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SAHO Seeking Genuine Partnership with SUN

Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) met with Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) today at the first meeting held to negotiate a new contract with Saskatchewan nurses. The existing contract expires March 31, 2008.

SAHO was prepared to present proposals related to four goals for this round of collective bargaining. Health care employers want to work with SUN to build a health system that

- Puts patients first by redirecting nursing resources into improving front-line care for patients;
- Attracts and retains nurses by offering fair and competitive compensation and career enhancement opportunities;
- Operates efficiently and cost-effectively to deploy limited resources for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents; and
- Creates quality work environments for health professionals.

“Saskatchewan’s health care system is complex and challenged by the struggle for adequate resources. By using the best information we have, and working together with mutual respect and accountability for results, we can ensure those resources are allocated where they are needed most to strengthen the system and put patients first” explained Susan Antosh, President and CEO of SAHO.

SUN advised SAHO that they were not prepared to enter into negotiations until SAHO agreed to address their “partnership agreement”.

SAHO is disappointed that SUN has taken this approach. Nonetheless SAHO will review SUN’s document and consider where there may be common ground. SAHO is suggesting that the parties meet again during the next scheduled dates of March 5 – 7 in Regina.

For updated information on the negotiations as they occur, visit www.saho.org or call 347-5599.

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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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