

# MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

## Health Investments

### Budget 2013-14

**Record \$4.84 billion investment to help improve the quality of life for Saskatchewan people.**

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **\$70.5 million** for the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative, an increase of \$10 million, to provide an additional **7,000 surgeries and improve the quality and safety of patient care.**
- **\$3.0 billion for Regional Health Authorities**, including \$29 million to recognize health pressures related to population growth.
- **\$150.7 million** for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to provide enhanced **cancer care services** and **\$3.7 million** in operational funding for a **PET CT scanner** at Royal University Hospital (diagnostic tool used primarily for cancer patients).
- **\$17.8 million**, an increase of \$2 million, to support post-graduate training seats to help boost physician numbers in Saskatchewan and improve access for residents.
- **\$163.9 million capital investment**, an increase of \$92.3 million or 129 per cent over last year. This includes \$121.0 million in the form of government-owned capital and \$42.9 million for third party capital:
  - **\$50.0 million** for the co-owned **Moose Jaw Union Hospital replacement.**
  - **\$70.6 million** for co-owned **long-term care (LTC) facility funding** to continue construction work in Biggar, Kelvington, Kerrobert, Kipling, Maple Creek, and Prince Albert.
  - **\$15.9 million** to continue construction on RHA-owned **LTC facilities** in Radville, Redvers, Rosetown, Shellbrook, and Tisdale.
  - **\$14.7 million** for **life safety and emergency repairs.**
  - **\$11.0 million** for **diagnostic, medical/surgical and other equipment.**
  - **\$1.3 million** towards a **helipad at the Regina General Hospital.**
  - **\$400,000** for the **provincial laboratory machinery and equipment.**
  - Planning also continues on Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford.
- **\$23.6 million** investment to bolster **health services for rural Saskatchewan:**
  - **\$10.5 million** in continued support of **STARS helicopter ambulance** to provide enhanced emergency coverage. STARS now operates 24/7 from bases in both Regina and Saskatoon.
  - **\$9.8 million**, an increase of \$4.3 million, for innovative approaches **to improve access to primary health care**, including the introduction of **Collaborative Emergency Centres (CECs)**, to improve health services for Saskatchewan people. CECs are designed to enhance access to high quality, comprehensive primary health care that is capable of dealing with unexpected illness or injury in a timely fashion.
  - **\$3.0 million**, an increase of \$1.5 million, to support the continued implementation of a **20 rural physician locum pool** that will support patient access to physician care (locum physicians temporarily fulfill the duties of physicians who are away from their practice).
  - **\$250,000** for the **Rural Family Physician Recruitment Incentive Program**, as announced by the Premier earlier at SARM.

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- **\$3.1 million** increased investment in **seniors**, which includes:
  - **\$2 million** for a new **Home First/Quick Response Home Care two-year pilot in Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region**. This program helps prevent avoidable hospital admissions, facilitates earlier hospital discharge and provides crisis intervention in the community. The program may include such things as: short-term case management, medication management, skin and wound care, mobility aids, rehabilitation, and other support.
  - **\$750,000** for partial year operating funding for **24 additional beds at Pineview Terrace Lodge in Prince Albert**, to assist the region in reducing wait lists and better meet the increased demands for care. Beds are anticipated to be open October 2013.
  - **\$350,000** for expansion of the Alzheimer Society's First Link program to four additional sites (North Battleford, Swift Current, Estevan, and Prince Albert), as well as to establish six dementia advisory networks, to improve the system of care and support for people with dementia, their family and caregivers.

**MEASURES TO HELP REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS:**

- Regional Health Authorities and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency have been tasked with finding \$54 million in efficiencies in 2013-14.
- Initiatives to lower prices on generic drugs are estimated to save over \$20 million in 2013-14.