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Patrick O'Byrne
Executive Director, Ministry of Health – Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory
On behalf of the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Working Group
Government of Saskatchewan
5 Research Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0A4

Dear Mr. O'Byrne:

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RE: Laboratory & Pathology Services under the Saskatchewan Health Authority

Presently, SEIU-West represents health services providers who deliver Laboratory and Pathology service in the Saskatoon, Heartland, Cypress and Five Hills health regions. These highly skilled professionals should be viewed as a valued human resource; without them, we cannot accurately diagnose or treat patients, clients and residents. In recognition of their full range of professional skills and the essential nature of their role within the health care team, SEIU-West undertook a survey to gain the front-line insight into the present state of Laboratory and Pathology Services, to analyze what improvements need to be made, together with creating a report card on how the ongoing challenges have been managed.

We thank you for sharing the materials prepared by the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Working Group and other documents which have informed your work. We have contemplated the proposed governance structure and service model, however, much of our feedback on these relates specifically to the experience of our members.

We hope that the opportunity to engage in consultation with the Working Group creates a path for future dialogue and that our submission is understood as an effort to effect positive change in a climate where it is badly needed. Our members are motivated by a fervent desire to do the best work possible for their patients; this can only be made possible if their work occurs in a healthy and safe environment which is properly resourced.

Yours truly,

Barbara Cape
President
SEIU-West

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cc: Mike Northcott, Director of Human Resources, Saskatoon Health Region
SEIU-West Executive Board
Simone Corriveau