



***A Message from the Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Health***

As Minister of Health, I would like you to know how much we value nurses as a vital part of the health care team – important to ensuring quality care for Saskatchewan people. Part of ensuring quality health care is making sure we have enough health professionals. It's certainly no secret that recruiting workers is highly competitive. And in Saskatchewan it is no different.

That's why two years ago, we signed a partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses seeking more ways to recruit and retain nurses. And we committed the resources to do it. A lot of good progress has been made since that day. For example:

- **More nurses:** We've agreed on a target of adding 800 more nursing positions – and we've reached 81 per cent of this target. In fact, the total number of nurses registered with the SRNA is the highest since the early 1990s.
- **Funding Support:** Health regions that made progress toward their hiring targets have had their baseline funding from the Ministry increased to cover the future cost of their increased staff.
- **Competition:** Salaries for Saskatchewan nurses are now directly competitive with other provinces.
- **Commitment, Effort and Collaboration:** Joint SUN/RHA retention and recruitment committees envisioned by the partnership are designing region-specific initiatives to improve the quality of their workplaces that will in turn help retain and recruit nurses. At the same time, they're helping advance provincial initiatives linked to Patient First and Releasing Time to Care.

These impressive gains over the past two years show the value of collaboration over confrontation. Together, we are laying a solid foundation for a stable nursing workforce that will provide patients with safer, higher quality care. I believe the progress that we have made will make us a role model for the entire country.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don McMorris". The signature is stylized and cursive.

*Don McMorris
Minister of Health*