

Petition to Save Our Lab Services in Ituna, Saskatchewan

Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan:

We, the undersigned residents of the Province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following:

That lab services are essential to accessing health care, and any reduction in lab services in rural Saskatchewan disproportionately impacts residents and causes further barriers to accessing health services;

That effective October 1, 2017, the health region plans to reduce lab services at the Ituna Health Centre in Ituna, Saskatchewan, from five days per week to only two days a week;

That this reduction not only creates significant barriers to Ituna area residents in accessing health services, but it also makes it more likely that it will be difficult to maintain a qualified laboratory technologist in the community at significantly reduced operational hours and may even cause the community of Ituna to lose their town doctor should lab services including blood work, X-rays, ECG tests, and pacemaker checks not be regularly available Monday through Friday;

That the reduction in lab services in Ituna negatively impacts every resident living in Ituna and surrounding area, especially those residents in long-term care, in community living homes, and residents who require access to local lab services to prevent unnecessary travel when coordinating their out-of-town cancer treatments;

That the provincial government's 2017-18 provincial budget, which makes devastating cuts to public services while prioritizing misguided tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy, has placed unnecessary pressure on rural health care services;

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan: **to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to maintain and restore lab services in the town of Ituna including blood work, X-ray, ECG tests and pacemaker tests to five days per week, Monday through Friday, at the Ituna Health Centre to serve the needs of the community of Ituna and surrounding area and, in so doing, reverse any reduction to Lab Services in Ituna, Saskatchewan.**

First and Last Name	Address and Postal Code	Signature