



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Advanced Education

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

March 20, 2024

Shelley Brown, Chair
Board of Governors
University of Saskatchewan
E290 – 105 Administration Place
SASKATOON SK S7N 5A2

Dear Shelley Brown:

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 \$326,269,000 for the University of Saskatchewan 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.

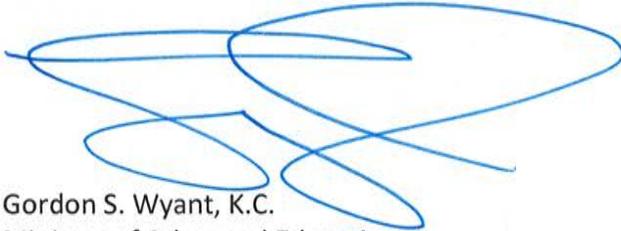
Continuing investments are identified in this budget, in support of *Health Human Resources Action Plan* opportunities for students to access critical health related education programs. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure these expansions are successful.

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 Funding Accountability Reports** – due June 28, 2024, and 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);
- **Revenue and Expenditure Reports** – due June 28, 2024; and
- **Performance Framework Report** – due June 28, 2024.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the printed name.

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

Attachments

cc: Dr. Peter Stoicheff, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Saskatchewan
Greg Fowler, Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer,
University of Saskatchewan
Rebecca Carter, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education

APPENDIX 1
Detailed Schedule of Funding
University of Saskatchewan

Funding Schedule April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

	2024-25 Funding	2023-24 Funding
<u>Operating Funding</u>		
Base Operating Grant	\$ 259,628,200	\$ 259,628,200
2.2% Increase (one-time)	5,712,000	—
Operating Grant as per MYF MOU*	\$ 265,340,200	\$ 259,628,200
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i> (see Appendix 2)	14,564,000	7,700,000
Other Targeted Funding	10,381,700	10,295,300
Western College of Veterinary Medicine Seat Expansion	1,089,200	539,200
Total Operating Funding	\$ 291,375,100	\$ 278,162,700
<u>Other Funding</u>		
Supplementary Funding - Facilities	884,000	1,343,000
Total Operating and Other Funding	\$ 292,259,100	\$ 279,505,700
<u>Capital Funding</u>		
Preventative Maintenance and Renewal	15,544,000	15,094,000
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i> (see Appendix 2)	8,047,000	4,183,000
Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade	8,650,000	8,650,000
Western College of Veterinary Medicine Planning	500,000	—
Dental Clinic Building Renovation	—	4,000,000
Total Capital Funding	\$ 32,741,000	\$ 31,927,000
<u>Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship</u>		
Innovation Scholarships	606,000	606,000
Opportunity Scholarships	518,000	518,000
International Education Scholarships	144,900	144,900
Total Scholarship Funding	\$ 1,268,900	\$ 1,268,900
Total Funding	\$ 326,269,000	\$ 312,701,600

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

APPENDIX 2
Funding Details
University of Saskatchewan

Base Operating Funding

College of Medicine

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$36,171,000** in operating funding (to support the Dean’s Office, the Biomedical Sciences Unit, and the School of Rehabilitation Science), and **\$5,209,000** for library accreditation and information and communications technology. These amounts include a 2.2% increase (one-time). With the targeted operating funding listed below for Master of Physical Therapy, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Undergraduate Medical Education Program, Master of Occupational Therapy and Master of Speech Language Pathology, the total operating funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education to the College of Medicine is **\$47,206,000**. This is an increase of \$4,870,000 from 2023-24. The Ministry of Advanced Education will work with the College of Medicine on the required annual reporting.

Meewasin Valley Authority

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$653,600** in targeted funding as flow through for the Meewasin Valley Authority.

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 new domestic programs for Physician Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Speech Language Pathologists, as well as significant seat expansions for existing in-demand training programs. The 2024-25 Budget provides **\$14,564,000** targeted operating funding in support of the following:

Programs	Funding Purpose	2024-25	2023-24
Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner	Continues support of 62-seat expansion in Registered Nursing and 5 seats in the Nurse Practitioner program	\$ 5,827,000	\$ 4,300,000
Clinical Psychology MA/PhD	Continues support of the incremental expansion of 15 additional MA/PhD seats at full expansion	2,912,000	1,545,000
Master of Physician Assistant Studies – College of Medicine	New program development and implementation for a fall 2025 start with 20 seats annually	2,005,000	200,000
Master of Physical Therapy – College of Medicine	Continues support of 15-seat expansion in the Physical Therapy program	1,430,000	1,655,000
Undergraduate Medical Education Program – College of Medicine	Continues support of 4-seat expansion started August 2023. Additional 4-seat expansion starting August 2024	1,400,000	—
Master of Occupational Therapy and Master of Speech Language Pathology – College of Medicine	New program development for a fall 2026 start with 40 seats per program annually	990,000	—
Total Health Human Resources Action Plan Funding		\$14,564,000	\$ 7,700,000

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

The total funding to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) in 2024-25 is **\$13,214,100**. This includes **\$1,089,200** in targeted funding to continue to support the 5-seat expansion in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program that began in 2023-24. Further details are noted in Other Targeted Funding.

Other Targeted Funding

Other targeted funding of **\$10,381,700** from Appendix 1 includes:

WCVN Interprovincial Agreement	\$ 8,713,600*
WCVN Indirect Costs	2,011,300
Library Outreach	100,000
Transfer of College of Medicine Academic Renal Transplant Program funding to Ministry of Health (2022-23)	(443,200)
Total Other Targeted Funding	\$ 10,381,700

*Includes one per cent increase of \$86,400 as per the Interprovincial Agreement

Note: The base operating grant of \$259,628,200 includes **\$1,400,000** for WCVN additional space since 2007-08 and includes a 2.2% increase (one-time).

Capital Funding

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$15,544,000** in Preventative Maintenance and Renewal funding. The base allocation plus any individual projects that have received approval and funding are shown below.

Base Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Allocation	\$ 13,894,000
Partial funding to replace an end-of-life 270-ton air-cooled chiller on VIDO building's roof	500,000
Partial funding to upgrade 1,100 lab ventilation systems to reduce energy demands, meet ventilation requirements, and replace outdated systems	500,000
Review and assess the effectiveness of fire and life safety systems on 70 buildings across the university campus	400,000
Research Computing Facility Renewal – renovations including HVAC maintenance, electrical upgrades and networking/cybersecurity improvements	250,000
Total Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Funding	\$ 15,544,000

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$8,047,000** for expansion of the following programs as part of the *Health Human Resources Action Plan*.

College of Medicine – new domestic two-year graduate level programs in Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology and Physician Assistant to proceed with short term retrofits and longer-term infrastructure planning	\$ 7,777,000
Master of Physical Therapy – continuation of lab space renovations	270,000
Total Health Human Resources Action Plan Funding	\$ 8,047,000

The 2024-25 Budget also includes:

- **\$8,650,000** for the Electrical and Mechanical Infrastructure Upgrades remaining commitment.
- **\$500,000** for planning of the WCVM retrofit and expansion, pending approval of a seat expansion that will require government capital and operating funding.
- Although no funding is outlined for 2024-25, the University of Saskatchewan should advance the Dental Clinic Building Renovation project with funding provided, but not spent in 2023-24. The Ministries of Advanced Education and SaskBuilds and Procurement will revisit project funding needs with the University of Saskatchewan through the 2025-26 Budget cycle.

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

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.