

# Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan

## News Release

For immediate release

June 23, 2009

### **Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Forced To Comply With Essential Services Act**

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Over 5 months ago, on January 9<sup>th</sup> and again on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan requested the list of names of persons required to provide Essential Services in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and the other 11 Health Regions. The 12 Health Regions are mandated by the Essential Services Act to provide this information. On April 19, 2009, HSAS again requested the specific names and classifications of persons needed to provide Essential Services.

Again, the Health Regions refused to comply with Government's legislation. As a result, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 HSAS found it necessary to serve the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region with notice to face a court order to force them to obey the law.

Today, HSAS wishes to announce that we have obtained agreement with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region to a Consent Order from the Court and that Regina Qu'Appelle has agreed to obey the law, provide the list of names without conditions and pay our costs.

Of even greater concern today is the fact that throughout this process the Health Regions, SAHO, and the Government of Saskatchewan have all stated that HSAS was not interpreting the Essential Services Act correctly. They were all wrong. Today this Consent Order obtained from the court proves that HSAS was in the right while the Health Regions, SAHO and Government were only successful in stalling and delaying compliance with the Essential Services Act.

HSAS is deeply concerned that taxpayer's resources have been wasted in this way by Government, SAHO and the Health Regions. HSAS challenges Government to ensure that professional health care human resources are in place to ensure the life, health and safety of Saskatchewan residents and that health care professionals have the Collective Agreement that they deserve.

HSAS remains focused on and committed to securing a Collective Agreement which addresses the needs of Saskatchewan residents. Today we call on Government, SAHO and the Health Regions to cease and desist from stalling tactics and financial mismanagement and instead focus on serving Saskatchewan and acting in the best interests of Saskatchewan.

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