Message from the Minister

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012.

The Ministry of Health is committed to providing quality health care in a responsive, integrated, efficient, patient- and family-centered health system. We are committed to a health system that provides Better Health, Better Care, and Better Value for Saskatchewan people. Our transformation agenda puts the Patient First in all of our efforts to improve our system for the future.

I am proud of all we have accomplished this year with our partners and stakeholders through our shared commitment to quality improvement and innovation in the health system.

The Honourable Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health

Mission Statement:
The Ministry strives to improve the quality and accessibility of publicly-funded and publicly-administered health care in Saskatchewan. Through leadership and partnership, we are dedicated to achieving a responsive, integrated and efficient health system that puts the patient first, and enables people to achieve their best possible health by promoting healthy choices and responsible self-care.

Ministry Overview

In 2011-12 the Ministry led a new integrated planning process called Hoshin Kanri. This Lean collaborative approach to planning is used to deploy strategic priorities throughout an organization and/or system.

Other Ministry activities in 2011-12 included:

- Providing provincial oversight for programs and services, including acute and emergency care, community services and long-term care;
- Monitoring and enforcing standards in privately delivered programs such as personal care homes;
- Administering public health insurance programs such as the Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Plan;
- Providing Prescription Drug Plan benefits to the eligible Saskatchewan population, and extended health benefits, including Supplementary Health, Family Health Benefits, and Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living to eligible residents;
- Providing communicable disease surveillance, prevention and control to identify, respond to and prevent illness and disease in our province; and,
- Providing leadership on health human resource issues, via initiatives like the Physician Recruitment Strategy.

For more information on the Ministry, visit www.health.gov.sk.ca or call 306-787-0146.
Our 2011-12 Significant Achievements

In 2011-12 we achieved many successes which are helping Saskatchewan people receive timely, quality health services, including:

- **Reduced Wait Times:** As of March 31, 2012, 97 per cent of patients received their surgery within 12 months.

- **Primary Health Care:** A framework for a patient-centred, community designed, team delivered approach to primary health care was developed through extensive consultations with stakeholders. Eight primary health care sites were selected to explore innovative concepts in service delivery.

- **Lean:** A continued focus on Lean to improve the safety, timeliness, efficiency and quality of care for Saskatchewan patients, their families, and health care providers.

- **Multiple Sclerosis:** Saskatchewan has aggressively pursued options to advance MS research including providing funding to have 86 Saskatchewan MS patients included in a two-year, double-blind clinical trial at Albany Medical Centre in Albany, New York.

- **STARS:** The helicopter Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service program was launched as an integrated partner in the delivery of emergency medical services along with existing road and airplane ambulances.

- **Infrastructure and patient-centred planning:** Providers and patients worked together to plan the new Children’s Hospital of Saskatchewan and the new regional hospital for Moose Jaw.

- **More providers:** There are 900 more nurses working in Saskatchewan than there were five years ago. Government’s physician recruitment strategy is showing results with over 200 more doctors now calling Saskatchewan home, representing an increase of 11 per cent over the past four years.

- **More doctors in training:** In 2011-12 Government increased enrolment at the College of Medicine by 40 new undergraduate seats and 60 residency seats.

- **Better coordination of electronic health information:** 51 per cent of practicing physicians have a fully implemented electronic medical record.

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**Financial Summary**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011-12 Budget (000s)</th>
<th>2011-12 Actual (000s)</th>
<th>Variance (000s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$4,462,620</td>
<td>$4,400,159</td>
<td>$62,461</td>
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Actual FTEs: 542.1

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**Vision**

A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography