

# **SASKATCHEWAN'S DISABILITY STRATEGY**

## **Citizen Consultation Team - Questions and Answers**

### **What is Saskatchewan's Disability Strategy?**

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to developing a Disability Strategy in consultation with stakeholders. The Strategy will support the goal, stated in the *Plan for Growth*, of making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for persons with disabilities.

The Strategy will address the support and service needs of children and adults with physical, psychiatric, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities. It will address the supports required for daily living, inclusion and participation rather than the medical aspects of a disability.

### **What is the Citizen Consultation Team?**

The Citizen Consultation Team will be a group of 12-15 individuals, including persons with disabilities, parents, volunteers, and other citizens with an interest in disability issues. The Team will be representative of various disabilities (physical disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, sensory disabilities, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities), and various demographic categories (such as women, Aboriginal people, and people living in rural areas and the North).

Members will be appointed by the Minister of Social Services. The Executive Director of the Office of Disability Issues and one of the nominees will co-chair the team. The Legislative Secretary will also be a member of the team.

People appointed to the team will participate as individuals, and not as formal representatives of organizations, even though they may have involvement with specific organizations. As an advisory body, the team will make recommendations but will not have decision-making authority.

### **What will the role of the team be?**

Team members will:

- Provide advice on the public consultation documents and plan;
- Help lead the public consultations;
- Validate potential actions/solutions from Priority Working Groups;
- Provide advice on draft elements of the Strategy;
- Attend 6-7 Citizen Consultation Team meetings throughout the year;
- Potentially co-chair a Priority Working Group (approximately three meetings); and
- Attend 4-5 of the public consultations held throughout the province.

### **Who can be a member of the team and how will membership be decided?**

Anyone interested in disability issues can submit a nomination to be a part of the team. You must complete a nomination form and submit it to the Office of Disability Issues by June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. (Please see the nomination form for the full mailing address of the Office of Disability Issues).

The assessment criteria to select candidates includes personal, professional and/or volunteer experience, knowledge of disability issues, leadership skills, other relevant skills (e.g. analytical, organizational, collaborative, and interpersonal skills), and foresight/forward thinking ability.

Members will be appointed for a one year term. Terms may be extended if the work of the team is incomplete after the first year and the Minister deems an extension is necessary.

**Will team members be compensated for their work?**

Team members will have all travel, accommodations, meals and any required disability support expenses required for their work on the team paid at government rates. Compensation for employment-related costs may be considered in special circumstances.

**What are the proposed timeframes for the team’s work?**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Objective</b>
September 2013	Citizen Consultation Team appointments
Fall 2013	Initial Citizen Consultation Team meeting
Fall 2013 to Spring 2014	Citizen Consultation Team meetings
Spring 2014	Public Consultations
Spring 2014 to Fall 2014	Citizen Consultation Team meetings and Priority Working Group meetings

**Are there other opportunities to provide input if I am not selected for the Citizen Consultation Team?**

For those who are not selected for the Citizen Consultation Team, there will be other opportunities to provide input into the Strategy including through public consultations, or membership on one of six Priority Working Groups.

**What are Priority Working Groups?**

Priority Working Groups will be created to explore the six key areas of focus: education, employment, housing, transportation, support for caregivers, and community inclusion. Membership will include persons with disabilities, sector stakeholders, service providers and Government representatives.

Their role will be to review priority area issues and related consultation findings, and to provide potential actions/solutions for review by government and the Citizen Consultation Team.

**What is the plan for public consultations?**

A full consultation plan will be developed. Initial plans are for 8-10 public forums across the province as well as opportunities for online participation and written submissions. More information on the public consultations will be made available at a later date.