

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER
Health Budget 2016-17
Record \$5.17 Billion Investment

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- **\$3.4 billion for Regional Health Authorities (RHAs)** – an increase of 2.3 per cent over 2015-16 – for operating funding and investments in targeted programs and services, including:
 - **\$10.2 million** in targeted funding for the **pediatric and neo-natal intensive care units and pediatricians** at the Saskatoon Health Region.
 - **\$8.0 million** to **reduce wait times for diagnostic services** and address other acute care pressures.
 - **\$500,000** to expand a pilot project to provide **medical robotic technology in Northern communities**.
 - **\$7.5 million reduction in RHA administration expenses**, to be re-invested in **funding to frontline staff in long-term care homes**.

- **\$20.0 million** in additional funding to **increase surgical volumes and help reduce wait times**.

- **\$167.1 million** for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency for **cancer care services**, an increase of 6.2 per cent over 2015-16.

- **\$71.4 million capital investment**, which includes:
 - **\$34.7 million** for **capital maintenance**.
 - **\$15.3 million** for **capital equipment replacements**.
 - **\$8.0 million** to commence a **power plant upgrade at Saskatoon Royal University Hospital**.
 - **\$6.1 million** to begin **electrical renewal projects at Regina’s General and Pasqua hospitals**.
 - **\$5.1 million** for **Swift Current Long-Term Care Facility** final-year funding.
 - **\$2.3 million** to complete construction of the **Kelvington Integrated Care Facility**.

FEE CHANGE:

- Effective June 1, 2016, beneficiaries of the Children’s and Seniors’ Drug Plans will pay a maximum of \$25 per prescription (up from \$20 per prescription). The change is expected to impact 66,600 families with children by an average of \$20 per year, and 120,000 seniors by an average of \$80 per year.