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SAHO offers historic proposal to conclude a collective agreement

The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) provided to the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses this evening, through the conciliator, the most positive contract proposal ever offered to Saskatchewan nurses.

The proposal presented by SAHO offers wage increases that would have Saskatchewan nurses achieve Alberta wage parity, less cost of living adjustments, in less than a year. The offer SAHO tabled this evening includes a general economic increase of 5%-5%-5%-5%. In exchange for a 4 year contract to assist with work force stability, an additional 5% market adjustment will be made in year 1 and the creation of an additional Step in year 2 for Nurses A and B has been added. The 2% long service step for nurses with over 20 years experience remains as part of SAHO's package. The total wage increase from the 2007 rates is the equivalent of a 34.9% increase for general duty nurses or 37.6% increase for nurses with 20 years or more experience..

The complete proposal package by SAHO continues to support the spirit of the Government/SUN Partnership Agreement and SAHO's participation at the Partnership meetings. SAHO has addressed key recruitment and retention initiatives raised by SUN and has removed many of the initial management proposals. The remaining management proposals are directly related to the employers' ability to provide quality patient care and to respond to the health needs of Saskatchewan residents.

"Historically, this represents the most responsive contract proposal the Employers have ever made to SUN. We are confident that recruitment and retention of nurses has been addressed, and hope that this proposal package will successfully conclude the collective agreement process," commented Susan Antosh, President and CEO of SAHO.

SAHO is awaiting SUN's response.

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*SAHO represents more than 40 health care employers in the province.
SAHO is a non-profit, non-government association that provides leadership, advocacy, support and programs for member health agencies throughout the province.*

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