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For immediate release

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## Bonnyville Health Centre celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

BONNYVILLE—On June 11, 1986, Bonnyville celebrated the opening of a new, modern hospital that would continue a legacy of compassionate care brought by missionaries and Sisters 94 years ago.

The Bonnyville Health Centre invites the community to join the celebrations that mark this important date.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Tours at 10 am and 2 pm

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Refreshments and reminiscing after each tour, Boardroom 1715

Although the Catholic Church has provided healthcare to the community for 92 years, the healthcare history in Bonnyville goes back a bit further.

“The provision of medical and healthcare services in Bonnyville dates as far back as 1917 when the Women’s Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church established a hospital in a two storey farm house. Several name changes occurred in the ensuing years until 1962 when the Duclos Hospital Society became the owners and operators of the facility. St. Louis Hospital was established in 1919 when the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d’Evron were missioned to begin a hospital and school in a former church property,” explains Sister Mary Ellen O’Neill.

The Bonnyville Health Centre replaced the Duclos Hospital and St. Louis Hospitals after many years of negotiations between the two hospital Boards in the 1970s. In 1979 they reached an historic agreement and the Government approved to fund the construction of a new and modern Health Centre overlooking Jesse Lake.

Now a member of Covenant Health, the Bonnyville Health Centre continues to deliver compassionate care to the community. It offers emergency care, acute care, long-term care, palliative care and cancer treatments, allowing many residents to stay at home and in their community for their healthcare.

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**Covenant Health** is Canada's largest Catholic health care organization with over 14,000 physicians, employees and volunteers serving in 12 communities across Alberta. As a major provider in Alberta's integrated health system, Covenant Health works with Alberta Health Services and community partners to positively influence the health of Albertans through a broad range of programs and services.