



**LOCAL FAMILY DONATES CT SCANNER TO LAC LA BICHE REGION
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Lac La Biche – A prominent local family who wishes to remain anonymous will fund purchase of a CT Scanner for the Lac La Biche region, the Lac La Biche Regional Health Foundation announced Monday.

“This donation is an amazing gift – not just for the region, but also for our healthcare system as a whole,” says foundation president Zicki Eludin.

The CT Scanner, worth almost a million dollars, will help improve response times for patients suspected of having a stroke and will also be used for other purposes, including cancer detection, trauma, and cardio vascular events.

“The lifetime costs for healthcare of just one stroke patient can add up to more than a million dollars,” says Eludin. “And that’s not counting the personal costs – such as pain and suffering – experienced by both the patient and their family members.”

The best chance for full recovery exists if clot-breaking drugs are administered within the first hour following an incident. This is considered the golden hour. Medical staff first need to confirm a stroke, which requires a CT scan.

“You don’t give clot-busting drugs without knowing it is a stroke,” Eludin notes. “If it’s not, that could cause other problems – even death.

“You need to know. And, you need to know fast. Timing is everything.”

Time is so critical Alberta Health Services is now working on a stroke protocol of 30 minutes.

However, even the original standard is difficult to meet when the closest CT Scanner is located more than an hour and a half away in Cold Lake.

“And that’s assuming ideal conditions,” says Eludin. “But whoever heard of things going perfectly during a stroke?”

The CT Scanner will shorten regional response times dramatically. Local doctors are hoping this is the first step in making Lac La Biche the Stroke Centre for Zone 7.

The foundation also has plans to tackle other needed improvements, such as upgrading of the emergency department at William J Cadzow Hospital, and purchase of other diagnostic equipment.

“This is big, but it’s only the beginning,” says Eludin.

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