



Saskatchewan Association
of Health Organizations

News Release

For immediate release, March 7, 2008

SUN Declines to Sign Partnership Proposal

The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) offered an opportunity to SUN yesterday, to agree to work together to implement the Recruitment and Retention Agreement signed earlier by SUN and the Government. “Agreeing to work together on recruitment and retention means that we could move forward on negotiating a renewal of the collective agreement,” explained Susan Antosh, President and CEO of SAHO. SAHO waited since Thursday morning to get a response from SUN, but was repeatedly told the Union needed more time.

This afternoon, SUN returned to the table without signing the partnership agreement, and without presenting their complete proposal package for the bargaining process. Talks adjourned, and the second round of meetings concluded without even beginning the process to negotiate the renewal of the collective agreement. Although SAHO offered to meet next week, that offer was declined by SUN.

“The proposal presented by SUN goes far beyond the scope of the agreement signed with the Government.” said Antosh. “SUN’s current proposal to SAHO will cost in excess of \$1.2 billion over three years, and SUN would not confirm that this was the complete package. It would be irresponsible for SAHO to agree to bargain a collective agreement on a piecemeal basis, without knowing the full magnitude of the proposals”, added Antosh.

Recruitment and retention is a key focus for health care employers. Health care employers throughout the province have demonstrated significant efforts over the past year to recruit registered nurses and at this time are in the Philippines recruiting with a target of 300 additional nurses. Implementation of recruitment and retention rests within the Ministry, and policy and operations of the Regional Health Authorities.

Further dates for SAHO and SUN to meet are scheduled for March 18 -20 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.

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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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