



## ***Saskatchewan Pharmacists are Advancing Connected Care in our Communities***

**February 27, 2020**

On March 1, **Pharmacist Awareness Month (PAM)** begins across Canada, and in Saskatchewan, the sector celebrates pharmacists in our communities for a growing and vital contribution to primary health care.

In hospitals and across Saskatchewan, our 1,900 plus pharmacists have steadily enhanced health care services over the past decade, providing patients with growing access to safe and [effective minor ailment consulting services](#) and [vaccinations](#), and other [beneficial health care services](#).

With the 2017 amalgamation of our health care system under a unified Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), pharmacists working in community and hospital settings play a vital collaborative role contributing [specialized professional knowledge](#) to physician-led inter-disciplinary teams in the Province's 38 health networks.

"We seek to advance the achievement of the Province's objective of *ensuring patients get the right care at the right time from the right health care provider as close to home as possible*,"<sup>1</sup> said Dawn Martin, Chief Executive Officer, Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS).

More than 400 pharmacies are located across the Province, providing critical primary care that supports closing gaps in care, particularly in rural and remote communities where they may be the only health care practice.

Pharmacist Awareness Month asks Canadians to *Rethink Pharmacists*. We believe that fully engaging pharmacists' specialized clinical knowledge and capabilities; our health care system can expand safe, effective primary health care for patients, coupled with counselling and education to foster responsible self-care. With sustainable funding, this expanded contribution can help

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<sup>1</sup> Health Networks in Saskatchewan Fact Sheet, Saskatchewan Health, Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA), September, 2019.

reduce waste through medication misuse, and pressure on emergency care facilities—outcomes that can help us work together to fulfill the promise of Connected Care.

“As Pharmacist Awareness Month is celebrated in the weeks ahead, we look forward to deepening our collaboration with Saskatchewan Health, the SHA, our physician-leaders, and colleagues across the health care sector,” said Dawn Martin. “We seek to foster a constructive, respectful conversation that will advance the promise of Connected Care and fully engage pharmacists in health care.”

**For more information:**

Michelle James, PAS Business Manager  
Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS)  
Michelle.James@skpharmacists.ca  
Tel: 306 .359.7207