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SAHO and HSAS reach a tentative agreement

The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) and the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS) reached a tentative collective agreement today.

Following marathon talks on the weekend, SAHO and HSAS were back at the bargaining table this afternoon and with the assistance of conciliators Doug Forseth and Fred Cuddington, the two parties were able to reach a tentative agreement.

“We are extremely pleased that a tentative agreement has been reached,” said SAHO President and CEO Susan Antosh. “Without the combined efforts of the parties it would not have been possible to achieve such a quality agreement that works for both employers and employees.”

The tentative two-year agreement provides HSAS members with a four per cent economic increase in each year of the agreement. An additional 2.5 per cent adjustment on the top step of pay ranges, effective October 1, 2007, was provided to address critical retention issues in the health care system. The agreement also includes a \$1,000 signing bonus for all full-time HSAS employees. The signing bonus will be pro-rated for part-time and casual employees.

“The SAHO bargaining committee was committed to working with HSAS to address their priority issues and we believe we were successful in doing this through the additional retention adjustment and other enhancements to the agreement,” said Antosh.

“We are relieved we were able to reach an agreement with minimal job action and can now return health care services back to normal,” said Antosh.

The HSAS collective agreement expired March 31, 2007. The parties have been working towards an agreement since mid-March. Upon ratification by both parties, the new collective agreement will expire March 31, 2009.

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SAHO is a non-profit, non-government association that provides leadership, advocacy, support and programs for member health agencies throughout the province.

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