

November 10th, 2020

The Honourable Scott Moe  
Premier of Saskatchewan  
226 Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
CANADA S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Moe, Minister Merriman, and Dr. Shahab,

**Re: A call for leadership to combat the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan**

In the past 30 days, the number of active COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan has increased 700% to 1,289. Our hospitals are full, in part due to a 517% increase in COVID-19 admissions. Saskatoon ICUs are at 130% capacity and are diverting patients. It is becoming increasingly clear to us, physicians from across Saskatchewan, that we are losing the battle against this virus. If more is not done to change our course we are confident that winter will bring overflowing hospitals, canceled surgeries, overwhelmed healthcare providers, and needless deaths.

We appreciate that, in battling this epidemic, there are no easy solutions. From the inconvenience of wearing masks, to the isolation of social distancing and quarantine, to the harms felt by local businesses with every escalation in restrictions, we know that doing more will be difficult for Saskatchewan people. However, the lives of our friends and neighbours are on the line.

As our newly re-elected government, we look to you for leadership. Models of successful interventions that could be applied in Saskatchewan are available from Atlantic Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea, and more. We know that you have the expertise needed to apply them. A common thread in each successful region and country is the clear and consistent leadership and communication of an empathetic government guided by a solid foundation of science and expert medical opinion.

Both action and inaction will be criticized. We humbly ask you to act with sufficient force to reverse the rising daily case counts while also detailing how and when we would escalate our interventions even further. Making decisions, even when difficult, is the hallmark of strong leadership. The lives and livelihoods of Saskatchewan people depend upon you.

Sincerely,

260 Saskatchewan Physicians