

**Town of High River, AB**  
**2012 CAMA Willis Award for Innovation**  
**(Population under 20,000)**  
***Charles Clark Medical Centre Partnership***

*Facility represents landmark partnerships for bringing healthcare to rural communities*

High River's Charles Clark Medical Centre Partnership is a landmark project that represents an innovative, highly successful partnership between private, public and non-profit sectors.

Spearheaded by a dedicated group of local physicians, this partnership includes the Town of High River, the Municipal District of Foothills, the High River Chamber of Commerce and several local service organizations.

This \$6,000,000 plus project will ensure High River is at the forefront of providing quality healthcare services for residents and provide a teaching centre where young doctors in training can increase their rural medicine practice.

As well as providing space for 11 medical practices, the centre also includes an onsite cardiologist providing echocardiogram services, a dispensary, imaging lab, and soon-to-open walk-in clinic and Integrated Assessment Centre for patients who do not have a family doctor.

Three new doctors have already opened their practices and three experienced physicians have moved their practices into the centre where they can provide mentorship and support to the new graduates. The centre is expected to have 11 physicians working in 2012 and another 10 will be recruited within the next five years.

This success is being noticed by Alberta Health Services, which recently recognized High River as a model for retaining and recruiting physicians to rural centres. The project also won awards of excellence from the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties in 2011.

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