



## News Release

### **Weyburn (October 26, 2015) – Nurse Practitioner Available to Support Sun Country Residents**

Nurse Practitioner Colleen Luterbach, RN(NP) will be at McKenna Hall in Weyburn on October 27 during one of Sun Country Health Region's influenza clinic to receive feedback from the community and identify health concerns as an opportunity to further programs and services to residents of the Sun Country Health Region.

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with advanced knowledge, skills and education that enables them to diagnose, treat, and prescribe for common health problems and provide leadership in health promotion and health management. Since 2004, nurse practitioners have worked closely with other health professionals to address complex health needs and manage acute and chronic illnesses within a holistic model of care. In January, Saskatchewan announced legislation changes that allow Nurse Practitioners to prescribe controlled drugs and substances to patients in Saskatchewan.

"Nurse Practitioners make significant contributions to the health of Saskatchewan people because they base their practice on evidence and research" commented Jennifer Hill Primary Health Care Facilitator. "This is a great way for the public to meet and get to know how the nurse practitioner can help them manage their health" she added.

"Our main role is to protect the public and our priority is ensuring that patients receive safe quality nursing care," adds SRNA President Linda Wasko-Lacey, RN. "RNs and RN(NP)s have a role to play and we can influence health care to provide better health for the people of Saskatchewan," says Linda Wasko-Lacey, RN.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provides the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) with advice about 'the flu' throughout the world, in Canada and ultimately about the influenza immunization each year here in Saskatchewan. For a couple of decades we have known that influenza vaccination is the safest, longest-lasting and most effective way to prevent 'the flu'. Each year there is a new vaccine to protect against the expected influenza virus strains of the coming influenza season. Even if the strains have not

changed, getting the influenza vaccine every year is necessary to maximize protection as its duration may not span two influenza seasons. Influenza vaccine is safe and usually tolerated well by most people.

*SRNA is the profession-led regulatory body for the province's over 11,000 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.*

**For more information, contact:**

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