Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association

NOT EVEN "REMOTELY" CLOSE

THE PROBLEM

Rural and remote residents have the greatest need for support in accessing healthcare

1. Limited access to physical therapists in rural and remote Saskatchewan
2. High vacancy of physical therapy positions in rural, remote and some urban communities throughout Saskatchewan. This leads to long waits or extensive travel to care
3. There are no provincial incentives for physical therapists to work in rural underserved communities

PEOPLE IN SASKATCHEWAN WHO LIVES RURAL/REMOTE

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS THAT PRACTICE RURAL

WHY PHYSICAL THERAPISTS ARE IMPORTANT

- PT PROVIDES "COST EFFECTIVE" CARE FOR VARIOUS HEALTH CONDITIONS
- PT's HELP REDUCE PAIN, RESTORE PHYSICAL FUNCTION, IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE
- ACCESS TO PT's IS KEY FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- LIMITED CARE MAY CONTRIBUTE TO HIGHER RATES OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS FOUND IN RURAL/REMOTE AREAS

WHAT ARE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS?

- **Funding to increase training capacity** of the University of Saskatchewan's Master of Physical Therapy program

  Current supply does not meet needs of rural, remote and several urban communities in Saskatchewan

- **Incentive programs** for physical therapy students to work in underserved communities
  Examples: loan forgiveness programs or bursaries

- **Incentivize greater use of telehealth** for health care delivery, including physical therapy

- **Funding to support** implementation and evaluation of **innovative programs and interventions** to improve access to physical therapy care for underserved

What can YOU ask your MLA canidates?

- Will you push for physical therapy to be included in the solution for health care in rural and remote populations?

- How will your party ensure rural and remote communities have access to the health care they need?

- Does your party plan to increase health care funding for rural and remote communities?

- How will your party improve access to health care across the whole province?