Saskatchewan
Nurse Retention Forum

NEXT STEPS FOR THE RESEARCH

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **Saskatchewan Nurse Retention Forum** on June 11, 2026. The experiences, ideas and practical perspectives shared are helping to shape the next phase of work.

We are pleased to share that the **Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation** has approved an SHRF Align Grant, led by **Dr. Kandis Harris** and her research team at **Saskatchewan Polytechnic**.

What will the research examine?

There is already considerable evidence about strategies that can improve nurse retention. The persistent challenge is putting those strategies into practice in ways that are feasible, relevant and sustainable within specific healthcare environments.

The research will therefore focus on the question:

What factors are limiting the effective implementation of evidence-informed nurse-retention strategies within Saskatchewan, and which strategies are identified by stakeholders as feasible and ready for implementation and evaluation in practice settings?

The project will examine barriers and enabling conditions, identify shared priorities and establish partnerships that can help move promising ideas into action.

What happens next? Bringing together the evidence and Forum insights

The research team has prepared an environmental scan and focused review of existing nurse-retention strategies, toolkits, policies and best practices, with particular attention to what is known about implementation.

Available Forum materials and participant feedback will also help inform the research planning and priority-setting process. APNS is preparing a summary of the Forum's co-design lab which would provide an additional valuable source of participant-generated insight. The research project will continue through the evidence review, other available Forum materials and direct engagement with interested participants and teams.

The next phase will invite individuals and teams to participate

Individuals may be invited to contribute through interviews, focus groups or other engagement activities exploring the barriers, facilitators and contextual conditions that influence implementation. Any formal research participation will be voluntary and will proceed only after the required research ethics approval is obtained.

The research team is seeking **two or three partner teams** interested in advancing a nurse-retention strategy within a real-world setting. Teams will be considered based on alignment with the challenges identified through the Forum and willingness to explore readiness and feasibility of implementing a retention strategy.

Forum participants who have not already expressed interest are invited to do so by contacting **Kandis Harris, Associate Dean** at kandis.harris@saskpolytech.ca.

The Forum was intended to be a starting point, not a one-day conversation. The research will help establish the foundation for future research that can test, evaluate and potentially scale promising nurse-retention approaches. We look forward to learning what it will take to move promising nurse-retention ideas into action and contribute to a more sustainable healthcare system.