



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Social Services
Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

JAN 25 2021

Ref: 107LC (19-21)

Meara Conway
3510 5th Avenue
REGINA SK S4T 0M2
mconway@ndpcaucus.sk.ca

Dear Meara Conway:

Thank you for your email dated January 7, 2021, regarding Awasiw: A Place of Hope, the new warming centre operated by the All Nations Hope Network and YWCA Regina.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to improving the quality of life for all people, including the most vulnerable amongst us. Through a range of income assistance programs, we provide basic financial support to individuals and families who do not have sufficient resources to cover their basic needs. We are mindful that our clients' needs are complex and many deal with challenges. Since 2007, we have increased our investment in programs that support people with low income by \$275.7 million, or nearly 90 per cent.

I understand Awasiw has received funding from the federal government through Reaching Home funding and the City of Regina and has requested funding from Indigenous Services Canada. Income Assistance does not have a program or assigned budget to fund the operational requirements Awasiw is seeking. We do, however, want to ensure that anyone who doesn't have sufficient resources to pay for their basic needs or are in need of shelter are able to access resources through the ministry.

Individuals in an emergency situation who don't have enough money to meet their basic needs can call the Client Service Centre or their local income assistance office. After regular business hours, Regina Mobile Crisis can be contacted at 306-757-0127 to address immediate basic needs such as emergency shelter. If friends or family are not an options, and emergency shelters are at capacity, closed or cannot meet an individual's or family's needs, the ministry or Regina Mobile Crisis can arrange income assistance benefits to be provided for short-term hotel stays while longer planning occurs with clients.

Everyone needs a warm and safe place to sleep during our cold winters. That's why the Government of Saskatchewan and our community-based partners are collaborating on Cold Weather Strategies again this year. The Ministry of Social Services is working closely with these partners to ensure everyone has access to safe shelter during cold weather.

The Social Housing Program is an option for housing for individuals and families in need. This program is intended to serve households with low incomes. The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) has approximately 3,100 social housing units in Regina managed by the Regina Housing Authority. Clients can contact the Regina Housing Authority at 306-525-2377 for more information. Income Assistance regularly makes referrals to this program where appropriate.

The Ministry of Social Services will continue to participate in the meetings hosted by Awasiw and provide information on services and programs available through the ministry.

Our government remains committed to supporting Saskatchewan's most vulnerable people.

Sincerely,



Lori Carr
Minister of Social Services

cc: Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Income Assistance Program and Service Design
Roger Parenteau, Executive Director, Housing Operations