



## Provincial Auditor's 2022 Report—Volume 2

### Chapter 10: Saskatchewan Cancer Agency—Cancer Drug Supply Management

Provincial Auditor Tara Clemett reports that the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency has effective processes to manage its supply of cancer drugs, but needs to improve in a few areas. This includes setting timeframes for making decisions on drug exception requests to facilitate timely patient treatment, and formally documenting its processes for getting approved cancer drugs on the drug formulary, along with documenting certain purchasing decisions. For example, the Agency needs to document factors (e.g., pricing, clinical reasons) considered when deciding to purchase cancer drugs directly rather than using group purchasing methods, as well as its rationale and approvals when purchasing drugs using the single or sole source purchasing methods. This helps reduce the risk of not obtaining best value for cancer drugs.

The Canadian Cancer Society expected 229,200 new cancer cases in 2021, with Saskatchewan residents representing 6,000 of those cases. Purchasing cancer drugs is a complex process involving agencies, committees, and individuals—on both a national and provincial level. It is important that fair access is provided to drugs in a way that is affordable for the health system and available for timely cancer treatment.

- The Agency spent over \$120 million on cancer drugs in 2021–22
- The Agency provides chemotherapy (i.e., drug) treatments to over 3,000 cancer patients annually at its two main centres—the Allan Blair Cancer Centre in Regina and the Saskatoon Cancer Centre
- Also uses 17 Community Oncology Program of Saskatchewan (COPS) sites across the province with over 2,400 cancer patients receiving treatment in 2021–22

### Chapter 11: Saskatchewan Government Insurance—Licensing Commercial Drivers

Provincial Auditor Tara Clemett examined Saskatchewan Government Insurance's (SGI) processes to license commercial (e.g., semi-truck) Class 1 drivers. Operating semi-trucks requires extra training and skill. SGI introduced mandatory entry-level training (MELT) for new Class 1 drivers in March 2019, which has shown to decrease the number of driver violations (tickets) when commercial drivers take MELT and gain years of driving experience. At May 2022, out of nearly 62,000 commercial Class 1 drivers in Saskatchewan about 2,800 commercial drivers have taken MELT because training focuses on new semi-truck drivers.

SGI set appropriate licensing requirements, confirmed commercial drivers met those requirements, and appropriately addressed commercial drivers' non-compliance with requirements and traffic laws. SGI requires ongoing medical reports for commercial drivers to promote safe operation of semi-trucks on the road. Further improvements include SGI periodically evaluating the effectiveness of MELT and sufficiently confirming its Class 1 road test examiners meet requirements to be examiners.

The number of semi-truck collisions increased from 949 in 2019 to 1,018 in 2020. Providing adequate training, imposing timely sanctions and suspending commercial drivers with repeat offences helps to increase public safety and reduce the risk of collisions or fatalities.

The full Provincial Auditor's 2022 Report – Volume 2 available online at [auditor.sk.ca](http://auditor.sk.ca).

*The Provincial Auditor is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. The Office promotes accountability and better management by providing Legislators and the public with an independent assessment of the government's use of public resources.*

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