

## **Report from the May 1 & 2, 2006 Meeting**

The Canadian Health Professionals Secretariat (CHPS) Annual Meeting was held in Ottawa on May 1 & 2, 2006. The Secretariat was formed by the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) to address the challenges and opportunities facing healthcare professionals across the country and to enhance recognition of the integral contributions we make to quality healthcare. HSAS has been involved in CHPS since its inception as an independent union not affiliated with NUPGE. Representatives from all provinces were on hand to share their experiences, discuss better ways to raise the public profile of healthcare professionals, offer each other up-to-date information on collective bargaining and talk about efforts made toward improving worker safety and quality of healthcare delivery. HSAS was represented by Chris Driol, Rupal Bonli and Sumana Dasgupta.

The keynote presentation at this meeting was delivered by Michael M. Rachlis, MD, a leading health policy analyst. His most recent book *“Prescription for Excellence: How Innovation is Saving Canada’s Healthcare System”*, highlights many of the new ideas that are coming forward to re-vitalize Canada’s publicly funded healthcare system and also gives evidence based research to show how healthcare in Canada is delivered in a most effective, efficient manner. More information about his work can be found on his website [www.michaelrachlis.com](http://www.michaelrachlis.com).

The Secretariat meeting also featured reports from the 12 participating unions regarding the challenges that they face in representing their members across the country. We returned from this meeting with several new ideas which your Executive Council will review and move to implement. This will assist us in our efforts to better raise the public profile of the important service our members perform as well as enhance our efforts in collective bargaining on your behalf. Participation in CHPS is proving to be very beneficial to HSAS in terms of gaining a better understanding of the issues faced by healthcare professionals across the country and in finding solutions which will work in Saskatchewan to address our members’ issues.