

## **MEDIA BACKGROUNDER**

### **Health Budget 2018-19 – \$5.36 Billion Investment**

#### **BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **\$3.5B for the Saskatchewan Health Authority** for operating funding and investments in targeted programs and services. This is a \$71.9M increase over total funding to previous Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) in 2017-18 and includes:
  - **\$25M for general operations and service pressures.**
  - **\$19.02M** of federal funding to support the provincial Connected Care strategy to **improve access to team-based community health services and primary health care** for patients who may be best served in a home or community setting.
  - **\$16.8M** for a **phased increase of physician and operating capacity** for the **Jim Pattison Children's Hospital**.
  - **\$14.2M** for **operating and accommodations costs** associated with the fall 2018 opening of **Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford**.
  - **\$11.4M** of federal and provincial funding to **improve mental health services, including services and supports for children, youth and families.**
  - **\$523K** to establish a **Universal Newborn Hearing Screening program** to screen babies born in Saskatchewan hospitals for hearing loss.
- **\$170.4M** to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to provide **cancer care services** to patients.
- **\$99.2M in capital funding**, an increase of \$15.1M from 2017-18, which includes:
  - \$44.6M for capital maintenance;
  - \$20.8M for capital equipment;
  - \$20M for the final stage of construction of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, and an additional \$6.6M for the hospital's information technology needs; and
  - \$7.2M for electrical renewal at provincial hospitals.
- **\$49.4M** in additional funding for **increased use of physician services.**
- **\$2.8 million** for **individualized funding for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder** to provide parents with more flexibility to access a range of services that will best suit their child's individual needs.
- **\$600K** increase to **provide universal drug coverage for HIV medications.**
- **\$50K** for AIDS Saskatoon and an additional **\$50K** for Saskatoon's Westside Clinic to **provide additional HIV supports.**
- **\$250K** increase to fulfil Government's commitment to the **Canadian National Institute for the Blind** to provide \$500K annually for vision loss rehabilitation services and equipment
- **\$78K** in additional funding for the Saskatoon-based **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Support Network** to expand services and supports to families in the Regina area.