

## Background – HIV Program Initiatives

The 2009-10 health budget provided funding for the following HIV/AIDS programs and services;

- Ongoing funding for anonymous HIV testing in Regina Qu'Appelle, Saskatoon and Prince Albert Parkland health regions.
- Funding for HIV/AIDS nurse specialists in infectious disease clinics.
- Funding for community outreach/needle exchange services.
- Funding for various community-based AIDS organizations.

### Recent Initiatives

- Pilot project to do a social analysis of injection drug users and other high-risk groups to control the spread of infection.
- Working with community partners on targeted public health interventions such as:
  - Determining targeted messages for high-risk populations.
  - Supporting community development initiatives including some immigrant communities with higher HIV prevalence rates.
  - Supporting enhanced alcohol and drug service initiatives targeted at reducing injection drug use.
  - Strengthening harm reduction interventions, such as the needle exchange program to reduce the incidence of infection, and
  - Encouraging more HIV testing and contact tracing to inform others who may have been infected with HIV.
- Public health units in larger health regions have initiated enhanced contact tracing and follow up.
- Saskatoon HIV Aboriginal Reduction of Harm Program (SHARP) is funded through the Aboriginal Health Transition fund and partnered with Saskatoon public health. It provides surveillance, outreach and supportive services. Participants include the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatoon health Region, University of Saskatchewan and AIDS Saskatoon.