



Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC)

Autism Resource Centre

Autism Treatment Services

Canadian Association for Williams Syndrome

Canadian Deaf Blind and Rubella Association (CDBRA)

Canadian Mental Health Association (Saskatchewan Division) Inc.

Canadian Parapelegic Association (Saskatchewan) Inc.

CNIB

DAWN Saskatoon

Epilepsy Saskatoon

FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan Inc.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Working Group

Gary Tinker Federation for the Disabled Inc.

Grassroots Alliance

IDEA Regina

Metis Family and Community Justice Services of Saskatchewan

Neil Squire Society

North Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre (NSILC)

People First of Saskatchewan

People with disabilities

Phoenix Residential Society

Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry (RAPM)

Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL)

Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC)

Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SBIA)

Saskatchewan Down Syndrome Society

Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment (SASKFEAT)

Saskatchewan First Nations Network on Disabilities, Inc. (FSIN)

Saskatchewan Voice of People with Disabilities

Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan

South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centres (SSILC)

Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Assoc of Saskatchewan North (SBHASN)

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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People with Significant Disabilities See an End to Welfare

Saskatoon, SK – An historic step was taken by the Government of Saskatchewan towards improving the lives of people with disabilities yesterday. Minister of Social Services, Donna Harpauer, announced that a separate, dignified income system for people of disabilities would be launched on October 1, 2009. This will, in the long term, move up to 10,000 people with disabilities off of welfare.

“Welfare was designed for short-term needs, not for the life-long needs of many people with disabilities.” said Judy Hannah, Chairperson of the Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC). “The disability community in Saskatchewan has been asking for a separate, adequate and dignified income program for persons with disabilities for many years.”

“This is a huge step forward for people with disabilities”, says disability advocate Terri Sleeva. “People with disabilities already face many barriers just because they are disabled. They don’t need to deal with the stigma of living on welfare on top of the other challenges they face.”

DISC applauded Minister Harpauer for moving quickly to act on the promise to create a separate income system – a promise that was made by the Government in October 2008. The Minister also received praise for involving community in the design of the new program. “We look forward to continuing to work with the government to ensure that the new income program provides the dignity, security and adequacy that is needed.” says Sleeva.

The Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC) represents 32 disability advocacy organizations in the province of Saskatchewan as well as individuals with disabilities and their families.

For interview opportunities, please contact:

Judy Hannah, DISC chairperson (306) 955-3344

Merv Bender, DISC member (306) 953-4461