

Next Steps in Patients First Health Care

Expanding Access to Primary Care

To ensure residents can receive timely, relationship-based primary care, Saskatchewan will:

1. **No limit to the number of provincial nurse practitioner contracts**, opening access for more providers to deliver publicly funded primary care across the province.
2. **Build fully functioning nurse practitioner-led primary care teams**, allowing nurse practitioners to hire nurses, dietitians, occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals.
3. **Grow the nurse practitioner pipeline by adding 26 more training seats in Saskatchewan** - increasing training capacity by 45%.
4. **Strengthen emergency and urgent care capacity** - enhance nurse practitioner roles in emergency rooms and urgent care centres to reduce wait times and improve patient flow.
5. **Support registered nurse career progression** with \$78,000 for training over two years with a return to service contract for those pursuing nurse practitioner designation.
6. **Improve care for seniors** by giving nurse practitioners the same opportunities as physicians to provide care for long-term care residents.

Strengthening Hospital and ICU Capacity

To support faster admissions, reduce delays, and enhance care for critically ill patients, the province will:

7. Complete and staff **69 additional beds** at Saskatoon City Hospital.
8. Open **24 acute care beds and four ICU beds** at St. Paul's Hospital.
9. Add **six pediatric beds** at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.
10. Add **36 acute care beds and seven ICU beds** at Royal University Hospital.
11. Open **three new NICU beds** at Regina General Hospital.
12. Complete construction on the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital **adding 57 acute care beds** to the community.

Modernizing Diagnostics

To speed up diagnosis and reduce wait times, Saskatchewan will:

13. **Modernize laboratory medicine**, shortening turnaround times while increasing the number of lab tests that can be performed in the province.
14. Continue expanding MRI, CT, and PET-CT capacity.
15. **Add new** diagnostic capacity through expansion such as the **Estevan MRI**.
16. Work towards 2028 Target: **90% of patients receive diagnostic scans within 60 days**.

Improving Access to Surgery

To reduce surgical backlogs and ensure timely procedures, the province will:

17. **Perform 450,000 surgeries over four years** - targeted reduction in wait times to 90 days.
18. **Expand the scope of publicly funded surgeries** that can be performed through provincial partnerships with private surgical providers.
19. **Accelerate recruitment of anesthesia professionals** to support higher surgical volumes.
20. Launch an improved **surgical specialist directory**.
21. Expand pathways that focus on early treatment and stabilization to give patients more care options and reduce the need for surgery.
22. **Expand pooled referral systems province-wide**, increasing efficiency and reducing wait times.

Enhancing EMS and Emergency Response

To ensure timely emergency care across all regions, Saskatchewan will:

23. **Improve emergency response capacity**, including additional investments in paramedic staffing, continued bursaries and mental health supports.

Improving recruitment, retention and training

The province will continue strengthening recruitment, training, and retention by:

24. **Streamlining health recruitment** by strengthening the mandate of the Saskatchewan Health Recruitment Agency (SHRA).
25. **Expanding Rural Physician Incentive Program** to key regional centres.
26. **Maintaining and Expanding Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive** for high priority health care classifications.
27. Continuing the **Graduate Retention Program** and targeted physician/specialist incentives.
28. **Adding 20 more medical school seats and 10 more medical residency seats**, prioritizing Saskatchewan students.
29. Setting the admissions target for the College of Medicine at **95% Saskatchewan students**.
30. Continuing to add training seats in high-demand areas.
31. **Expanding rural training opportunities** to improve long-term recruitment and retention.

32. Introducing and expanding **enhanced health-care career pathways in high schools** to grow the future workforce collaborating with Distance Learning Centre and school divisions.

Modernizing Care Delivery and Scope of Practice

To improve access and reduce bottlenecks, Saskatchewan will:

33. Introduce **Canada-leading scope expansion legislation** across all regulated health professions.
34. **Broaden the roles** for nurse practitioners, pharmacists, speech language pathologists, dietitians, optometrists, and others.
35. **Further expand scope** for nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and paramedics and other professions.
36. Continue to enable and support **team-based primary care** models.
37. **Develop additional urgent care centres**, including new centres in Prince Albert, North Battleford, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon.
38. **Implement virtual care**, including virtual primary care for unattached patients and remote monitoring tools.
39. **Expand the Virtual Physician Program.**
40. Implement **standardized staffing models** for all health care workers.
41. **Remove unnecessary administrative barriers** and artificial geographic restrictions that limit health care work across the province.
42. **Improve patient navigation** through integrated virtual and in-person care networks.

Improving Safety and Quality of Care

To ensure safe care environments, Saskatchewan will:

43. **Enhance security services** in at least eight more communities.
44. Conduct a **province-wide safety and security review.**
45. Implement a **province-wide approach to staff development** and improved HR processes.
46. Examine health worker absenteeism through third-party attendance and return to work service – goal to reduce overtime and improve staff support.
47. **Reduce administrative burden for physicians** to free up time for patient care.

Investing in Modern Health Facilities

To expand care closer to home and improve infrastructure, Saskatchewan will:

- 48. Reduce the community contribution** for design and construction costs of new health care facilities from 20% to 10%.
- 49. Build new long-term care homes** through third party design/build/own/operate community partnerships in Estevan and Watson.
- 50. Advance or complete major infrastructure projects** including:
 - Prince Albert Victoria Hospital expansion
 - A new specialized 240-bed long-term care home in Regina
 - New hospitals in Weyburn, Yorkton, and Rosthern
 - Long Term Care facilities in La Ronge and Grenfell
 - Esterhazy Integrated Healthcare Facility
 - Urgent Care Centres – complete Saskatoon, plan for Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, and second locations in both Regina and Saskatoon.

A Stronger, More Accessible Health System

These next steps reflect Saskatchewan's commitment to a more accessible, coordinated, and resilient health system — one that delivers **the right care, in the right place, at the right time** for every resident.