

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**11:00 a.m. – January 27, 2009**

## **ESSENTIAL SERVICES?**

In order to facilitate the upcoming contract negotiations between HSAS and SAHO, the provisions required under the Government's new Essential Services legislation need to be completed. We have been waiting patiently for the Health Regions and SAHO to provide the specific information that they are mandated to produce. We received notification from the Health Regions between December 22, 2008 and January 8, 2009 of their desire to meet in early January.

On January 9, we promptly replied to all Health Regions, requesting the specific information they are required to provide under the Essential Services Act in order to facilitate and expedite negotiations. To date, we have not received a response. It appears that SAHO, the Health Regions, and the Government are finding themselves extremely challenged in regards to the Essential Services legislation.

In conclusion HSAS asks why have Government, SAHO and the Regional Health Authorities been so insincere, unorganized and incompetent in the administration and provision of essential professional health care services for the residents of Saskatchewan.

HSAS has always been committed to, and has delivered, high levels of essential services. No resident of Saskatchewan has ever had their life, health, or safety at risk due to any HSAS job action. It has always been HSAS' desire to provide the highest level of professional health care to every resident of Saskatchewan.

**For further information contact:**

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