

BACKGROUNDER

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The Government of Saskatchewan and provincial organizations have taken action on the recommendations of the Disability Strategy through the following initiatives:

- Expanded Community Living Service Delivery (CLSD) supports to the north (Disability Strategy Recommendation #5):
 - CLSD funds a total of 25 community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve northern communities, provide quality day programs, group homes and other services for people experiencing intellectual disabilities.
 - Development of a CLSD northern elders group. The group will utilize local elders and community engagement strategies to ensure programs and services are aligned with Aboriginal practices. It is seeking to develop unique day program and residential services that removes barriers and allow for greater culturally appropriate programs. This will change the common services delivery model which will seek to encompass individuals' spiritual and cultural aspects in services.

- New group homes and supportive housing options opened across Saskatchewan (Disability Strategy Recommendation #7) :
 - There have been new group homes, day programs and supportive living options opened in Saskatchewan in the 2016/2017 year in locations including:
 - Prince Albert
 - Wadena
 - Saskatoon
 - Moose Jaw
 - Warman
 - Swift Current
 - Regina

- Beach wheelchair program launched at provincial parks (Disability Strategy Recommendation #11):
 - The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport purchased ten beach wheelchairs for visitors to use in Saskatchewan provincial parks. Chairs are free to use and are available at the Saskatchewan Landing, Moose Mountain, Good Spirit Lake, Candle Lake and Meadow Lake.
 - For more information: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/august/17/beach-wheelchair-program>

- Implementation of a needs-based model for identifying and providing student supports (Disability Strategy Recommendation #8):

- The Ministry of Education, in partnership with school divisions, schools, parents/guardians, students, inter-ministry groups and human services agencies, encourages the implementation of a needs-based model for identifying and providing student supports.
 - Prior to moving to a needs-based model, students required a medical diagnosis to receive educational programming and supports. It is understood that two students with the same diagnosis may not require identical supports. The needs-based model is based on the belief that the needs of individual students are more important in determining programming and supports than are the categorical labels of disabilities.
- Supporting people who are Deaf, deaf and hard of hearing (Disability Strategy Recommendation #8):
 - A committee of stakeholders, led by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, was formulated with membership from the Deaf, deaf and hard of hearing community, relevant community-based organizations and various ministries. This committee was established pursuant to the Commission's systemic advocacy mandate to resolve, prevent and address systemic patterns of discrimination and inequity. The committee is currently focusing on early screening and access to education for Deaf, deaf and hard of hearing children prior to age five.
- Citizen-centred approach for design and development of online citizen services (Disability Strategy Recommendation #3):
 - Saskatchewan.ca, government's single online entry point for citizens is designed with a focus on citizens by providing information in a way that can be used by as many people as possible. Users are involved throughout the development process to ensure the end result is a service that is easy to use.
- Individualized funding for children under the age of six diagnosed with autism (Disability Strategy Recommendation #1):
 - An autism working group has been established and tasked with creating the Saskatchewan model for individualized funding in the 2018-19 budget year. The working group recommendations will assist government in supporting Saskatchewan's Disability Strategy and Early Year's Plan by providing more choice and flexibility for families, and improving access to supports. Individualized funding is in addition to the nearly \$8 million government already provides to support ASD services within the health care system.
- Accessibility has improved at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (Disability Strategy Recommendation #11):
 - For more information: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/august/29/rsm-improved-accessibility>
- Education and Awareness (Disability Strategy Recommendation #12):

- Canadian Down-Syndrome Week: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/november/01/down-syndrome-week>
 - Community Living Month: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/october/02/community-living-month>
 - Disability Employment Awareness Month: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/october/02/disability-employment-awareness-month>
 - Private Service Homes Week: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/february/17/private-service-homes-week>
 - Deafblind Awareness Week: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2016/may/30/deafblind-awareness-week>
- Estevan Diversified Services Clear Language Human Rights hand book (Disability Strategy Recommendation #4):
 - For more information: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/may/17/human-rights-handbook>
 - New Mosaic Stadium (NMS) (Disability Strategy Recommendation #12)
 - The NMS sets the bar for accessibility and inclusion. The facility has no stairs to access the building, more than 150 accessible seats and double the companion seating, along with plug-ins for wheelchairs and oxygen tanks. Nine elevators that have power doors, voice and visual accessibility features, seven all gender, accessible family washrooms including one that features a lift system and adult change table. The facility also has accessible washrooms in every washroom, accessible concession counters, signage in Braille and parking close to the stadium.

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