



Saskatchewan Association
of Health Organizations

News Release

For immediate release, April 2, 2008

SAHO offers nurses 5% in each of the next two years

After meeting with the conciliator today, the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) and Saskatchewan Union of Nurses exchanged full proposal packages.

“This was certainly a positive result and we have been looking forward to being able to discuss proposals with respect to the collective agreement. We have agreed to support recruitment and retention initiatives identified in the Government of Saskatchewan/SUN Partnership Agreement and are fully prepared to discuss recruitment and retention proposals that will benefit quality patient care for residents of Saskatchewan,” commented Susan Antosh, President and CEO of SAHO.

SAHO has offered the Union wage increases of 5% for 2008/2009 and 5% for 2009/2010. This translates into over \$70 million dollars for nurse salaries and benefits over the next two years. A general duty full time nurse at the top of the salary range, currently earning \$32.96/hour will earn \$34.61/hour in 2008/09 and \$36.34/hour in 2009/10 under this proposal. This represents an increase of over \$500/month for a full time nurse by April 1, 2009.

“Wages are one piece of the collective agreement. SAHO has also proposed a number of items that require language changes in the agreement that could, for example, facilitate more full time positions for nurses or reduce overtime requirements. We feel that these proposals will also assist in retention of skilled nurses and recruitment of nurses into a quality work place,” added Susan Antosh.

SAHO and the Union are scheduled to meet Thursday, April 3 and further meetings are scheduled for April 16 – 18 in Saskatoon.

More information can be found at www.working-together.info. For updated information on the negotiations as they occur, visit www.saho.org or call 347-5599.

-30-

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.

For more information, contact:

Marj Gavigan,
Director, Member Relations and Communications,
SAHO
306.347.5558

