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August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Honourable Donna Harpauer  
Minister of Social Services  
Room 303, Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Harpauer,

We are writing on behalf of all the individuals and families we support who are deeply concerned about the recent decision to make substantial changes to the amounts that are provided to some SAID (Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability) recipients through the housing subsidy. We would also like to state our unequivocal support for the SAID program, the work of DISC (Disability Income Support Coalition), and their position on this matter.

We stand in complete agreement with DISC that these changes, and the immediacy in which they are to take place, do not take into account the true vulnerability of the individuals who are recipients of the SAID program. We believe that these changes will have significant and lasting consequences for SAID recipients and that they run entirely counter to the government's promise to ensure Saskatchewan is the best place to live for people with disabilities. Further, we believe that these changes undermine the original vision of the SAID program, which assured a stable and secure source of income for individuals with disabilities.

While we appreciate the recent timeline extension, we firmly oppose any reductions to any SAID recipient's housing subsidy. In cases where changes are made, we ask that any reduction to the housing subsidy only be reduced down to, but not below, the level of the actual rent of the individual involved. Anything less could cause SAID recipients to lose their homes. We ask you to provide a notice period of one year, whether there is a lease signed or not, to allow the individual involved to accommodate to the changes in their SAID payments.

In closing, we suggest that you strongly consider further slowing down the process of implementing these changes. We do not feel confident that 2,700 people will be able to have a meaningful conversation with their worker before they would have to begin making changes to where and how they live. It should come without saying that for SAID recipients, the SAID program is their largest source of income, if not the only source. At face value, reducing the housing supplement for some SAID recipients could have the appearance of prudent fiscal governance, however the reality is that these reductions will only serve to increase the hardships of those most vulnerable among us.

Sincerely,



**Kevin McTavish**  
Executive Director



**Gloria Mahussier**  
President

cc

Premier Brad Wall  
Greg Miller, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Services  
Constance Hourie, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Services  
Elissa Aitken, Executive Director, Ministry of Social Services

#### OUR MISSION

Ensure that citizens of Saskatchewan who have intellectual disabilities are valued, supported, and included members of society, and have opportunities and choices in all aspects of life.