



31 October 2011

Members of Saskatoon Health Region Leadership Community and President's Advisory Committee,
University of Saskatchewan:

The 2010 national task force on the future of Canada's academic health-sciences centres called on sector organizations to "support the development of integrated strategies, plans and policies, and ensure more effective planning, information-sharing, coordinated decision-making and policy implementation."
(Recommendation 1 from *Three Missions, One Future: Optimizing the Performance of Canada's Academic Health Sciences Centres*.)

The Saskatoon Health Region and the University of Saskatchewan have different, but complementary and mutually supporting roles and priorities in relation to health care and health science. The purpose of this communication is to reiterate our commitment not only to our own missions, but to each other's.

Ultimately, the goal of both health services and health sciences is the well-being of people.

For the Saskatoon Health Region, the focal point is quality care provided through a team-based, patient/client and family-centred approach informed by evidence and integrated across regional facilities and services. The region believes that excellent care is best achieved in an environment enriched by scholarly work; and that the foundational training of care providers as well as the constant advancement of knowledge are essential for our care and service goals. With this in mind, the region is committed to participating in and supporting research and education within its services and facilities.

For the University of Saskatchewan, the focal point is the academic mission of interlinked advancement of knowledge, education, and community engagement, characterized by interprofessionalism and widely distributive approaches. The university understands that high-quality education and research critically depend on active engagement in and support for the health system; contribution to high-quality care is the purpose of health science education and research. With this in mind, the university is committed to taking service needs into account in planning for programs, initiatives, and facilities.

These understandings are shared at the top levels of both organizations. They are brought to life by dedicated health professionals across both our organizations. Our hope and expectations are that planning processes and operational decisions in both organizations will take our important mutual interests fully and appropriately into account.

The University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Health Region both find themselves in an exciting and important era of development. New approaches, new ways of thinking, and new facilities are opportunities and also responsibilities. Both organizations are mindful of high public expectations. We fully meet those expectations only by working together.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maura Davies".

Maura Davies, President and CEO
Saskatoon Health Region

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Fairbairn".

Brett Fairbairn, Provost and Vice-President Academic
University of Saskatchewan