

Regional Health Authorities/SUN/Ministry of Health Partnership Agreement – Fact Sheet

The renewed and expanded tripartite agreement between the Regional Health Authorities, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) and the Ministry of Health builds on the successes of a 2008 SUN/Government of Saskatchewan Partnership in support of maintaining an appropriate, experienced, educated and engaged registered nurse workforce for the provision of high quality, safe patient care.

The first of its kind in Canada, the agreement set out a framework for SUN and the provincial government to hire 800 RNs and RPNs with annual targets set out for achieving this goal over four years. Now more than 900 additional nurses are working in the province, more than exceeding the goal. Most of these nurses were hired as part of the work under the partnership agreement.

The parties to the new tripartite agreement recognize the following:

- A need to engage in a collaborative partnership with a view to transforming the health care system in a manner that supports the principles of **Better Health, Better Care, Better Value and Better Teams**.
 - **Better Health** is a strategy to "improve population health through health promotion, protection and disease prevention, and collaborating with communities and different government organizations to close the health disparity gap".
 - **Better Care** is a strategy to work "in partnership with patients and families, improve the individual's experience, achieve timely access and continuously improve healthcare safety".
 - **Better Value** is a strategy to "achieve best value for money, improve transparency and accountability, and strategically invest in facilities, equipment and information infrastructure".
 - **Better Teams** is a strategy to "build safe, supportive and quality workplaces that support patient and family centered care and collaborative practices, and develop a highly skilled, professional and diverse workforce.

- Collaborative efforts are essential in retaining, attracting and recruiting registered nurses to ensure the future sustainability of the healthcare system in the delivery of patient- and family-centered care.

- A more effective and productive use of health system resources can be achieved through engaged employees. The involvement of registered nurses in the identification of efficiencies through a patient focused lens in finding appropriate solutions and input in decision making helps build a culture of learning and continuous improvement, increases job satisfaction and will lead to improvements in patient care and better value for users of the health care system.