



March 20, 2024

Mitchell Holash, K.C., Chair
Board of Directors
Saskatchewan Polytechnic
400 – 119 – 4th Avenue South
SASKATOON SK S7K 5X2

Dear Mitchell Holash:

Saskatchewan's 2024-25 Budget provides record investments in our province's present and future, with a focus on education, health care, and the well-being of our communities. Our rapidly growing economy is attracting more people and creating more jobs, and our strong and innovative post-secondary sector is essential in supporting that growth. *Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: The Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy*, announced earlier this month, underscores our commitment to supporting a thriving, talented workforce.

This budget year marks the conclusion of the four-year multi-year funding agreement. Our government's multi-year funding commitment and your dedicated planning and improvement efforts have ensured that Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector remains financially sustainable and aligned with the priorities of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*.

As we begin the collective work to establish a new agreement, we appreciate the discussions this past year regarding the importance of stable, predictable funding, as well as the growing pressure on budgets and financial sustainability efforts. We heard your concerns and are very pleased to provide a 2.2 per cent one-time increase to your 2024-25 operating grant. This positive adjustment to your funding will be reflected in an amendment to the current multi-year funding agreement. We appreciate your commitment to reporting on the progress and impact of your efforts and look forward to ongoing collaboration on the development of a new multi-year funding agreement.

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The 2024-25 Budget tabled today includes \$189,872,800 for Saskatchewan Polytechnic for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. The attached appendices (Appendix 1 – Detailed Schedule of Funding, and Appendix 2 – Funding Details) provide additional details about government’s investment and its intended uses.

Budget investments in training are aligned to ensure Saskatchewan’s labour force can keep pace with the opportunities created by industry. The *Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy* will provide a blueprint for post-secondary institutions and industry to prioritize investments in programs, services and initiatives that connect people to jobs, recognize skills and address labour needs for emerging sectors.

Continuing investments are identified in this budget, in support of *Health Human Resources Action Plan* opportunities for students to access critical health related education programs. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure these expansions are successful.

Ministry officials will be in contact with representatives at your institution to discuss the following 2024-25 accountability requirements and due dates:

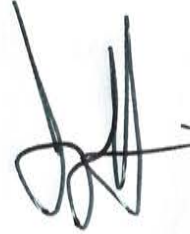
- **Agreement to Submit Required Multi-Year Funding Reporting** – due April 15, 2024 (as per Eligibility Criteria 1 in the *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding*);
- **Multi-Year Business Plan** – due April 29, 2024 (40 days after budget allocation notification);
- **Multi-Year Funding Accountability Reports** – two reports, one due with the Multi-Year Business Plan submission due April 29, 2024, and the other due by January 31, 2025 (as per Eligibility Criteria 2 and 3 in the MOU);
- **Tuition Schedules** – due May 15, 2024 (as per Eligibility Criteria 2 in the MOU); and
- **Performance Framework Report** – due January 31, 2025.

We appreciate the contributions from your institution as we work together to ensure a bright future for Saskatchewan, by providing our residents with the high-quality education and training they need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Gordon S. Wyant, K.C.
Minister of Advanced Education



Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Attachments

cc: Dr. Larry Rosia, President and CEO, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Cheryl Schmitz, CFO and Vice-President, Administrative Services, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Rebecca Carter, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education
Richelle Bourgoin, Deputy Minister of Immigration and Career Training

APPENDIX 1
Detailed Schedule of Funding
Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Funding Schedule April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

	2024-25 Funding	2023-24 Funding
<u>Operating Funding</u>		
Base Operating Grant	\$ 116,002,500	\$ 116,002,500
2.2% Increase (one-time)	2,552,000	—
Operating Grant as per MYF MOU*	\$ 118,554,500	\$ 116,002,500
Collective Agreement Support	7,360,000	7,360,000
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i> (see Appendix 2)	10,842,800	6,129,500
Internationally Educated Nurse Training	1,540,000	2,350,000
Veterinary Technology Program (Distance-Delivery)	340,000	340,000
Disability Supports Grant	112,000	112,000
Total Operating Funding	\$ 138,749,300	\$ 132,294,000
<u>Other Funding</u>		
Accommodations Grant	33,503,000	32,727,000
Total Operating and Other Funding	\$ 172,252,300	\$ 165,021,000
<u>Training Programs and Services</u>		
Adult Basic Education Grant	7,065,000	7,065,000
Adult Basic Education - Essential Skills for the Workplace	400,000	400,000
Adult Basic Education Provincial Aboriginal Strategy	400,000	400,000
Total Essential Skills Programming	\$ 7,865,000	\$ 7,865,000
Internationally Educated Nurse Training	—	1,426,000
Total Training Programs and Services	\$ 7,865,000	\$ 9,291,000
<u>Capital Funding</u>		
Saskatoon Campus Renewal Project	6,000,000	6,000,000
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i> (see Appendix 2)	1,809,000	8,709,800
Preventative Maintenance and Renewal	1,419,000	1,389,000
Total Capital Funding	\$ 9,228,000	\$ 16,098,800
<u>Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship</u>		
Innovation Scholarships	275,600	275,600
Opportunity Scholarships	217,700	217,700
International Education Scholarships	34,200	34,200
Total Scholarship Funding	\$ 527,500	\$ 527,500
Total Funding	\$ 189,872,800	\$ 190,938,300

Funding Source:	
Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education	\$ 182,007,800
Saskatchewan Ministry of Immigration and Career Training	\$ 7,865,000
Total Funding	\$ 189,872,800

* MYF MOU = Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding
2021-22 to 2024-25 Amendment

APPENDIX 2
Funding Details
Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Base Operating Funding

Indigenous Student Success Strategy

The Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Sask Polytech) 2024-25 base operating grant includes **\$581,400** in targeted funding to support the Indigenous Student Success Strategy. This funding began in 2011-12 to increase the recruitment, retention, and success of Indigenous students.

The strategy focuses on realigning Indigenous student services, creating added support programming and addressing institutional barriers to student completion. Sask Polytech is to submit a report on or before **August 30, 2024**, outlining the associated expenditures, activities, and outcomes in 2023-24. It is expected that the report will:

- itemize the core functions of the Indigenous Student Success Strategy, including activities and services offered to clients at each of the campuses;
- list the expenditures related to the core functions, including the number and cost of employees delivering the functions; and
- detail the targeted and actual output and outcome success measures.

Mobile Training Lab Operating Grant

The Sask Polytech 2024-25 base operating grant includes **\$114,250** in targeted funding to support the three mobile training labs. Funding began in 2007-08 and is intended to cover the annual maintenance and operating costs that are not charged to the institutions using the labs. Sask Polytech is to submit a report on or before **September 30, 2024**, to outline the total revenue and expenditures for the mobile training labs. This should include the 2023-24 Actuals, the 2024-25 Budget and should separate the revenue and expenditures funded by the grant, as well as expenditures funded by other revenue.

Targeted Operating Funding

Health Human Resources Action Plan

To ensure a stable healthcare workforce across the province, the Government of Saskatchewan is funding a number of health care training initiatives, including a new domestic program in Respiratory Therapy and significant seat expansions for existing in-demand training programs.

The 2024-25 Budget provides **\$10,842,800** targeted operating funding in support of the following:

Programs	Funding Purpose	2024-25	2023-24
Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Advanced Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing, Collaborative Nurse Practitioner Started 2022-23	Continues support of 62-seat expansion in Registered Nursing, 16-seat expansion in Registered Psychiatric Nursing, and 5-seat expansion in the Nurse Practitioner program	\$ 3,129,000	\$ 2,145,500
Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Advanced Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing Starting 2024-25	New 24-seat expansion in Registered Nursing and new 16-seat expansion in Registered Psychiatric Nursing	2,092,000	—
Continuing Care Assistant	Continues support of 100-seat expansion	1,057,000	865,700

Primary Care Paramedic	Continues support of 64-seat expansion	1,027,600	960,100
Medical Laboratory Technology	Continues support of 20-seat expansion	1,013,000	634,700
Medical Radiologic Technology	Continues support of 20-seat expansion	1,008,000	729,100
Respiratory Therapy	Program and curriculum development for a new advanced diploma to start fall 2026 with 20 seats annually*	600,000	—
Pharmacy Technician	Continues support of 24-seat expansion	493,000	390,500
Mental Health and Addictions Counselling	Continues support of 16-seat expansion	221,000	204,800
Licensed Practical Nursing	Continues support of 14-seat expansion	194,000	190,700
Medical Laboratory Assistant	Continues support of 5-seat expansion	8,200	8,400
Total Health Human Resources Action Plan Funding		\$10,842,800	\$6,129,500

*\$400,000 to be used for program design and curriculum development. Further direction will be provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Internationally Educated Nurse Training

In support of the *Health Human Resources Action Plan* recruitment efforts, the 2024-25 Budget for Sask Polytech includes **\$1,540,000** from the Ministry of Advanced Education to continue supporting internationally educated nurse training.

Although no funding is identified in the 2024-25 Budget Letter, the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training will continue to provide Sask Polytech funding to support internationally educated nurses in credential recognition and training. Further direction will be provided by the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training.

Disability Supports Grant

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$112,000** to assist students with disabilities in non-post-secondary education studies, including Adult Basic Education, Canadian Adult Education Credential, skills training and apprenticeship programs. This funding is intended for exceptional education-related services and equipment that support the student's disability and individual circumstances. Sask Polytech is responsible for providing guidance and arranging the necessary accommodations to meet the student's needs and successfully participate in their studies.

Post-secondary institutions are required to report on the number of students supported and the types of supports provided through this funding in **your annual report**.

Training Programs and Services

Essential Skills Programming

For 2024-25, the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training will provide Sask Polytech **\$7,865,000** for the delivery of Adult Basic Education, Adult Basic Education-Essential Skills for the Workplace and as part of the Adult Basic Education Provincial Aboriginal Strategy. This funding is intended to support adult learners to develop basic employment skills, increase education and/or certification levels and gain prerequisites for further training that will lead to labour market attachment.

Capital Funding

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$1,419,000** in Preventative Maintenance and Renewal funding for Sask Polytech. The base allocation plus any individual projects that have received approval and funding are shown below.

Base Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Allocation	\$ 1,269,000
Partial funding for master planning for Moose Jaw/Prince Albert Campuses	150,000
Total Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Funding	\$ 1,419,000

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$1,809,000** for expansion of the following programs as part of the *Health Human Resources Action Plan*.

Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Collaborative Nurse Practitioner: 62-Seat Expansion Started 2022-23	Complete transition of temporary space at the Regina Campus into permanent space	\$ 680,000
Regina Campus Master Plan	Development of a plan to accommodate Medical Laboratory Technology/Medical Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Therapy and other program priorities	500,000
Registered Psychiatric Nursing: 16-Seat Expansion Starting 2024-25	Support for a low fidelity expansion and start-up costs for instructor set up, equipment and flex remote classrooms at the Saskatoon Campus	490,000
Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing: 24-Seat Expansion Starting 2024-25	Support for equipment in flex remote classrooms and instructor/staff set up	139,000
Total Health Human Resources Action Plan Funding		\$ 1,809,000

The 2024-25 Budget also includes **\$6,000,000** for continued planning, preliminary design, and early site preparation for the Saskatoon Campus Renewal Project.

The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement will work with post-secondary institutions on required reporting, including provision of reporting templates.

Note: 2023-24 Budget – As the original expansion for Medical Laboratory Technology/Medical Radiologic Technology in Regina was reformed and an interim expansion in Saskatoon was implemented, the Sask Polytech 2023-24 *Health Human Resources Action Plan* capital budget of \$8,709,800 (which includes \$1,375,000 nursing program infrastructure for 2023-24) has been modified to align with the interim expansion. This resulted in a forecasted \$4,428,425 decrease to the 2023-24 capital budget.

Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship

The Ministry of Advanced Education will disburse Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship payments in **October 2024**. Annual allocations are subject to budget appropriation and institution ability to match funds in the previous year. Reporting and fundraising progress will be revisited with institutions prior to the 2025-26 Budget.

By **June 28, 2024**, post-secondary institutions are to submit a letter to the Ministry of Advanced Education regarding scholarship priority areas (i.e., student categories and programs) for the upcoming year. By **July 31, 2024**, institutions are required to report actual (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) scholarship activity.