

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER
Health Budget 2020-21 – A \$5.8B Billion Investment

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- The 2020-21 Budget provides the largest budgets ever for the Ministry of Health, Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.
- The 2020-21 budget for the Ministry of Health is **\$5.8B**, an increase of **\$255M** or **4.6 per cent** from 2019-20.
- The Saskatchewan Health Authority will receive **\$3.7B** for operating funding and investments in targeted programs and services. This is a **\$140.6M** or **3.9 per cent** increase to enhance operational programs and services. Highlights include:
 - **\$20M** to address surgical wait times and ensure thousands of Saskatchewan patients waiting for surgery will have their procedure sooner;
 - **\$15.9M** to continue a multi-year funding commitment for additional physicians and clinical staff at the new Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital in Saskatoon;
 - **\$7.9M** to fund operations for 36 new, permanent acute care medical beds at Royal University Hospital;
 - **\$1.8M** to support the gynecologic-oncology program;
 - **\$1.6M** for additional resources and operating cost of beds at the new Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford;
 - **\$1.4M** for Computer Aided Dispatch Renewal to upgrade existing dispatch technology;
 - **\$1.2M** to continue advancing organ and tissue donation registry development and establish a donor physician model in Regina;
 - **\$1.0M** to support the operation of a highly specialized four-bed Epilepsy telemetry unit at Royal University Hospital;
 - **\$833,000** to support operations for a new 10-bed palliative care hospice in Prince Albert;
 - **\$827,000** to support improvements to the pediatric hematology program;
 - **\$616,000** to enhance sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) services across the province;
 - **\$611,000** to modernize cervical cancer screening using technology called liquid-based cytology;
 - **\$410,000** to expand midwifery services and increase access to this service for more expectant mothers;
 - **\$188,000** to staff a second ambulance in the community of Pelican Narrows (Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation) that will serve the northeast corner of Saskatchewan.

- The Ministry of Health is investing **\$435M** for mental health and addictions supports and services, the highest budget ever. This funding will support specialized crystal methamphetamine support services for a provincial centre located in Estevan, increased access to mental health addictions treatment beds and supports, intensive supports for children and youth, and increased partnerships and innovations.
- An additional **\$18.4M** or 10 per cent increase will be directed to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) for enhanced cancer care services, such as new drug treatments and resources. This is the highest grant ever for the SCA at **\$196.4M**.
- **\$7.4M** to eHealth Saskatchewan to support security upgrades, maintenance and licensing, and 2020 health card renewal.
- **\$1M** to Ovarian Cancer Canada to fund priorities such as treatment, research and clinical trials to improve outcomes for ovarian cancer patients in Saskatchewan.
- Individualized funding for children under the age of six with Autism Spectrum Disorder will increase from **\$6,000** annually to **\$8,000** annually.
- **Capital and Equipment Funding Highlights:**
 - **\$55M** to improve safety measures and provide for emergency, maintenance and repair requirements in our healthcare facilities;
 - **\$43.7M** in infrastructure stimulus funding, including \$25M for health facility maintenance, and \$18.7M for large capital projects;
 - **\$28.5M** for capital equipment including diagnostic, medical, surgical, patient comfort and safety and IT equipment for health facilities. This funding will go toward a **\$2M** computer tomography (CT scanner) in Melfort, and **\$5M** to replace a linear accelerator at the Allan Blair Cancer Centre in Regina;
 - **\$15.7M** to build a new long-term care facility in Meadow Lake;
 - **\$15M** for the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital project for planning, design and procurement activities;
 - **\$13.9M** for electrical renewal at the Regina General Hospital and Pasqua Hospital; and
 - **\$13.6M** for eHealth to upgrade critical capital infrastructure to ensure all clinical systems and applications function appropriately.
 - **\$2.5M** in existing funding for final site selection, land acquisition and continue plans for a future Weyburn General Hospital replacement project.

- **\$2.3M** is committed to 100 additional long-term care spaces in partnership with personal care homes in the Regina area.
- Public reporting on COVID costs will be completed through regular government reporting including quarterly forecasts and year-end reports.