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**SAHO responds to union demands of additional \$80 million**

The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) today responded to the provider health care unions, CUPE, SEIU-West and SGEU, after reviewing the unions' financial demands. SAHO met with the unions on Tuesday in response to the unions' concerns with the final offer and addendum that SAHO presented last week.

The most recent proposal from the unions demands additional financial resources, including differentials and premiums. A review of these demands by SAHO indicates that current rates are competitive. SAHO believes that higher premium rates are not necessary and, compared to applying financial resources to general wage increases, do not benefit the employee group as a whole. "What the unions have recently demanded will significantly increase the cost of the collective agreement by over \$80 million, and ongoing costs would be in excess of \$45 million per year after March 31, 2012," stated Susan Antosh, President and CEO of SAHO.

"There is no competitive rationale for expanding the financial resources that have already been tabled. We have stated this to the unions over and over again. At this late stage in the process, we are disappointed that the unions persist in seeking additional financial considerations despite an already competitive package," stated Antosh. SAHO maintains that the final offer and addendum is fair, and competitive, with comparable markets and that employees should have the opportunity to vote on it.

Background information is available at [www.working-together.info](http://www.working-together.info)

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*SAHO represents more than 40 health care employers in the province.*

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