

# **Accelerating Excellence:** **How Research and Evidence is Informing System-wide Quality Improvement in Saskatchewan**

*Bonnie Brossart, CEO  
Health Quality Council*

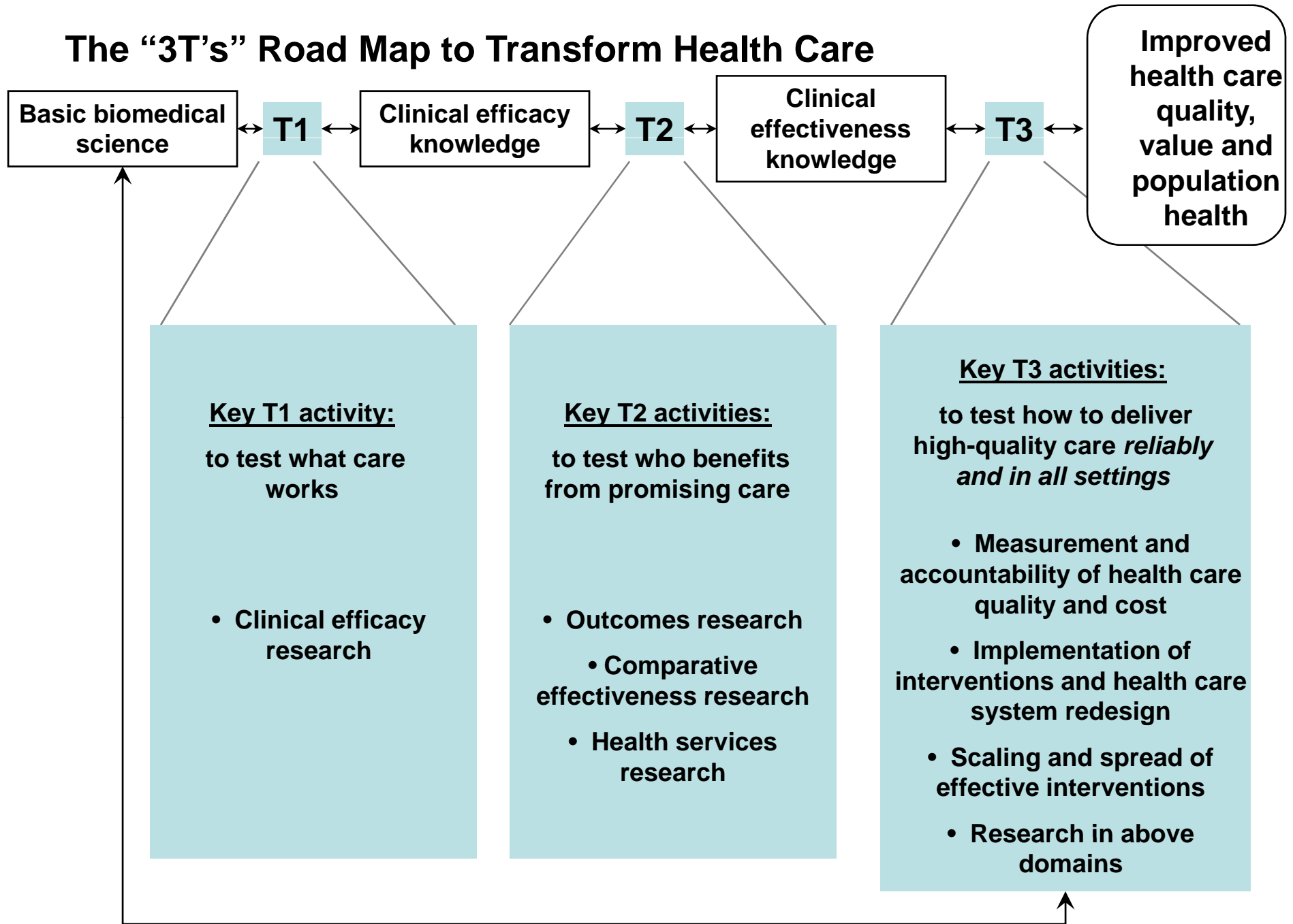
*CAHSPR  
May 13, 2009*

## By the end of this presentation



- How a research framework for transforming health care is informing Saskatchewan's approach to evaluating system-wide transformation
- How Saskatchewan is trying to transform its health care system
- Collaborative Quality Improvement Research opportunities in Saskatchewan

# The “3T’s” Road Map to Transform Health Care



# Measuring quality in Saskatchewan



## Improving the Quality of Heart Attack Care in Saskatchewan: Outcomes and Secondary Prevention

September 2004 • Summary Report

### Key Messages

### Helen's Story

As a 77-year-old, Helen's heart attack was a shock. She had no symptoms, and she was not taking any medication. She was not even aware of her blood pressure. Helen's story is a reminder that heart attacks can happen to anyone, at any time. Helen's story is a reminder that heart attacks can happen to anyone, at any time. Helen's story is a reminder that heart attacks can happen to anyone, at any time.

### Why look at quality of drug treatment for heart attack care?

There are many reasons to look at the quality of drug treatment for heart attack care. One reason is that heart attacks are a leading cause of death and disability in Saskatchewan. Another reason is that there is a lot of variation in the quality of care across the province.

## Improving the quality of Drug Management of Saskatchewan Seniors in Long-Term Care

December 2004



### Executive Summary

## Improving the Quality of Drug Management of Saskatchewan Seniors Living in the Community

October 2005 • Executive Summary

### Key Messages

There are many reasons to look at the quality of drug management for seniors living in the community. One reason is that seniors are taking more medications than ever before. Another reason is that there is a lot of variation in the quality of care across the province.

## IMPROVING THE ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE: A survey of Saskatchewan Inpatients

June 2005 • Executive Summary

### Key Messages

There are many reasons to look at the quality of the acute care hospital experience. One reason is that patients and families are more involved in their care than ever before. Another reason is that there is a lot of variation in the quality of care across the province.

## RESEARCH REPORT THE TIME IT TAKES: BREAST CANCER CARE IN SASKATCHEWAN

Region	Median wait time (days)
Regina	10
Saskatoon	12
Weyburn	15
Yorkton	18
Northwest Territories	20
Yukon	25
Nunavut	30

## BREATHING EASIER: Opportunities to improve the quality of asthma care in Saskatchewan

September 2005 • Executive Summary

### Key Messages

There are many reasons to look at the quality of asthma care in Saskatchewan. One reason is that asthma is a common chronic condition. Another reason is that there is a lot of variation in the quality of care across the province.

## QUALITY OF DIABETES MANAGEMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN

### Key Messages

Diabetes is a common chronic condition and its prevalence is increasing. The growing burden of chronic disease in Saskatchewan underscores the fact that it is a high priority for quality improvement. There is a steady number of major complications of diabetes that occur each year in Saskatchewan. These include heart attacks, strokes, lower limb amputations and kidney failure. Better disease management in the earlier stages could reduce these complications. There is room to improve disease management particularly through better control of cholesterol and blood sugar. Only 30% of people with diabetes had a recent A1C test indicating long-term glucose control in the optimal range, and only 45% of patients had a recent LDL-cholesterol test in the ideal range. Appropriate drug management and better diet can improve control of these measures. Smoking can also be reduced, particularly in young adults. First Nations populations deserve high priority for quality improvement initiatives, as they have the highest prevalence of diabetes and rates of complications.

### Why look at the quality of diabetes care in Saskatchewan?

Diabetes is a serious and growing chronic disease. In Saskatchewan, the prevalence of diabetes has increased by 41% from 1996-97 to 2000-01. Nationally diabetes affects over two million Canadians and will affect three million by 2010. Type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 90% of diabetes cases, is experiencing rapid growth, driven by an aging population, increasing obesity physical inactivity and growth in the Aboriginal population, which is particularly susceptible to this disease. National health care costs of diabetes are projected to increase to \$5.14 billion in 2016, a 75% increase from 2000 levels. Proper management of diabetes can help prevent its many serious complications, which include blindness, foot ulcers, amputations, heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure. Strategies include a healthy diet, weight reduction, maintaining blood sugar levels, blood pressure and cholesterol within acceptable limits, smoking cessation, and routine checks for potential complications affecting the feet, eyes, kidneys, or other organs. Reports from other provinces and countries, however, show major gaps in care, such as suboptimal control of blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol; underuse of recommended medications; and major variations in complication rates between regions. This study aims to report similar measures of quality for Saskatchewan. In doing so, we confirm that there is room for improvement locally, and can set a baseline to measure progress in improving quality of care over time.

# Interventions aimed at redesigning care



Saskatchewan  
Chronic Disease  
Management  
Collaborative



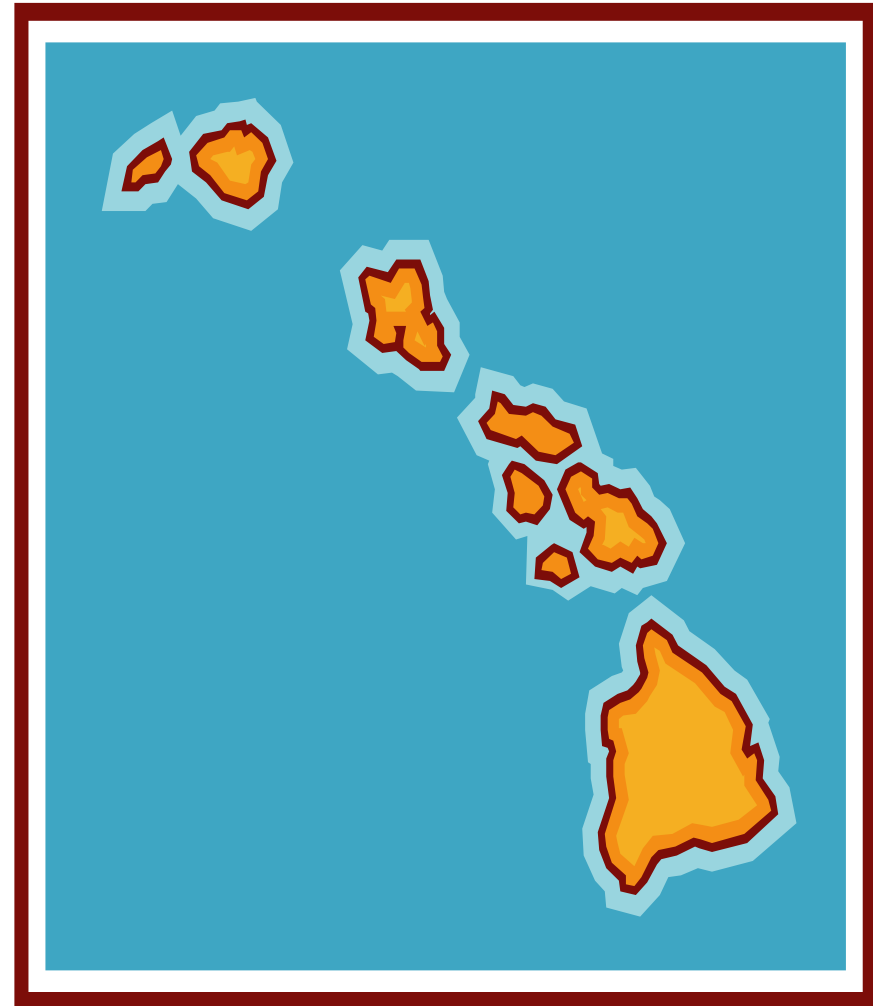
Quality Improvement  
**Toolbook**

*A practical approach to improving the quality of health care - your goal and ours.*



Saskatchewan  
Adult ICU  
Collaborative





# Learning from high-performing, innovative systems



- Veteran's Administration Healthcare (USA)
- Kaiser Permanente (USA)
- Jönköping County (Jönköping, Sweden)
- Southcentral Foundation (Alaska)
- Intermountain Health (Salt Lake City, Utah)
- Virginia Mason Medical Center (Seattle, Washington)
- National Health Service (England)

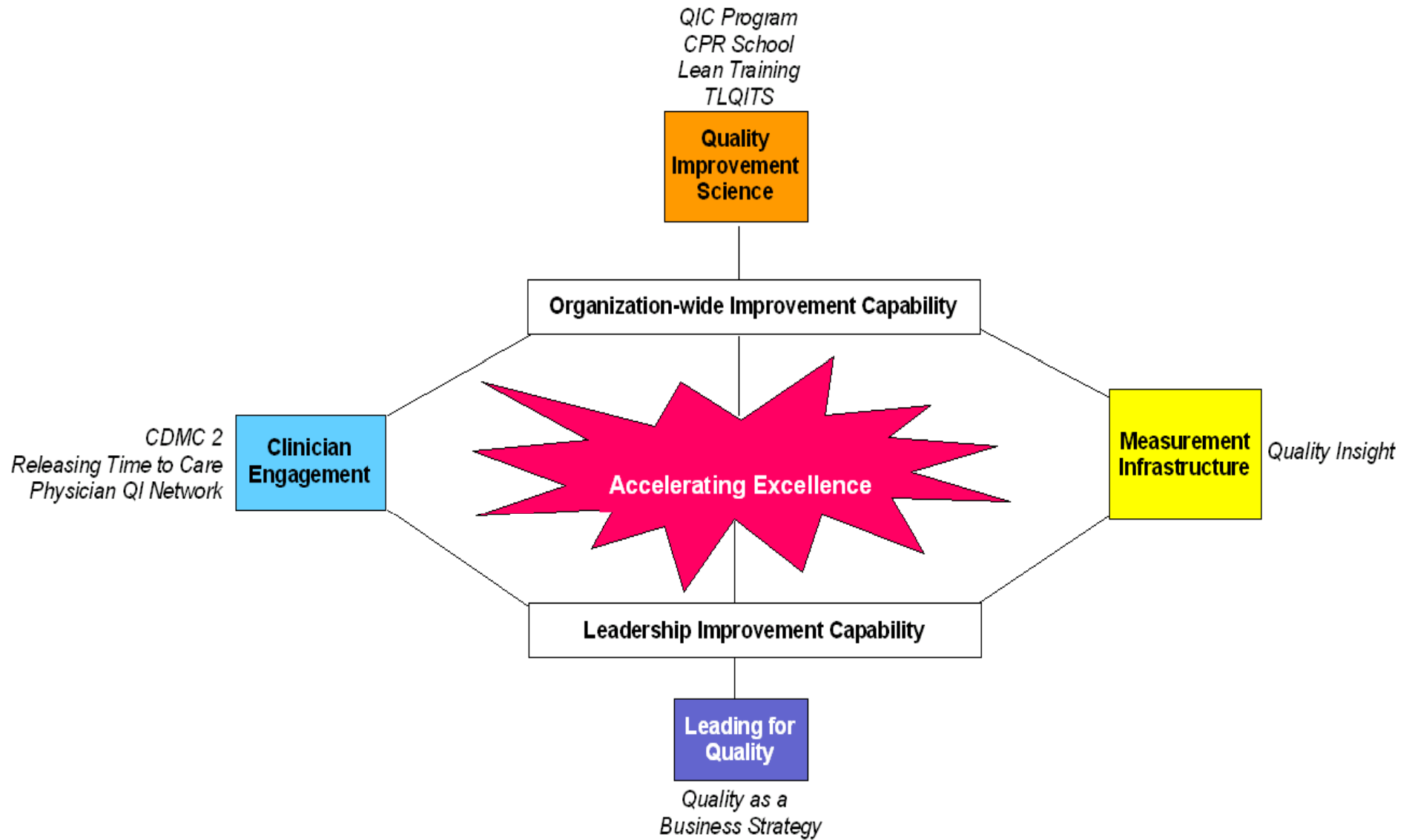


## News Release - March 4, 2008

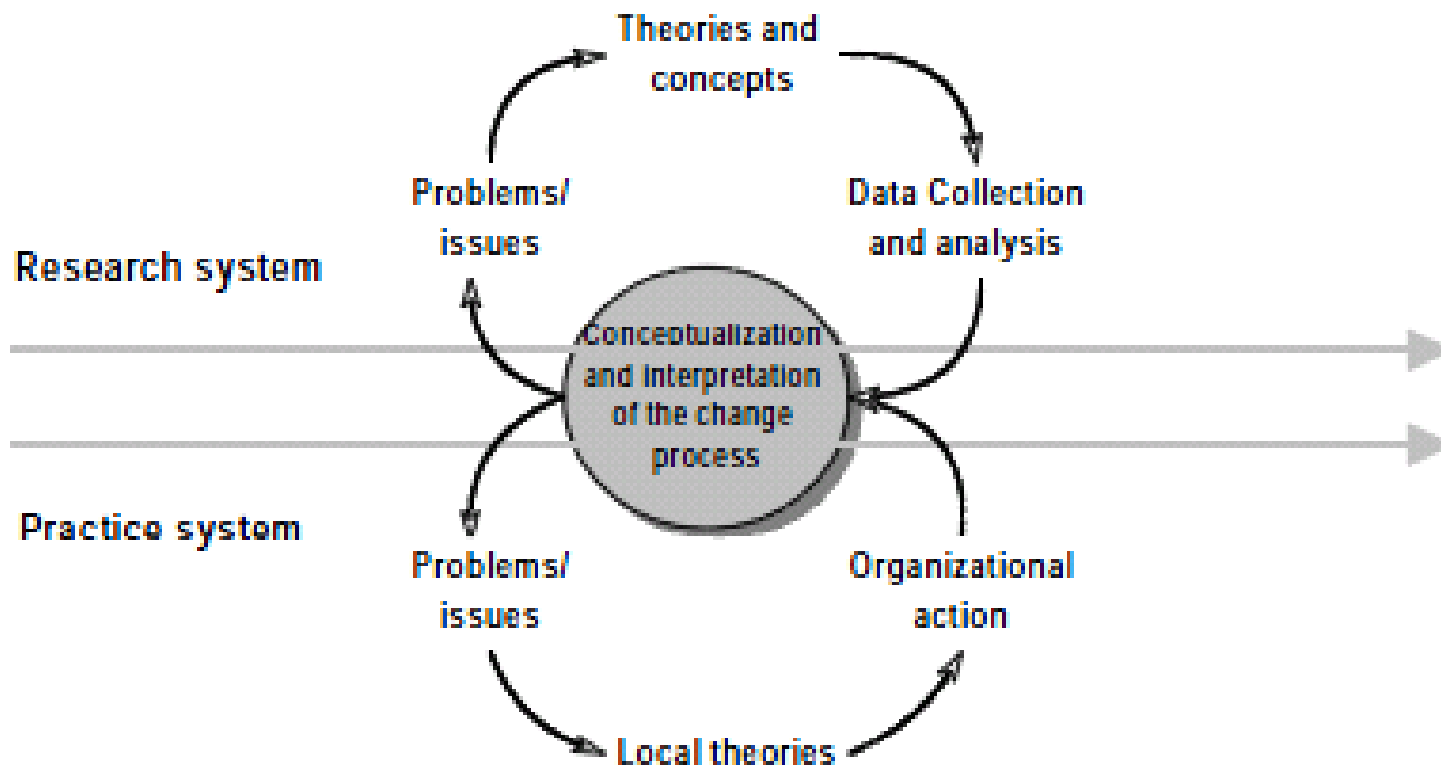
### **GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$5 MILLION IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS TO HEALTH SYSTEM**

Health Minister Don McMorris today announced a \$5 million investment of new funding to improve the delivery of health care in a select number of health regions.

*Source:* <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=3d553835-6a9f-471f-bde3-70efe2104061>



# Building Research Partnerships to Study Large-Scale Transformational Health Care Improvement



## ***Learning to improve & improving our learning: Innovating research partnerships to accelerate Saskatchewan's health system transformation***

- To study components of Accelerating Excellence:
  - Leadership
  - Measurement Infrastructure
  - QI Capacity Building
  - Clinician Engagement
- To build and sustain research capacity in the area of Quality Improvement

***Learning to improve & improving our learning:  
Innovating research partnerships to accelerate Saskatchewan's  
health system transformation***

**1. MAY 19, 9:30 am – 11:30 am (MST)**

**Videoconference Presentation**

*“Bridging the Gaps” Program*

*Dr. Böel Andersson-Gäre, MD, PhD*

*Director of Futurum – The Academy of Health and Care*

*County Council of Jonkoping*

*Jönköping, Sweden*

**Register at**

**[ljetsinknaus@hqc.sk.ca](mailto:ljetsinknaus@hqc.sk.ca) by**

**May 14**

**2. JUNE 15-16, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon – Identifying  
Research Questions / Planning Funding Applications**

**Register at [ljetsinknaus@hqc.sk.ca](mailto:ljetsinknaus@hqc.sk.ca) by**

**June 10**

# In conclusion...



- Quality Improvement Research plays a critical role in understanding the opportunities and challenges in reliably and systematically delivering the best possible care.
- Saskatchewan's Accelerating Excellence initiative offers an incredibly exciting opportunity for leading-edge Quality Improvement Research in Canada.

If we don't, who will? If not now, then when?

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