

## **Backgrounder: Broten to fix the worst ambulance fees in Canada**

### **Current reality: The worst ambulance fee system in Canada**

- Saskatchewan is the only province to charge for medically necessary ambulance transfers between health care facilities.<sup>i</sup>
- Saskatchewan is one of only two provinces that doesn't cap ambulance fees, charging patients taxi-like, per-kilometre rates.<sup>ii</sup>
- Road ambulance fees in Saskatchewan involve a basic pick up fee of between \$245 and \$325, with an additional per kilometre rates of \$2.30.<sup>iii</sup>
- This per-kilometer fee disproportionately affects rural residents who must be transferred to city hospitals for care.

### **Current reality: People are afraid to call an ambulance because of the fees**

- Nearly half of Saskatchewan residents say they "might be likely to delay calling an ambulance due to the ambulance fee charges."<sup>iv</sup>
- 20 per cent of Saskatchewan residents say "the ambulance fee has deterred them from calling the services."<sup>v</sup>
- Experts recognize that "ambulance fees remain a significant barrier to people receiving necessary care."<sup>vi</sup>

### **Cam Broten's plan:**

- **End fees for ambulance transfers between health care facilities**
  - Starting in 2016, with anticipated costs of \$16.3M for the four-year term.<sup>vii</sup>
- **Cap ambulance fees at an affordable rate, by ending per-kilometer ambulance fees**
  - Starting in 2016, with anticipated costs of \$46.6M for the four-year term.<sup>viii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/blog/map-ambulance-fees>;  
<http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/evidencenetwork/archives/24290>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/blog/map-ambulance-fees>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/emergency-medical-services/ambulance-services>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/blog/survey-ambulance-fees>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/blog/survey-ambulance-fees>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/evidencenetwork/archives/24290>

<sup>vii</sup> Tabled document from April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, Standing Committee on Human Services; Freedom of Information request obtained from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, 2015

<sup>viii</sup> Freedom of Information request obtained from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, 2015;

<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/emergency-medical-services/ambulance-services>