtleford on October 1 at 11 a.m.

St. Walburg Health Complex/ Lakeland Lodge on October 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Cut Knife Health Complex on October 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Northwest Health Facility in Meadow Lake on October 2 at 2 p.m.