

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

Budget 2014-15 Health Investments

Record \$4.99 billion investment to improve the quality of life for Saskatchewan's growing population.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **\$3.25 billion for Regional Health Authorities**—an increase of \$107.5 million or 3.4 per cent compared to last year—for operating funding and for targeted initiatives, including \$24 million to recognize health pressures related to population growth.
- **\$155.7 million** for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to provide enhanced **cancer care services**.
- **\$94.9 million capital investment** includes:
 - **\$27.3 million** for continued construction of **long-term care (LTC) facilities** in Biggar, Kelvington, Kipling, Maple Creek and Prince Albert.
 - **\$23.3 million** for **life safety and emergency repairs**.
 - **\$16.0 million** to complete the new **Moose Jaw Hospital**.
 - **\$15.3 million** for **diagnostic, medical/surgical and other equipment**, including \$1.9 million for a **new linear accelerator** at Regina's Allan Blair Cancer Centre.
 - **\$8.0 million** for upgrades and repairs to **Parkridge Centre** in Saskatoon.
 - **\$3.5 million** in new funding for facility planning: renewal of Prince Albert's Victoria Hospital, replacement of long-term care facilities in Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, and planning for more long-term care beds in La Ronge.
- **\$60.5 million** for the surgical waitlist initiative, to support achievement of the three-month wait time target in all health regions by the end of 2014-15.
- **\$9.7 million** targeted investment in **seniors**, which includes:
 - **\$3.7 million** for the **Urgent Issues Action Fund**, to improve services in long-term care facilities.
 - **\$4.5 million** for the **Home First/Quick Response Home Care pilot program** – an increase of **\$2.5 million** over last year. The program, now in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert, helps prevent avoidable hospital admissions, facilitates earlier hospital discharge and provides crisis intervention in the community. Services may include short-term case management, medication management, skin and wound care, mobility aids and rehabilitation.
 - **\$1.5 million**, an increase of **\$750,000**, for 24 additional beds at Pineview Terrace Lodge in Prince Albert.
- **\$4.0 million** to advance work to reduce emergency department wait times to zero by 2017 and improve patient flow across the spectrum of care. This includes **\$1.7 million** for the emergency department wait time initiative, **\$800,000** to provide **house calls to seniors** with complex needs, and **\$1.5 million** for a program to identify and assist high-risk, high needs patients who may be repeatedly hospitalized (hotspotting).
- **\$13.1 million** - an increase of **\$3.4 million** - to support innovative approaches that **enhance access to primary health care**, including additional **Collaborative Emergency Centres (CECs)**, to improve health services for Saskatchewan people. CECs are designed to increase access to high quality, comprehensive primary health care that can deal with unexpected illness or injury in a timely fashion.
- **\$5.9 million** - an increase of **\$2.6 million** - to continue the Rural Family Physician Recruitment Incentive Program and support a locum pool of 20 rural physicians - to improve patient access to physician services by encouraging physicians to practice in rural communities. (Locum physicians handle the duties of physicians who are temporarily away from their practice.)

MEASURES TO HELP REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS:

- Regional Health Authorities and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency will seek a total of \$51.9 million in efficiencies in 2014-15 through sharing of services, attendance management and reduction of lost time due to injuries, premium pay and sick time.