



MEDIA RELEASE

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SUN URGES SAHO AND HEALTH REGIONS TO SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT SUN/GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

<<REGINA>>Rosalee Longmoore, President of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses says that at today's resumption of negotiations, SUN negotiators asked SAHO and the health regions to support and implement the retention and recruitment initiatives achieved in the SUN/Government Partnership announced last week.

According to Longmoore, *"The Partnership Agreement between SUN and the Government of Saskatchewan means key elements of those retention and recruitment initiatives we were proposing to SAHO have now been agreed to at the Ministry level. That means we can shift our negotiations to implementing those initiatives in the collective agreement. We've amended our proposals to accomplish that."*

At the opening of negotiations on February 12th, SUN's proposal for a partnership between SUN and SAHO regarding emergency retention and recruitment initiatives was not welcomed by SAHO negotiators. SUN says that last week they received correspondence from SAHO rejecting nearly every retention and recruitment initiative SUN put forward, including all of those contained in the SUN/Government partnership.

SUN also says that on February 14th, following negotiations the union polled its members, and reported that health regions were asked to temporarily reduce admissions and services to match available staffing, and to advise nurses that overtime is voluntary. According to Longmoore, *"Ninety-five (95) per cent supported SUN's position that nurses need relief from excessive overtime. Twenty one (21) per cent - one in five - nurses said they personally*

needed relief from excessive overtime. We need to provide relief for those nurses now - or they will leave.”

Longmoore says SUN will “turn the other cheek” and persist with its offer of collaboration. *“The Alberta government says they need 1400 registered nurses. Well, Saskatchewan can’t afford to lose any more nurses to Alberta. And we certainly can’t risk a destructive collective bargaining dispute between nurses, health regions and SAHO. That’s absolutely the wrong message to send to the very nurses we need to persuade to keep working until we fill these vacancies. This is simple-these retention and recruitment targets can only be achieved if we all work together.”*

To speak to a SUN representative, please call:
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