



Saskatchewan Association
of Health Organizations

News Release

For immediate release, Monday, May 26, 2008

SUN rejects SAHO's offer of 35% over four years

Since last night, SAHO and SUN have exchanged documents through the conciliator. This afternoon, SAHO received word through the conciliator that SUN has rejected SAHO's proposed four year agreement.

SAHO is extremely disappointed in SUN's response. SUN's allegations in rejecting this proposal are not accurate. SAHO offered a four year agreement which provides stability for the workforce and supports the Government/SUN partnership agreement.

"SAHO's offer provides highly competitive wages, premiums and allowances. It provides a guaranteed number of full-time equivalent nurses and protection against job abolition. And it provides significant movement on other recruitment and retention initiatives raised by SUN," said Susan Antosh, President and CEO of SAHO.

SAHO's last offer:

- Maintains, at a minimum, the current level of the nursing workforce of approximately 5900 full time equivalent nurses into the future. It also suspends the abolishment of positions until March 30, 2012, except in limited circumstances such as mergers, transfers or facility closures.
- Limits the ability to replace RN/RPN positions with other health care providers.
- Enhances the provisions to professional practice issues. Saskatchewan nurses already have the strongest provisions in Canada within their collective agreement with respect to professional practice issues. SAHO's offer would allow a nurse the ability to immediately address practice issues at the point of care.
- Provides a highly competitive monetary package including about 35% in wage increases for a general duty nurse and competitive premiums, achieving parity with Alberta wages (less cost of living) in less than a year.

"We reject SUN's assessment and depiction of the SAHO proposal. Our offer was very positive and responsive to the Partnership Agreement and SUN's stated objectives," commented Antosh.

SAHO has requested through the conciliator, that SUN reconsider its position.

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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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