

## *Just the facts...*

Contrary to information provided by the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS) in their media release of April 27, 2011, SAHO has provided a fair, reasonable and competitive wage offer and takes responsibility for bargaining on behalf of employers very seriously.

To correct misleading information HSAS has provided to the public, through the media, SAHO provides the following facts:

- The choice to initiate job action is solely the decision of the union.
- SAHO did not state or admit it had no authority to negotiate the terms of the HSAS contract proposal. SAHO has been willing to negotiate a collective agreement with the union and has repeatedly requested over the past two years that the union commit to bargaining dates. SAHO did state at the bargaining table yesterday that its negotiator did not have the authority to agree to binding arbitration – that decision rests with its principals. SAHO also did not refuse to discuss the HSAS contract proposal; in fact a discussion did occur.
- Further to statements made by HSAS, SAHO indicated to the union at the meeting that:
  - the latest HSAS proposal package was still unreasonable in its demands;
  - the last SAHO package was reasonable and provided for competitive wages;
  - The proposal from SAHO is a best offer with a little room to move;
  - SAHO would not be making additional moves until HSAS's demands are significantly closer to the parameters the employer has identified through its proposal package.
- SAHO has spent approximately \$200,000 in advertising since February, 2011 to fulfill a responsibility to provide correct information to the public. We believe the taxpayers have the right to know the facts regarding the collective agreements that they are funding and to understand both sides of the issues.
- SAHO did not cancel the remainder of the bargaining session. Following discussions SAHO asked HSAS about the status of the next day of bargaining. HSAS asked if SAHO would have a revised proposal package and SAHO responded it would not. HSAS replied that there would therefore not be a need to meet the next day.
- The SAHO spokesperson was not aware of the Minister's comments made in March. The SAHO spokesperson responded that he did not know the content and context of the Minister's statement or who gave the Minister the information. HSAS produced documentation of what was said by the Minister (in Hansard) at the request of the SAHO spokesperson. Later in the day after reading Hansard provided by HSAS, the SAHO spokesperson indicated that, in his view, the statement was made in reference to collective agreements already settled and therefore was not related to the HSAS collective agreement.