



# Ministry of Social Services

## Annual Report Highlights from 2010-11



### Message from the Minister



*The Honourable June Draude  
Minister of Social Services*

*Minister Responsible for the Status of Women*

*Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Housing Corporation*

I am pleased to present the 2010-11 Social Services Annual Report Highlights, which outline the Ministry's most notable accomplishments in support of Government's vision and goals.

The 2010-11 Social Services Annual Report and Highlights also demonstrate how the Ministry has contributed to the progress of Government's Direction for 2010-11.

In a time of global economic uncertainty and challenging financial circumstances, the Government of Saskatchewan has delivered responsible management and forward-looking policies. This approach has assisted the Ministry in achieving real progress in meeting Government's commitments over the past fiscal year.

For more information regarding the significant accomplishments of and commitments met by the Ministry of Social Services in 2010-11, please refer to the Ministry's 2010-11 Annual Report, available on our website at: [www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca](http://www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca).



### Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Social Services aligns with Government's direction by protecting Saskatchewan's vulnerable people and supporting their inclusion in the province's prosperity. The role of Government through Social Services is to ensure that:

- children are safe from abuse and neglect;
- people have basic shelter, food and clothing; and
- vulnerable citizens have an opportunity to participate in the community.

With a budget of more than \$750 million and more than 2,000 employees, Social Services is one of the largest ministries in the Saskatchewan Government.

Social Services provides child welfare services, income support programs for families with low incomes, seniors and people with disabilities, social assistance programs for people out of work, housing supports, and programs and services to support families and people with disabilities. The Ministry delivers most of its programs through 20 service offices (as well as a number of day offices) in communities across the province.



# VISION

*A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.*

## Our 2010-11 Significant Achievements

### Economic Growth...

- A series of five new measures, Accelerating Connections to Employment (ACE), were implemented to help employable social assistance recipients to enter the workforce.
- Social Services referred 7,134 participants to JobsFirst and 2,936 participants to Employment Services for Parents (ESP) workshops. JobsFirst and ESP are operated through a partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration.

### Securing Saskatchewan...

- In 2010, as part of Ministry actions to increase the supply of affordable housing across the province, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation committed to develop 441 affordable units (380 rental and 61 homeownership). In the same year, 341 completed units were added to the affordable rental housing stock and 37 families were assisted in achieving homeownership.
- In addition to supporting the creation of new affordable housing, the Ministry undertook efforts to enhance the affordability of existing housing. The Ministry adjusted shelter allowances in income support programs in April and October 2010 to assist tenants in response to changing rental market conditions.
- As of March 31, 2011, services for 316 individuals of the original 440 Community Living waitlist from 2008 (71.8 per cent) were under way or in development.

- The Ministry continued to collaborate with members of the disability community to further develop the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program.
- For the first time in many years, the number of children in care declined in 2010-11. As of March 2011, children in care of the Ministry had dropped by 10.5 per cent to 3,217 from a high of 3,593 in 2009. Likewise, the number of children in care of First Nations agencies fell from 1,206 in 2009 to 1,124 in 2011.

### Keeping Promises...

- The Ministry reorganization began in June 2009 and was completed in 2010-11.
- The Ministry achieved significant results on its Family Finders initiative, including 118 successful Family Finders placements.
- The Child and Family Services component of the Ministry's new information system began as a pilot in Fort Qu'Appelle as planned.
- The Ministry provided an across the board increase to third party service providers to help them deal with rising costs and initiated a project to streamline and improve the processes for issuing Community Based Organization contracts and reporting on service delivery results.

## Child Welfare Review

The Child Welfare Review was completed in 2010. On December 16, 2010, Government received the Saskatchewan Child Welfare Review Panel's final report, For the Good of Our Children and Youth, from Independent Panel Chair Bob Pringle. The report contained 12 non-binding recommendations, including recommendations which called for fundamental changes to the child welfare system.



## Government's initial response to the report included:

Formation of a Cabinet Committee on Children and Youth to direct development of a "Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda" focused on policies and strategies across ministries to support children and families through a government-wide approach.

Formation of a Deputy Ministers' Committee on Children and Youth to support the Cabinet Committee.

A government-wide budget submission on the Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda in 2011-12.

### Financial Summary

2010-11 Budget (000s)	2010-11 Actual (000s)	Variance (000s)
\$754,138	\$796,157	\$42,019

Actual FTEs: 1,879.4 along with 24 for summer students.

