



Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' 2011-12 Annual Report Highlights.

The Annual Report demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to effective

public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public. Results are provided on publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the 2011-12 Strategic Plan. The report also demonstrates progress made on Government commitments as stated in the *Government Direction for 2011-12: The Saskatchewan Advantage*, the Minister's Mandate letter, throne speeches and other commitments and activities of the Ministry.

For more information, please refer to the Ministry's 2011-12 Annual Report, available on our website at www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca.

The Honourable June Draude
Minister of Social Services



Ministry of Social Services 2011-12 Annual Report Highlights

The Saskatchewan Advantage



Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

Ministry Overview

With a budgeted appropriation of more than \$823.0 million and more than 2,000 employees, Social Services is one of the largest ministries in the Saskatchewan Government.

The Ministry supports citizens at risk as they work to build better lives for themselves through economic independence, strong families and strong community organizations.

Social Services provides child welfare services, income support programs for low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities, social assistance programs for people out of work, and housing programs and services to support families, seniors 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. Initial application to most of the Ministry's financial assistance programs is through a central, phone-based Client Service Centre.

Social Services includes Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC), a Treasury Board Crown Corporation with offices in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. SHC provides a range of housing programs and services.

The Ministry is also home for the Status of Women Office and the Office of Disability Issues. The Status of Women Office provides strategic direction and leadership to government in response to emerging priorities of Saskatchewan women and their families. The Office of Disability Issues serves as a focal point for government initiatives on disabilities and partnerships with the disability community.

Mission Statement:

We protect Saskatchewan's vulnerable people and support their inclusion in the province's prosperity.



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For more information on the Ministry, visit www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca or call 1-866-221-5200.

The Ministry of Social Services: Housing Strategy for Saskatchewan

On August 8, 2011, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) released *A Strong Foundation – The Housing Strategy for Saskatchewan* to be implemented over the next eight years, until 2019. The Strategy is the Government's response to an increase in housing pressures in the province and aims to support a growing population, strengthen Saskatchewan's housing system and ensure housing is accessible.

The inter-ministerial Housing Strategy Advisory Committee conducted consultations with housing sector experts across the province. The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Canadian Home Builders' Association of Saskatchewan (CHBA-SK) and the Association – Saskatchewan Realtors (ASR) have been partners at each stage of the development of the Strategy.

One of the principles of the Housing Strategy is recognition that housing is a shared responsibility. The Strategy outlines broad directions that the entire housing sector can take to address Saskatchewan's housing issues:

- Increase the housing supply;
- Improve housing affordability;
- Support individuals and families in need;
- Enhance strategic planning for housing; and
- Collaborate, communicate and educate.

An update on the Housing Strategy for Saskatchewan was released in April 2012. For further information on the Housing Strategy, please visit the Ministry website at: www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca/housing.



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Financial Expense Summary

2011-12 Budget (000s)	2011-12 Actual (000s)	Variance (000s)
\$814,172	\$787,314	\$(26,858)

Actual FTEs: 1943.7, including 32.8 for summer students.

VISION

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

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

Our 2011-12 Significant Achievements

Sustaining Economic Growth....

- To help solve Saskatchewan's housing challenges, *A Strong Foundation – The Housing Strategy for Saskatchewan* was launched in August 2011. The strategy represents an eight-year plan for all stakeholders involved in the housing sector to work together and take action in five strategic areas: increasing housing supply; improving housing affordability; supporting individuals and families in greatest housing need; enhancing strategic planning for housing; and collaborating, communicating and educating.
- In 2011-12, over 9,000 social assistance clients were referred to employment services under the Accelerated Connections to Employment (ACE) initiative to help them enter the workforce. These efforts, assisted by the strong provincial economy, led to a 23 per cent decline in the fully-employable social assistance caseload over the year.

Securing Saskatchewan...

- To help renew and transform the Child Welfare System, the Ministry signed two Letters of Understanding with its partners from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. These letters pledged that the Ministry will work together with First Nations and Métis people to change the child welfare system for the long-term well-being of First Nation and Métis children and all other children.
- Shelter allowances were increased for the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA).

Keeping Promises...

- Social Services increased benefits by \$50 per month for recipients of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program who live in residential care settings.
- The Ministry further reduced the waitlist for people with intellectual disabilities who require programs and services for their assessed needs. As of March 31, 2012, services for 373 individuals of the original 440 Community Living waitlist from 2008 (85 per cent) were in place across the province.
- All Child and Family Services staff were trained in the Linkin Case Management system (Phase 1) in 2011-12.



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