



## **New tentative agreement between PAS and the Province recognizes pharmacists as essential contributors to the Saskatchewan's health care system**

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Regina—The Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) is pleased to announce that it has reached a one-year tentative agreement with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health (MOH), expected to be effective March 1, 2021.

“The new agreement acknowledges the growing role of the pharmacy sector in advancing effective primary health care delivery in Saskatchewan,” said George Furneaux, Chair, Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS). “It further advances our longstanding commitment to the Province’s Connected Care strategy.”

The highlights of the contract include adjustments to professional fees and compensation for COVID-19 vaccine administration, as follows:

- The maximum professional (dispensing) fee has been adjusted by 25 cents, from \$11.60 to \$11.85 per prescription, the first increase since 2018. This change recognizes the increasing complexities and costs related to safe drug therapy and distribution faced by pharmacists every day;
- A COVID Vaccine Administration fee of \$20 for the duration of the agreement, in recognition of our current exceptional conditions, will be implemented. This remuneration recognizes both the expanding role of pharmacists in primary health care, and the sector’s significant and sustained investment in adapting operations to ensure safe patient care as the pandemic enters its second year;
- A retroactive \$2 increase in the flu administration fee (to \$15) for the 2020 – 2021 flu season and an increase to \$14 (from \$13) per flu vaccination for the upcoming flu season;
- To support patient access to medications in the event of drug shortages, the contract also includes strengthening the Therapeutic Drug Substitution program to include more support tools, including remuneration, for pharmacists to use in exceptional situations such as drug shortages.

“In the early months of the pandemic, pharmacists willingly stepped up and invested in modifying their operations to serve patients safely close to home,” said George Furneaux. “It’s encouraging to see that this contract acknowledges both our contribution and our commitment to patient care in collaboration with our colleagues in health care.”

For more information, contact:

Michelle James, Business Manager  
Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS)  
Michelle.James@skpharmacists.ca