

# Close Moose Jaw mental facility, group urges

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<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2007/05/03/valley-view.html>

[CBC News](#)

About 50 people who want to close Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw, Sask. rallied in front of the legislature this week.

However, some families of people with intellectual disabilities say it should stay open.

Faith Bodnar, executive director of the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, said even people needing high levels of care can live better outside of institutions. She cited a small group home in Saskatchewan that has high-needs clients.

"They have fragile health and yet they've lived well in that home and continue to live well in that home. And they go out in their community and they attend things in their community. They have the supports they need," she said.

But Joan Nicholl, whose 75-year-old sister has severe cerebral palsy and is one of about 300 patients at the facility, said she is doing fine and should not be moved from the place where she has lived for decades. The level of care at the facility is excellent, she added.

In Saskatchewan, as in many other jurisdictions, there has been a significant shift in recent decades away from housing intellectually disabled people in large institutions.

Community Service Minister Buckley Belanger, who's being lobbied by both sides on the Valley View situation, said he won't disregard the wishes of people who want Valley View to remain open.

Bodnar says her group will consider whatever action it takes to close Valley View. That includes the option of a human rights complaint similar to one already launched in Manitoba.