



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

Minister of Social Services

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

Ref: 0722DH(9-16)

FEB - 1 2016

Mr. Neil Belanger  
Executive Director  
British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society  
1179 Kosapsum Cres  
VICTORIA BC V9A 7K7

Dear Mr. Belanger:

Thank you for your December 17, 2015, letter requesting to have November 2016, and all subsequent Novembers, proclaimed as “Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month” in Saskatchewan. I am responding to you on behalf of the Honourable Jim Reiter, Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs.

We would be pleased to proclaim November 2016, and all subsequent Novembers as “Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month” in Saskatchewan. We will diarize this request for the November 2016 proclamation; however, we require you submit a request for proclamation on an annual basis.

In the Saskatchewan *Plan for Growth*, we set a goal to make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities and committed to develop a disability strategy jointly with the disability community. As part of this process, a 15-member Citizen Consultation Team (CCT) was appointed and included representatives of the First Nations and Metis disability community of Saskatchewan. The CCT held a number of public consultations across the province in the spring of 2014. These included eight sessions specifically targeted towards Aboriginal people with disabilities, both on and off reserve, to gain a better understanding of the issues they experience in Saskatchewan.

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The result was a strategy entitled, *People Before Systems: Transforming the Experience of Disability in Saskatchewan*, which was released in June 2015 and can be found at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/people-with-disabilities/saskatchewan-disability-strategy>. While this initiative was led by the Ministry of Social Services, we all have a role to play creating an inclusive province that is welcoming responsive, innovative and accessible so that people who experience disability can live the life they choose.

Thank you again for writing and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,



Donna Harpauer  
Minister of Social Services

cc: Premier Brad Wall  
Honourable Jim Reiter, Minister of Government Relations and  
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs  
Chief Bobby Cameron, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations