

BACKGROUNDER
Examples of Lean successes in Saskatchewan health care

- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's Oncology Ward increased the time nurses spend with patients during a shift from *26 per cent to 41 per cent*.
- As a result of reducing the number of radiation treatments required by breast cancer patients, *235 CT appointments slots were reallocated*, freeing up the equipment for other procedures.
- Five Hills Health Region added an *extra 1/2 day capacity* to do an additional 9 scope procedures each week or *approximately 470 more scopes each year* using existing resources.
- The Prairie North Health Region undertook an initiative aimed at improving the flow of patients from admission through to discharge. In December 2009, only 55% of patients discharged were under expected length of stay (ELOS). By July 2010, *85% were discharged under ELOS*.
- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region reduced cancelled MRIs from 12 to 1 per week, representing a *7% increase in productivity or capacity to perform an additional 650 scans / year* using existing resources.
- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region *reduced the number of ambulance trips for patients requiring transport to receive MRIs from 9/week to 1/week* by using more appropriate transportation services.
- Staff in Prince Albert Parkland *reduced time spent in report by 42%* on the surgical unit and improved the quality of the report at the same time. Staff say they know patients better, feel they have more time to spend with patients, and can more easily identify those at risk for falls.
- Provincial Disease Control Laboratory saved *10-12 hours* of staff time per day through improving initial data entry process and returned one storage room (40 sq ft) to office space.
- Cypress Health Region *saved 3 months' technician time* each year through initial improvements in their laboratory.
- St. Paul's Hospital processes more than eight million medical samples annually. Through Lean, the lab *processed 27% more blood samples and 39% more chemistry samples a day, and process more than 96% within a 60-minute target*.
- The Prairie North Health Region examined staff scheduling processes at the Battlefords Union Hospital and determined that scheduling practices had a significant impact on the costs incurred for overtime. They were able to achieve *95% - 100% reduction* in costs due to missed meal break overtime, which resulted in *annual savings over \$200K*. They are now in the process of rolling this initiative out across the region.