



News Release

Regina (October 21, 2015) – Nursing Students Deliver Health Education about Influenza Immunization, in collaboration with the Regina Open Door Society

Students from the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (SCBScN) program (offered jointly by Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Regina) will join with Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) Public Health Nurses, at the Regina Open Door Society (RODS) on October 21 to provide flu shots to many refugees and immigrants that live here in Regina. Last week students were on site at RODS to deliver health education sessions about influenza immunization. Getachew Woldyesus, manager of Regina Open Door Society's Settlement Family and Community Services Division stated "We are delighted that the collaborative nursing program has partnered with our Organization and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region for a second straight year, to provide this very necessary information and access to immunizations for newcomers to Regina." Last year 631 newcomers were immunized at the Regina Open Door Society Flu Clinic.

"This is a great way for nursing students to develop a deeper understanding in their practice and to develop a comfort zone working with immigrants and refugees" commented Jayne Naylen Horbach, RN and Saskatchewan Polytechnic SCBScN faculty member. "Registered Nurses make significant contributions to the health of Saskatchewan people because they base their practice on evidence and research. These future RNs are seeing first-hand the impact of their practice to improve clients' health outcomes" she added.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provides the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) with advice about 'the flu' throughout the world, in Canada and ultimately about the influenza immunization each year here in Saskatchewan. For a couple of decades we have known that influenza vaccination is the safest, longest-lasting and most effective way to prevent 'the flu'. Each year there is a new vaccine to protect against the expected influenza virus strains of the coming influenza season. Even if the strains have not changed, getting the influenza vaccine every year is necessary to maximize protection as its

duration may not span two influenza seasons. Influenza vaccine is safe and usually tolerated well by most people.

“RNs have a role to play and we can influence health care to provide better health for the people of Saskatchewan,” Says Linda Wasko Lacey, RN, SRNA President. “Together we can do better to serve the people of Saskatchewan” Wasko Lacey added.

SRNA is the profession-led regulatory body for the province’s over 11,000 registered nurses including 198 nurse practitioners. The Registered Nurses Act (1988) describes the SRNA’s mandate in setting standards of education and practice for the profession and registering nurses to ensure better Health for all through nursing regulation, professional practice, and collaboration. The SRNA is responsible for ensuring continuing competence, professional conduct, standards of practice, a code of ethics and the approval of nursing education programs.

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