

Backgrounder

Improving Quality of Life for Persons With Disabilities Expansion of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program

Improving the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program

Expansion:

In 2009 the Saskatchewan Party government launched the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program to provide long-term support that was distinct from social assistance for individuals with significant and enduring disabilities.

Initially the program supported individuals in residential care who were known to have significant disabilities while the government consulted with stakeholders and developed criteria to assess the impact of disability and eligibility for the program.

With an assessment instrument now developed, as many as 7,000 additional individuals will qualify for the program, for total enrollment of approximately 10,000 individuals.

Increasing Benefits:

Beginning next year, a re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will also increase funding for the 10,000 people in the SAID program.

While benefits for specific individuals will vary based on the needs of an individual and the community in which they reside, average annual benefit increases per person will be as follows:

Persons in Residential Care:

Benefits increase by an additional **\$100/month** over four years:

Cumulative monthly increase by year: \$40 / \$60 / \$80 / \$100

Single Individuals:

Benefit increase by an additional **\$350/month** over four years.

Cumulative monthly increase by year: \$200 / \$250 / \$300 / \$350

Couples:

Benefits increase by an additional **\$400/month** over four years.

Cumulative monthly increase: \$230 / \$290 / \$345 / \$400



Cost:

Year 1: \$18.4M

Year 2: \$23.4M

Year 3: \$28.4M

Year 4: \$33.3M

The Saskatchewan Party Record for People With Disabilities

When the NDP government came to power, there was no waiting list for services for people with disabilities. Over 16 years of NDP government, the waitlist for services grew to 440 individuals. The Saskatchewan Party immediately began work to eliminate that waitlist. To date, the number of people with intellectual disabilities waiting for services has been reduced by 80 per cent.

In addition, the Saskatchewan Party government:

- Introduced the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program to provide people with disabilities a new, dignified and independent income support mechanism.
- Increased earning exemptions for individuals with disabilities in both the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and SAID.
- Increased the Disability Tax Credit.
- Increased funding for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) by almost 15 per cent.
- Increased the food allowance for CBO group homes for individuals with disabilities.
- Increased funding for the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities program.