

**Backgrounder:**  
**Reducing Charges for Senior's Ambulance Calls by 50 Per Cent and  
Eliminating Inter-Facility Ambulance Transfer Charges for Seniors**

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will make ambulance services more affordable for seniors by eliminating charges for inter-facility ambulance calls for seniors and reducing the maximum cost of other senior's ambulance calls by over 50 per cent – from a maximum of \$275 per call to a maximum of \$135 per call.

**Benefit:**

- Eliminating inter-facility ambulance charges for seniors will result in seniors no longer being charged for an estimated 24,100 ambulance calls annually, for a total savings to seniors of \$6.6M annually or an average of \$275 per inter-facility transfer by ambulance.
- Reducing the maximum cost of other senior's ambulance calls (not involving facility transfers) from \$275 to \$135 per call, will save approximately 13,000 seniors \$1.8M annually – or an average of \$140 per call.

**Program Details:**

- The reduction in senior's ambulance fees will be delivered through the existing Senior Citizen's Ambulance Program.
- The Senior Citizen's Ambulance Assistance Program (SCAAP) currently provides benefits to approximately 29,500 seniors by capping the maximum cost of an ambulance call for people age 65 or older at \$275.
  - There is no income-test to receive the benefit.
  - The current cost of the program is \$9M.
  - Ambulance charges that exceed \$275 per trip are billed directly to the program by the ambulance service.
- The base rate for an ambulance call in Saskatchewan is either \$245 or \$325, depending on the community and the type of ambulance involved. In addition, there is a charge of \$2.30 per km / per call.
- There were almost 50,200 ambulance calls involving seniors in Saskatchewan in 2018-19, with 29,500 claims to the Seniors Citizen's Ambulance Assistance Program (SCAAP).
- The elimination of ambulance charges for inter-facility transfers of seniors and the reduction in the maximum charge for other senior's ambulance calls will come into effect in December 2020.

**Cost: \$2.8M in 2020-21, \$8.4M annually in subsequent years**