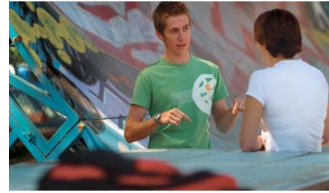


Introducing . . .

SAID

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability

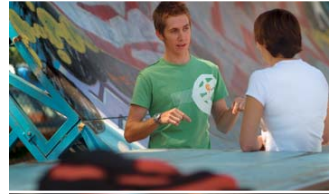
August 2009



Ministry of
Social Services

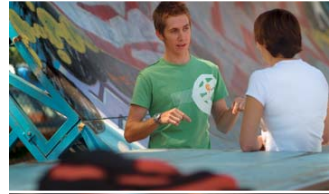
What is SAID?

- ◆ SAID is a new income support program for people with disabilities
- ◆ SAID will replace SAP as a source of income support for people with severe, long-term disabilities requiring assistance for basic living costs
- ◆ SAID will be available to those with well documented and long standing disabilities. Over time, government will consider expanding enrollment to 8,000 - 10,000 individuals



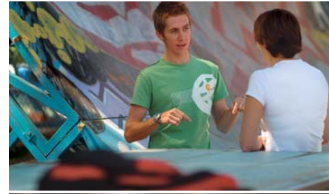
A Collaborative Effort

- ◆ SAID is the product of collaboration between the Ministry and the disability community
- ◆ In December 2008, Minister Harpauer formed a joint Community/Government Task Team to:
 - Develop design options
 - Gather community feedback, and
 - Make recommendations with respect to design and implementation
- ◆ SAID development will be guided by recommendations in the Task Team's report



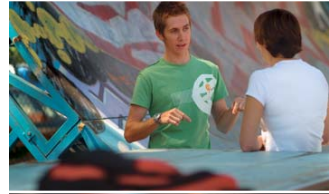
Disability Community's Vision

- ◆ Community has been clear in expressing their desire for:
 - A separate and distinct income support program for people with disabilities, and
 - A full collaborative partnership between community and government in creating a new program
 - **“Nothing about us without us”**



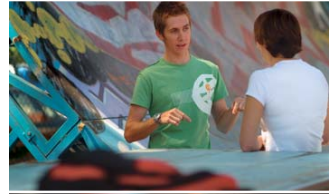
The Importance of a Separate Program

- ◆ Change will take many years – we are starting with what seems like a small step
- ◆ BUT..... it really is a huge step!!!
 - For the first time ever in Saskatchewan people with disabilities will have a program that is separate from the general social assistance system
 - It will have its own name and identity – this is **extremely important** for people with disabilities
 - **It is ‘Not Welfare’**



A Large-Scale, Long-Term Project

- ◆ The Task Team report “one of the most significant social policy initiatives to be pursued in a generation”
- ◆ Many future decisions have yet to be made by government, but - when those decisions are made – they will be made in the context of what is required for SAID – a separate program that supports people with significant and long term disabilities



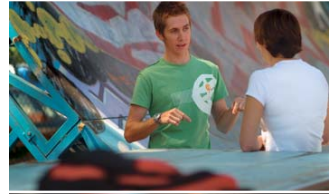
First Steps

- ◆ On May 13, the Minister announced that the new program would be launched in October with the enrollment of an initial group of approximately 3,000 people with long-standing and well-documented disabilities
- ◆ Also announced that collaboration with community would continue – a Program Implementation Advisory Team with 9 community representatives is being formed to assist in providing advice and guidance during implementation of the new program



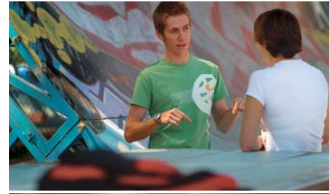
Initial Enrollment

- ◆ To include individuals with long-standing and well-documented disabilities
- ◆ Target Group - SAP clients in residential care arrangements
 - Clients in Community Living or Mental Health Approved Homes with a Daily Living Support Assessment (DLSA) Score of 2 or higher (approx. 1,000)
 - Clients in Personal Care, Special Care, or Family Homes with a Level of Care Assessment Score of 2 or higher (approx. 1,600)
 - All Group Home clients (approx. 600)



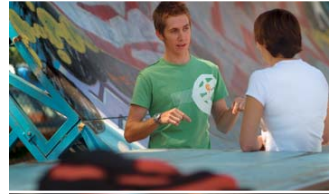
Why only 3,000 people eligible?

- ◆ Wanted to start quickly – establish the program
- ◆ Need a way to identify who has a disability that meets the **significant and enduring** criteria
- ◆ Government will consider the development of a new assessment tool to do this – this will take time
- ◆ In the meantime, for some individuals, we do have information that clearly establishes that they meet the program criteria
- ◆ This is the enrollment group – those who are unable to live independently, and for whom we already have assessments
- ◆ Should government develop a new assessment tool - others may be eligible in the future



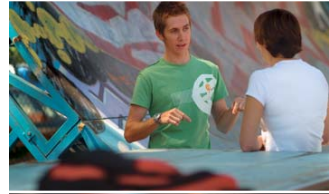
Initial Enrollment

- ◆ Approximately 3,200 individuals in total
 - Approximately 2,300 currently receive service out of a centralized Benefit Administration Services (BAS) Unit (located in Saskatoon)
 - Remaining 900 currently receive service through regional offices



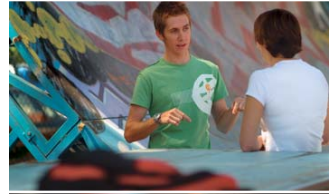
Enrollment Process

- ◆ Existing SAP clients in the target group will receive a letter inviting them to enroll in SAID
- ◆ Copies of the invitation will also be sent to trustees where applicable
- ◆ Clients will be asked to confirm their desire to enroll in the program by mailing back a Confirmation of Enrollment Form
- ◆ Clients may choose not to enroll – enrollment is voluntary. Clients may also choose to enroll at a later date if they wish



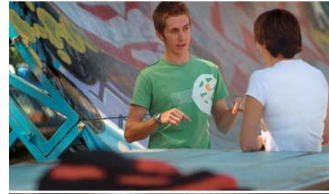
Enrollment Process

- ◆ SAP clients in residential care or family homes who do not have an assessment score of 2 or higher will receive a letter explaining why they are not included in the initial group and that they may be eligible for the program in the future
- ◆ A centralized work unit has been established on a temporary basis to manage the enrollment process and to respond to telephone inquiries about the program from enrollees, non-enrollees, and the general public



Key Enrollment Dates

- ◆ SAID enrollment packages will be mailed out the week of September 22
- ◆ Clients are asked to confirm their desire to be enrolled in SAID or remain on SAP by October 31
- ◆ Clients who return confirmation forms before October 31 will be enrolled to receive December benefits under the new SAID program
- ◆ Clients who return confirmation forms after October 31 will be enrolled, and will receive their January benefits under the new SAID program
- ◆ Follow-up letters and telephone calls are planned for clients who do not return confirmation forms
- ◆ The initial enrollment process is expected to be substantially complete in November, but arrangements will be made to continue as long as necessary



Enrollment Inquiries

- ◆ Individuals wishing to know more about the enrollment process or the SAID program should contact the Enrollment Unit at:

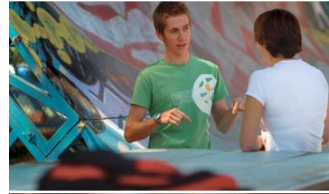
1-888-567-SAID (7243)

- ◆ The Enrollment Unit will be staffed and ready to receive calls beginning **September 22**



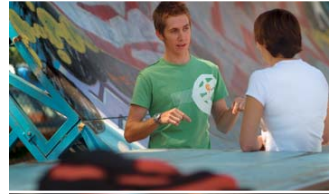
What will be different for the initial SAID clients?

- ◆ Stigma of relying on welfare will be removed
- ◆ Benefit cheques will look different
- ◆ Most clients will receive service from a dedicated Assured Income Specialist
- ◆ Periodic reviews will be conducted every **three years**



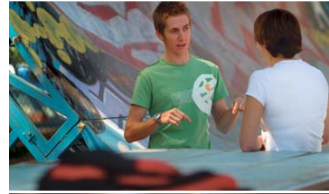
What will remain the same?

- ◆ There will be no changes to where cases are administered
 - Clients previously served by regional offices will continue to receive services from these offices
 - Clients previously served out of BAS Unit will continue to receive services from this unit
- ◆ There will be no changes to benefits or detailed program rules
- ◆ Supplementary Health Benefits will continue
- ◆ Trustee agreements will remain in place



What about clients who are invited but don't enroll?

- ◆ All SAP benefits, including Supplementary Health coverage, will continue without interruption
- ◆ Those who choose not to enroll (for whatever reason) will have opportunities to enroll in the future



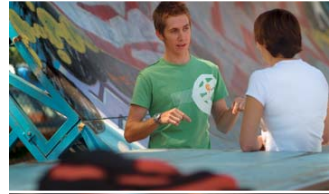
Where can I find more information?

- ◆ General information about the enrollment process and the SAID program will be posted on the Ministry's website:

<http://www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca>

Information can also be obtained by calling the Enrollment Unit at:

1-888-567-SAID (7243)



Last thoughts.....?

- ◆ The new program is **separate from SAP**
- ◆ It has its own name/identity and new language (eg. Assured Income Specialists)
- ◆ These changes are critically important to people with disabilities
- ◆ SAID signals the start of a new way for our Ministry to serve people with disabilities
- ◆ More will follow in future years, but we cannot overemphasize what an important milestone this new program is
- ◆ **Thanks to all of you for being part of this historic program implementation!**

