PHARMACY ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

PAS Members:

As you may be aware, the Saskatchewan Government's mid-year financial report came out today. In the report, it references its plans to reduce spending in many areas to address its deficit. Specific to pharmacy is the following:

*$1.7 million resulting from changes in pharmacists' payments (removing additional payment for electronic entry of prescription information) and other drug coverage changes subject to consultation with the Saskatchewan Drug Review Committee.*

This change references the CeRx supplement of .10 cents per adjudicated prescription. This fee was negotiated over seven ago to encourage pharmacies to integrate with PIP and the national CeRx messaging standard. Pharmacies are currently paid the supplement on a quarterly basis.

All pharmacies have integrated their systems in this manner now, and have benefited on the extended period of having this fee available, which was part of PAS/Ministry negotiation agreements. This fee was not created to be an embedded or permanent fee, and was anticipated to end. There are no other immediate contractual changes anticipated, and PAS is considering this to be a manageable change within the current fiscal context of the provincial government. We continue to work with the Ministry of Health on issues related to days supply policy development, and other issues of economic significance.

You will be receiving a bulletin from the Ministry of Health on this change and you will be required to sign an addendum to the agreement affecting the supplement change **by December 31st, 2016** for a January 1st, 2017 implementation.

Please see the below link for the media release and more details on the Provincial Government's mid-year report:

http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2016/november/22/mid-year-report

Please contact the PAS office (info@skpharmacists.ca or (306) 359-7277) if you have questions about this issue. The PAS Economic Committee and Board continue to work hard on your behalf in this challenging environment.

D. Martin

Dawn Martin
CEO