



Annual Report Fall 2014

# Yorkton Nursing Program

 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of Nursing

## Introduction

In September 2014, the University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing commenced the undergraduate Bachelor of Science of Nursing degree program in Yorkton, located at Parkland College. The College initiated discussions with Sunrise Health Region in 2011 as part of its *Learn Where You Live* strategy. *Learn Where You Live*, which is a key concept in the University of Saskatchewan Strategic Plan, refers to making university level education accessible to Saskatchewan residents throughout the province. The *Learn Where You Live* approach of distributing nursing education addresses the ongoing challenges faced by rural and remote communities of recruiting and retaining a viable nursing workforce in these areas.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the College of Nursing and Sunrise

Health Region in March 2012 and a Memorandum of Understanding with Parkland College in January 2014, the first Yorkton students were admitted to the program in September 2014. Of 19 applicants, 14 were offered admission, and 11 accepted and are currently enrolled in the program. All 11 Yorkton students passed their first Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs), rigorous practical exams that test clinical nursing skills and the ability to provide nursing care in increasingly complex clinical situations. We expect our first Yorkton graduates in the Spring of 2017.

In order to keep our regional stakeholders informed about our programming, going forward we will provide annual reporting on program indicators, such as student numbers and success rates, clinical placements, K-12 outreach and

relevant research activities. Our hope is that by working closely with Yorkton-area stakeholders we will:

- 1) improve recruitment and retention;
- 2) provide a nursing education that is contextually relevant for our students;
- 3) leverage clinical placements and other program components to positively affect the region's health; and
- 4) position our graduates to be health care leaders and improve community health through both individual efforts and structural reforms.

We will continue to seek and invest in relationships that are mutually beneficial for the College of Nursing, our students and our Yorkton-area partners. We appreciate your guidance in developing these.

*(l to r) Yorkton MLA and Minister of Rural and Remote Health Greg Ottenbreit, Parkland College President Fay Myers, Sunrise Health Region President and CEO Suann Laurent and College of Nursing Acting Dean Lois Berry at MOU Announcement event January 2014*



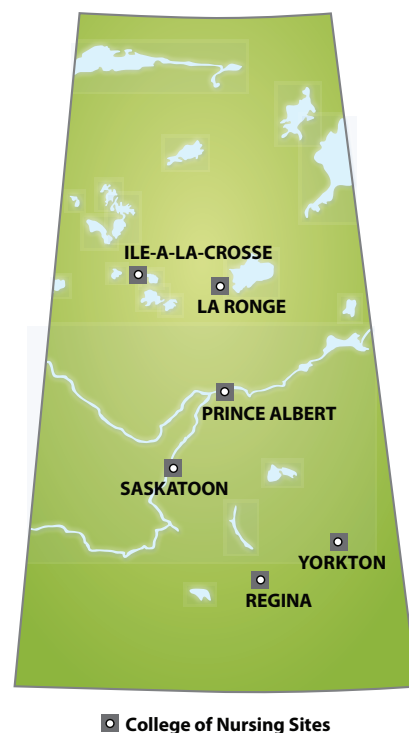
## About the Program

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is based on a 1 + 3 model, comprised of a pre-professional year of Arts and Science courses (year 1) followed by three years of nursing courses. This model allows students to take longer if needed to accumulate the required pre-professional year credits to enter into nursing (e.g., for working students or parents), allows students to take the first year courses from almost any regional college or university campus in the province and beyond, allows easier transfer of courses from other programs and provides students with the prerequisites for any health science program should they decide not to enter nursing. Parkland College offers all 30 credit units of the pre-professional year

classes. Students must complete grade 12 English, Math, Biology and Chemistry to take the first (pre-professional) year of nursing.

The College of Nursing has allocated 15 of its 345 provincial seats to the Yorkton site. It has been our experience in Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan that it can take several years to reach full capacity when opening a new site. Working with our partners, we are confident we will reduce the number of unfilled seats quickly, as we develop our reputation and capacity in the region. Parkland College currently has 24 students registered in the pre-professional year, including three self-identified as Aboriginal.

### Learn Where You Live



## Clinical Placements

Clinical Placements are an essential part of nursing education. While students learn many nursing skills in the classroom through simulated

experiences, it is important for their personal and professional development to be exposed to a variety of clinical experiences outside of the lab.

Clinical experience planned for this year's cohort of Yorkton students include:

YEAR IN PROGRAM	COURSE	# OF STUDENTS	LOCATION OF PLACEMENT	TIME FRAME	CLINICAL HOURS
2	NURS 202	6	Yorkton Regional Nursing Home	Nov 26 - Dec 5 2014	24
2	NURS 202	5	Yorkton Regional Nursing Home	Nov 26 - Dec 5 2014	24
2	NURS 221	6	TBA	May/June 2015	144
2	NURS 221	5	TBA	May/June 2015	144

## Community Outreach

In order to promote awareness of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in Yorkton and build connections with our new community partners, the College of Nursing has participated in a number of events to promote recruitment from across the region. Consistent with our

strategic priorities, the College is also very interested in ensuring our Yorkton cohort is representative of the region's demographics, including Aboriginal student representation. We have met with Treaty 4 Student Success and Yorkton Tribal Council (YTC), as well as visited all six YTC

band schools to promote the new program. We continue to work with Parkland College to leverage mutual opportunities to improve Aboriginal student support and recruitment into the pre-professional year and nursing.

CAREER FAIR	TIMING	LOCATION
Health Career Cafe	Fall 2014	Keeseekoose First Nation
Career Explorations	Fall 2012, 2013, 2014	Yorkton, SK
Kahkewishtahaw First Nation	Spring 2013	Kahkewistahaw First Nation
Peepeekesis First Nation	Spring 2014	Peepeekesis First Nation
Punnichy Career Fair	Fall 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014	Punnichy, SK
Working Together	Spring 2012, 2013, 2014	Yorkton, SK

## College of Nursing Collaboration with Sunrise Health Region




*Dr. Karen Semchuk*

The College of Nursing and Sunrise Health Region have developed a very close and collaborative relationship in recent years in an effort to jointly build regional capacity in health care and education. Beginning in 2012, the College partnered with Sunrise to offer graduate level programming to Registered Nurses in the Health Region, two

of whom are now instructing in the Yorkton Bachelor of Science in Nursing program; and the College of Nursing and Sunrise Health Region established a dual appointment for Professor Karen Semchuk, who in addition to her duties in the College of Nursing, is the Director of Professional Practice for Sunrise Health Region.

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