**News Release**

**SASKATOON (April 15, 2015) –** The Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA), The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA), and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) are hosting a stakeholder workshop to discuss strategies to promote better health for older adults in Saskatchewan. The event will take place from 10:00 – 3:15 at McClure United Church in Saskatoon on April 15, 2015.

During this unique collaborative workshop older adults and health care providers will work together in finding innovative and creative solutions that will promote a more age-friendly approach to health care, support aging in place and enhance the quality of life for Saskatchewan's older adults.

Healthy and positive aging for all can best be achieved within the context of an age friendly community. "The goal of SCOA's Age-friendly Saskatoon Initiative is to create opportunities for older adults to lead healthy independent lives and be active and engaged members of their community", says Candace Skrapek, Co Chair of the initiative. Age-friendly initiatives advance an important community dialogue about aging and help to identify tangible steps to prepare for the huge demographic shift that an aging population presents.

"The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association recognizes the need for these conversations" adds SRNA President Signy Klebeck , RN "We know that older adults want a voice in what affects them" Klebeck says.

Skrapek added. "Older adults want to age in place, retaining dignity and independence. In order for this to happen successfully, they need infrastructure, programs and services that are not only affordable and accessible, but delivered by an entire system that responds holistically, effectively and efficiently.

CNA is partnering in this discussion. "Health-care providers have an important role in demonstrating leadership in policy development and implementation at the local, provincial and national levels," said CNA President Karima Velji.

The entire community has a role in creating an age-friendly environment, so it is essential that government, quasi government, community groups, municipal and other agencies such as educational/research institutions, urban planners and developers and health agencies all work together in collaboration and cooperation.

*The Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) is a non-profit organization and a community leader in promoting Positive Aging for All and envisions an environment in Saskatchewan that addresses the widespread prejudices of ageism, enhances the age-friendliness of communities, enables healthy, positive aging and supports the well-being of seniors across the province. Through its leadership of the Age-Friendly Saskatoon Initiative, SCOA seeks to change the community conversation about how communities respond to an increasing older adult population. SCOA's mandate involves collaboration and partnering with agencies, businesses and all levels of government to initiate and implement policies, projects, programs and services that improve the quality f life of Saskatchewan's older adults.*

*SRNA is the profession-led regulatory body for the province's approximately 11,200 registered nurses including 198 nurse practitioners. The Registered Nurses Act (1988) describes the SRNA's mandate in setting standards of education and practice for the profession and registering nurses to ensure better Health for all through nursing regulation, professional practice, and collaboration. The SRNA is responsible for ensuring continuing competence, professional conduct, standards of practice, a code of ethics and the approval of nursing education programs.*

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