



**Society of Rural Physicians of Canada  
Soci t  de la m decine rurale du Canada**

## **PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CIHI Report Highlights Challenge of Rural Medicine**

Golden BC / January 15th 2006 / - This week's CIHI Report on rural medicine in Canada puts solid numbers behind the need to address rural medical issues. "Those of us who practice in rural Canada have always known we do more with less" stated Dr. Trina Larsen Soles, President of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada. The report particularly emphasizes the lack of specialists in rural areas. However it also shows that rural family physicians have a much broader scope of practice than their urban counterparts and in fact function as specialists in a variety of settings. "We need to stop closing rural hospitals, rural operating rooms, and rural obstetric programs" says Dr. Larsen Soles. "The past decade has seen significant advances in rural medical education and rural recruitment and incentive programs. But provincial centralization of medical services and closure and downgrading of rural hospitals has seriously hurt service delivery." The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada believes there must be a National Rural Health Strategy developed to make significant progress in addressing these disparities. Canada has the potential to become a world leader in rural health. However this would require cohesive policy development and strong support at the federal level.

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#### **Backgrounder**

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is the national voice of Canadian rural physicians. Founded in 1992, the SRPC's mission is to provide leadership for rural physicians and to promote

sustainable conditions and equitable health care for rural communities. On behalf of its members and the Canadian public, SRPC performs a wide variety of functions, such as developing and advocating health delivery mechanisms, supporting rural doctors and communities in crisis, promoting and delivering continuing rural medical education, encouraging and facilitating research into rural health issues, and fostering communication among rural physicians and other groups with an interest in rural health care. The SRPC is a voluntary professional organization representing over 2,000 of Canada's rural physicians and comprising 5 regional divisions spanning the country, reference <http://www.srpc.ca>