



Government of
Saskatchewan

The Disability Inclusion Policy Framework

**Government's Response to the
Saskatchewan Council on Disability
Issues' Disability Action Plan**

June 2007

Table of Contents

Minister’s Message	3
The Disability Inclusion Policy Framework – Responding to the Disability Action Plan	
Introduction	4
Full Participation and Inclusion – Progress to Date	5
The Framework.....	8
A Shift in Disability Policy – Key Directions.....	9
What will be Different	12
Implementation – A Phased Approach	13
Appendix I	15
Progress on the <i>Disability Action Plan</i>	
Appendix II	36
Profile of People with Disabilities in Saskatchewan	

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Message from the Minister Responsible for Disability Issues

I am pleased to provide *The Disability Inclusion Policy Framework*, a government-wide response to the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issues' *Disability Action Plan*.

Building on the work of the council, the *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* provides us with a long-term vision and principles to address disability issues in Saskatchewan. The framework will guide the development and delivery of the province's disability programs now and into the future as we work together with individuals, families, community-based organizations, and employers towards full participation and inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

We have and will continue to make progress. Since the release of the *Disability Action Plan* by the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issues in 2001, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$49 million to support the participation and inclusion of people with disabilities.

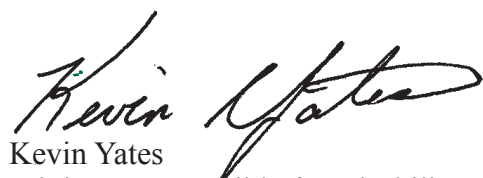
The *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* offers a unique Saskatchewan approach to disability issues. This new approach is based on the impact that a disability has on a person's ability to achieve social and economic inclusion.

The *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* is a long-term commitment. Over time, this new policy direction will provide more options for individuals with disabilities and their families and respond to their unique needs. Ultimately, the framework will change Saskatchewan culture to increase awareness and understanding of disability issues and create more opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

While our goal is to assist as many Saskatchewan individuals as possible to become economically and socially independent, we recognize there are some individuals who will always require some level of assistance and support. We are committed to continuing to provide assistance and support while we develop new ways to include people with disabilities in the community.

We will continue our work together – as individuals, communities, business and government – to provide all Saskatchewan people with the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the economic, social and cultural life of the province to the extent they are able and ensure that no one is left behind.

Sincerely,



Kevin Yates
Minister Responsible for Disability Issues

The Disability Inclusion Policy Framework – Responding to the Disability Action Plan

Introduction

The *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* provides a new direction and a common understanding of disability that will guide the provincial government and the community as we examine our complex disability support service system. This new direction builds on the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issues' *Disability Action Plan* and is grounded in principles accepted by the federal, provincial and territorial governments in the 1998 vision paper *In Unison: A Canadian Approach to Disability Issues*.

This new approach is based on the *impact* that a disability has on a person's ability to achieve social and economic inclusion. This framework provides the basis to more fully develop person-centred services matched to need, which will help individuals with disabilities to perform the activities of everyday life, to support themselves through employment and to participate in the community.

The *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* is a joint effort of the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issues and the departments of Community Resources, Health, Learning, Advanced Education and Employment, Justice, Corrections and Public Safety, and the Public Service Commission. This partnership reflects the fact that disability is a policy and service delivery issue that crosses department and sector boundaries.

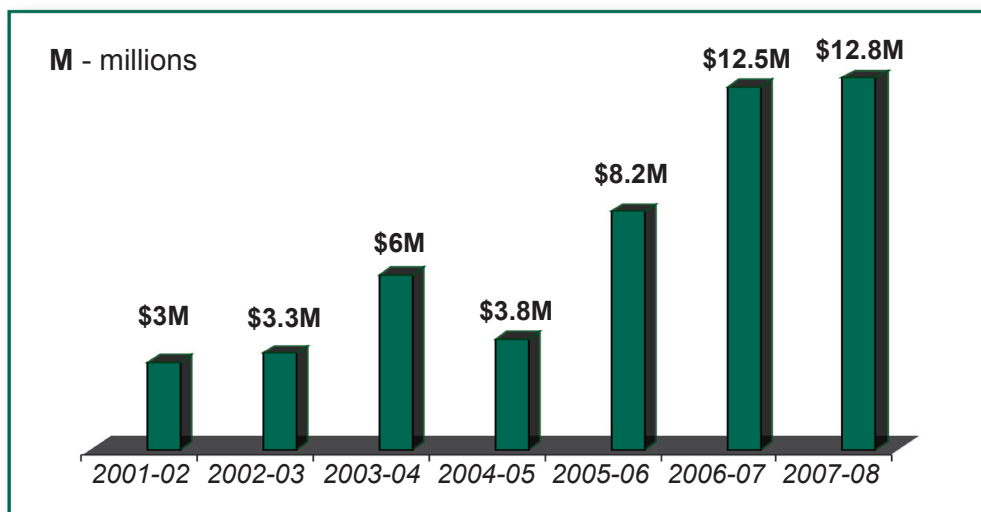
If the *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* is to be successfully applied, it is important that individuals and families, community-based organizations, employers and government departments work together. The active involvement of all parties will play a large part in our success as we move in this new direction.

Full Participation and Inclusion – Progress to Date

In June 2001, the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issues presented its *Disability Action Plan* to government. The plan provided a comprehensive, thoughtful analysis of disability issues and possible solutions for a more inclusive, fair approach for government programs and services.

Government recognized that full participation and inclusion for people with disabilities requires a series of steps due to the complexity of the issue. The *Disability Action Plan* has guided government's direction in taking these steps toward the goal of full participation and inclusion.

Since 2001, government has invested over \$49 million and made significant policy changes for supports and services for people with disabilities and their families.



Key Investments and Policy Changes

Disability supports

- The *Cognitive Disabilities Strategy* that includes people with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). www.health.gov.sk.ca
- An individualized funding option for home care administered through the province's regional health authorities.
- Legislative amendments that allow the Public Guardian and Trustee to investigate serious claims of financial abuse of persons with disabilities and seniors.

-
- Community Living Division's redesigned respite program for families with children with intellectual disabilities.

Education

- Improvements to Child Day Care that recognize disability needs, including increased funding for the Child Day Care Inclusion Program for children with disabilities. www.sasked.gov.sk.ca
- Changes to the Saskatchewan Student Loans Program that allow students with disabilities to take 40 per cent of a course load and still be considered full-time. Saskatchewan also introduced a provincial debt forgiveness program to match the federal program. www.aee.gov.sk.ca

Housing

- The Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) has committed to eight initiatives, or 74 units, for individuals with disabilities.
- A Disability Rental Housing Supplement was introduced in April 2005 for low-income individuals with disabilities to recognize the extra costs of disability.

Transportation

- Replacement of 71 paratransit vehicles and an increase in municipal funding to improve paratransit services.

Accessibility

- Over \$6 million of capital improvements to increase the accessibility of government buildings.

Employment

- Public Service Commission's Recruitment and Retention of Persons with Disabilities Program to improve the representation of people with disabilities in the public service.
- The Employment Supports for Persons with Disabilities Program that helps individuals enter and remain in the work force. Supplementary health benefits can also be extended for one year for individuals with disabilities who leave social assistance for work.

Number of People with Disabilities Hired by the Saskatchewan Government

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Permanent	34	24	27	45
Perm-part time	18	6	12	17
Term	62	60	97	120
Percentage of people with disabilities overall	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.5%

Income Support

- **Saskatchewan Assistance Plan enhancements:**
 - Adult Basic Allowance increase of \$60 per month (a 31 per cent increase) for individuals on social assistance
 - Room and Board Allowance increase of \$60 per month and the Personal Living Allowance for individuals in residential care increase of \$30 per month
 - Level of Care rates increase of \$62 per month
 - earnings exemption increase for people with disabilities working and receiving social assistance
 - Disability Allowance increase of \$10 per month
 - people on social assistance can also participate in the Saskatchewan Pension Plan without a loss of income.
- Disability-related tax credit amounts, including the Disability Tax Credit and the Caregiver Tax Credit, have been indexed to the cost of living.

Saskatchewan's Disability Inclusion Policy Framework

Vision:

Saskatchewan people with disabilities participate fully in the economic and social life of their communities and the province.

Values:

Saskatchewan people with disabilities:

- have the same rights and responsibilities as all citizens
- have the same inherent worth and dignity as all citizens
- are recognized and valued for their skills and talents
- have opportunities to make a good life for themselves in Saskatchewan.

Goals:

- Saskatchewan people with disabilities have equitable access to disability supports that reduce barriers to participation in the economy and communities.
- Saskatchewan people with disabilities have equitable access to paid employment, learning opportunities, volunteer opportunities and other productive and life-enriching roles.
- Public services help achieve comparable life outcomes for Saskatchewan people with disabilities.

Principles:

- Disability is part of the human condition and should be accommodated and accepted by society.
- People with disabilities should be encouraged to develop to their potential and to contribute to communities and the economy according to their capacities and wishes.
- People with disabilities, their families and their support networks should be engaged in the development of policies and services that affect them.
- People with disabilities, their families and their support networks should have opportunities to take an active role in developing the support systems that serve them.
- Services and programs provided to support people with disabilities should be based on the impact of the disability on the person's daily life and ability to participate in a workplace.

The Need for a Disability Inclusion Policy Framework

While we have made progress towards the goal of full participation and inclusion, we need a guide for disability policy that provides a vision and direction for everyone to use.

The *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* will serve as that guide. By following the framework's vision, values, goals and principles, we will develop consistent policy, plan programs and provide services that will better support and include individuals with disabilities.

The framework offers a unique Saskatchewan approach that enables government to balance the needs of citizens with disabilities with the resources available to the province.

A Shift in Disability Policy – Key Directions

A Focus on Life Outcomes

Citizenship is a balance of rights and responsibilities. The framework takes a citizenship approach by providing people with disabilities greater opportunities to direct their lives and participate fully in their communities. The framework also acknowledges that people with disabilities can contribute to their own well-being and their communities.

The framework is based upon the belief that every citizen should have a fair chance at a good life. For most people, a good life is a nurturing childhood, a good education, a job, a home, a family, and strong community connections. The goal of disability policy is for people with disabilities to have the same life outcomes as those without disabilities.

Promoting Self-determination and Recognizing Interdependence

A citizenship approach supports people with disabilities so they can direct their own lives while still recognizing the relationships of family, friends, support networks and communities. The framework embraces this approach by encouraging individuals and families to determine and manage their supports.

Engaging the Disability Community

The framework commits to engaging the disability community as we move forward. People with disabilities, their families and their support networks, including community-based organizations, will be involved in the development of policies and service responses that affect them.

Person-centred Service Delivery

The framework provides the basis to organize service systems around the needs of individuals or families. This involves individuals or families identifying their own needs, participating in defining a service response, and taking an active part in the management of the supports or resources.

Recognizing Mutual Obligations

The potential of individuals with disabilities to contribute to their own well being and their communities must be acknowledged. Individuals with disabilities have the responsibility to contribute to the economic and social life of their communities to the extent they are able. At the same time, society and governments have an obligation to accommodate, welcome and include individuals with disabilities.

A New Approach to Disability

Disability as part of the human condition

Effective public policy recognizes that disability is a common and shared human experience. Almost all individuals experience some form of limitation, particularly as they age. Disability is not experienced by a separate group of people; it is part of the human condition.

Impact of disability

Because a person's health condition may require either medical treatment or management, accurate identification through medical diagnosis is often an important part of a service response for people with disabilities. However, medical diagnosis is often not effective as the full means of determining the type of supports that might help the individual.

Despite its shortcomings, diagnosis has often been used to decide if a person is eligible for non-medical, disability supports, partly because there has not been a better alternative. As a result, responses to people with an identical diagnosis but different needs, or to people with the same needs but a different diagnosis, have not always been fair.

Similar disability – different supports

Jared injured his spinal cord in a car accident. Allison was born with cerebral palsy. Both use a wheelchair and both need transportation, wheelchair-accessible homes and workplaces, and medical supplies. Currently, Jared and Allison receive different services because their diagnosis and how they acquired their disability are different. The impact of disability on their day-to-day lives, however, is much the same.

This new approach moves away from providing supports based on a diagnosis or medical criteria to providing supports based on the *impact* of disability. Differences in the impact of a disability between one individual and another may be the result of the nature and severity of the health condition, their life circumstances, and the barriers and supports that are part of their lives.

With an impact of disability approach, the focus shifts from labelling people as “disabled” to providing the supports people need to participate and be included in communities and the economy. This is a key element of an effective disability strategy and flows from our understanding of disability as a normal part of the human condition.

Same disability, different impacts

Jordan works full-time as a computer drafts person. He has advanced rheumatoid arthritis that limits his movements and he is in pain every day. Jordan and his common-law partner have extended health coverage and family and friends who help with the chores around the house. They can also afford to hire extra help, such as a cleaning or yard service, if need be.

Terri has exactly the same disability as Jordan. She is a single mother living on a low, fixed income. Like Jordan, Terri owns her home; however, she does not have close friends or family to help her around the house and she cannot afford to hire someone.

This example shows how Terri has a greater impact of disability than Jordan because of differences in life circumstances, environment and available supports.

Fairness in the Provision of Supports

A key direction of this new approach to disability policy is ensuring disability supports are provided in a fair manner. Fairness is achieved when individuals and families with the same needs receive the same or similar service responses. It is also achieved when individuals and families with the fewest personal resources receive the greatest support from the community.

What will be Different?

The *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* will create a provincial response that is more fair and consistent over time.

- Supports and services will be better matched to people's needs.
- Individuals and families will have greater control of disability supports and services with more opportunities to self-manage those supports.

- Service systems will be more integrated and better able to respond to the needs of people with disabilities.
- People with similar needs will receive similar or consistent service responses.
- People with disabilities, their families and support networks will have greater involvement in the development of disability supports and services.

This is what we will achieve through the framework:

Existing Service Approach	Disability Inclusion Approach
Eligibility based on diagnosis biomedical criteria	Eligibility based on impact of disability
Service/program-centered	Person-centered
“One size fits all” and “on/off” responses	Measured responses based on need
Fragmented service delivery	Integrated service delivery
Passive and residual measures (e.g. welfare)	Active measures (e.g. disability employment supports)

Implementation - A Phased Approach

The framework charts a new course that over time will change the way government and community-based organizations deliver services and supports to people with disabilities and their families. Changing services and systems so they align with the framework is a long-term process that will involve restructuring programs and services. The impact of these changes should not be underestimated and will require the support and assistance of everyone.

Implementation of the Framework has Already Begun

Key principles of the framework have already been incorporated in government initiatives, including the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy, Employment Supports for People with Disabilities and the new Disability Rental Housing Supplement. These programs move away from eligibility based on a medical model toward eligibility based on the impact of a disability on the individual.

The *Disability Inclusion Policy Framework* represents government's commitment to changing the disability service system in Saskatchewan. Over time, this framework will result in a more flexible and responsive system for people with disabilities that supports the goals of full participation and inclusion.

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

I. Awareness and Understanding

Council Directions (Path Forward)

- Society recognizes and acts upon its responsibility to work with the disability community to further the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in community affairs and activities.
- Individuals with disabilities and their families understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities.
- Individuals and their communities advocate for disability issues.

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>1. The Disability Inclusion Lens, currently being developed by the Office of Disability Issues and a joint community and government working group, be implemented by the spring of 2002.</p>	<p>The <i>Disability Inclusion Policy Framework</i> is the Government of Saskatchewan’s new way of doing business in its approach to disability and disability issues. It provides a consistent vision, values, goals and principals to guide all our work now and into the future. <i>The Disability Inclusion Policy Framework</i> is, in effect, the basis for a “disability inclusion lens.”</p>
<p>2. The Disability Inclusion Lens be used consistently throughout government.</p>	<p>With the adoption of the <i>Disability Inclusion Policy Framework</i>, the Government of Saskatchewan has ensured that the principles of the framework are incorporated in policy work all across government. It will be incorporated into the decision-making process and ongoing communication will be required both internal and external to government. The disability community will be able to use the framework to ensure that programs and services are consistent with the <i>Disability Inclusion Policy Framework</i>.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

II. Safety and Security

Council Directions (Path Forward)

- Individuals with disabilities are safe and secure in their communities and are free from abuse and neglect.
- Individuals with disabilities and their families have access to a range of decision-making supports that respond to individual needs.

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>3. Government of Saskatchewan pass proposed amendments to <i>The Public Trustee Act</i> that would create a Public Guardian and Trustee.</p>	<p><i>The Public Trustee Amendment Act, 2001</i>, was proclaimed May 17, 2002, except for section 18, which authorizes the Public Guardian and Trustee to act as personal public guardian.</p>
<p>4. Government of Saskatchewan pass and implement proposed amendments to <i>The Public Trustee Act</i> that would provide measures to address financial abuse.</p>	<p>Section 19 of <i>The Public Trustee Amendment Act, 2001</i> was proclaimed and implemented in February 2005. The Public Guardian and Trustee can now investigate serious allegations of financial abuse of people with disabilities and seniors.</p>
<p>5. Government of Saskatchewan promote awareness around violence and abuse of individuals with disabilities.</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence Inc. (STOPS), funded by Saskatchewan Justice, Health and Community Resources, is a partnership among government, community-based organizations and individuals working towards a common vision of a violence-free Saskatchewan. Individuals and organizations working in the disability community are part of this partnership.</p> <p>In 2003, three representatives from Saskatchewan Justice (Prosecutions, Victims Services and Courts) attended sessions that qualified them to provide training on the topic of Disabilities and the Justice System. This was part of a national initiative to train trainers across the country. Sessions have been provided within Saskatchewan Justice.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

II. Safety and Security (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>5. (cont'd)</p>	<p>The staff of the Community Justice Division of Saskatchewan Justice were provided training on disability issues in Saskatchewan, and on the experiences of a person living with a disability.</p> <p>Community Living Division is currently undertaking a review of the participant abuse policy to ensure it reflects best practice in the prevention and reporting of abuse. This review also will consider the training requirements of staff as well as people with disabilities regarding abuse.</p> <p>All Community Living Division approved private-service homes licensed by Community Living Division participated in violence policy training to prevent, reduce and respond to the incidence of violence against people with intellectual disabilities. Training is ongoing for new homes.</p>
<p>6. Government of Saskatchewan promote awareness regarding assisted and substitute decision-making.</p>	<p>Public documents relating to <i>The Adult Guardianship Act</i> and <i>The Powers of Attorney Act</i> have been made available online at the Saskatchewan Justice website. Awareness and information has also been addressed through public legal education materials around various aspects of substitute decision-making.</p> <p>Community Living Division has recently completed a comprehensive training strategy, which includes supported decision-making as a support strategy, for its service providers across the province. Training resources are currently being developed to enable this training to be provided on an ongoing basis.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

II. Safety and Security (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>7. Government of Saskatchewan provide resources for emergency support services for individuals with disabilities wanting to leave abusive situations, including emergency respite, attendant care services and accessible shelters.</p>	<p>The Shelter Enhancement – Renovation Program of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation provides financial assistance for repairs necessary to bring existing shelters to an acceptable level of health, safety and security for victims of family violence, as well as for development of new shelters. Victims of family violence are provided priority access to quality, affordable rental housing through local housing authorities. Accessible Transition Houses funded through this program include: Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women; YWCA of Regina - Isobel Johnson Shelter; Wichihik Iskewak Safe House (W.I.S.H.) Inc. in Regina; and the YWCA Crisis Shelter and Residence in Saskatoon.</p>
<p>8. Government of Saskatchewan provide resources to develop and maintain personal support networks and supported decision-making networks for individuals with disabilities.</p>	<p>Community Living Division’s Comprehensive Personal Planning and Support Policy establishes province-wide direction for staff, all CBOs and licensed homes funded by Community Living Division. This policy establishes supported decision-making as the process to be used where individuals require assistance in making decisions. Policy and implementation training for all CBOs and approved private service homes occurred in 2006/2007. Requirement for implementation of the policy is now included in service agreements beginning with the 2007/2008 fiscal year.</p>
<p>9. Government of Saskatchewan develop a process enabling low-income families with members with disabilities to access legal information regarding wills and estate planning.</p>	<p>No progress to report.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

III. Disability Supports

Council Directions (Path Forward)

- Individuals with disabilities and their families have access to disability supports that meet their needs.
- Disability supports are person-centred not system-centred. Supports are linked to the individual rather than to the program and remain with the individual as long as they are needed.
- The extra costs of disability (direct and indirect) are recognized and addressed.
- Individuals with disabilities and their families have an active role in the development of policy and procedures and delivery of needed disability supports.

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>10. <i>Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL)</i> program be modified to be more flexible and responsive to individual needs and include an effective and transparent appeal process.</p>	<p>In partnership with key stakeholders, a working group will be established in 2007/08 to make recommendations for changes to the SAIL program for equipment and support needs of people with disabilities.</p>
<p>11. Home care services (e.g. personal supports, home making and professional health care services) be provided for individuals with disabilities to enable them to live independently in their community.</p>	<p>Since the release of the action plan in 2001, the province has invested an additional 36.4 per cent in home care services for a total of \$118 million in 2007/08. Many of these services assist people with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>A home care policy exists to assist regional health authorities in funding the direct care costs of children with very exceptional home care needs where the alternative would be the child living in an institutional setting. Based on assessed needs, the regional health authority is responsible to provide the first \$3,335 of care per month, and the balance of funding is provided to the regional health authority from Saskatchewan Health.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

III. Disability Supports (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>12. Home care services include options for self and/or family-managed care and individualized funding.</p>	<p>This recommendation was implemented in October 2002. The Individualized Funding option of the home care program is available through the regional health authorities.</p>
<p>13. Quality respite care that is accessible, flexible and affordable be provided to families caring for children and adults with disabilities and for seniors in need of care.</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Health, through the Home Care Program administered by regional health authorities, provides respite for those with assessed need. In the 2007/08 budget, \$300,000 was invested in respite for children with very complex needs.</p> <p>Community consultations in 2005 on Community Living Divisions' family-managed respite program provided input for policy development. Community Living Division redesigned and implemented a new respite program in March 2007 that moves toward support based on the impact of disability and assessed need.</p> <p>Family-managed respite is a direct support as part of the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy.</p>
<p>14. Access to respite programs be based on need.</p>	<p>Access to respite through home care and special care homes is currently based on assessed need and assessed risk if the service is not provided.</p> <p>This principle has also been incorporated into the Cognitive Disability Benefit through the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy.</p> <p>This is also a key principle of the redesigned Community Living Division respite program. Benefits to families are based on assessed need and relate to a family's ability to contribute.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

III. Disability Supports (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>15. Daycare services be enhanced to support families providing for and supporting individuals with disabilities. Day supervision programs be provided for older children, youth and seniors.</p>	<p>Daycare has been enhanced to recognize disability needs. \$1.5 million was allocated in the 2001/02 budget as part of the Early Childhood Development Strategy, and a further \$450,000 was allocated in 2002/03 to help child care centres accommodate children with disabilities. In 2005/06, an additional \$400,000 was made available for children with disabilities within the Child Day Care Inclusion Program.</p> <p>Numerous day programs in activity centres are funded through Community Living Division, which received budget increases of \$1.1 million in 2004/05, \$1.3 million in 2005/06 and a further \$2.0 million in 2006/07. In 2007/08, an additional \$1.6 million will be invested in the development of new or enhanced community-based residential and day program supports to advance the citizenship and inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities.</p>
<p>16. Existing home modification programs be consolidated so that programs are co-ordinated and more easily accessible to individuals with disabilities.</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Home Adaptations for Independence Program (SHAIP) and the Saskatchewan Rental Repair Program were introduced in June 2005 as part of the HomeFirst strategy. The Saskatchewan Home Adaptations for Independence Program is available to non-seniors and provides a maximum forgivable loan of \$3,500 for disability-related home modifications. A more streamlined application process has been introduced that helps match applicants to the most suitable program. The Saskatchewan Rental Repair Program helps landlords bring their properties to a standard that would allow their tenants (families or people with disabilities) qualify for help through the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement Program.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

III. Disability Supports (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>17. The Government of Saskatchewan increase supportive living arrangements and affordable housing options that facilitate living in the community.</p>	<p>The HomeFirst strategy prioritizes supportive living arrangements and affordable housing for people with disabilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 32 accessible suites at the South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre's Access Place - increased independent living and residential services for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Saskatoon - a new disability rental housing supplement that helps low-income families and individuals with disabilities to obtain accessible, quality and affordable rental housing - a 16-unit housing project for people with a mental health disability was developed in Moose Jaw in 2005 - 12 accessible condominium bungalows at Saskatoon's Hunter Crossing. <p>Community Living Division has incorporated the development of additional supportive living arrangements as part of its performance measures. Twelve new spaces were created in 2003/04, an additional 15 spaces for 2004/05, 14 spaces in 2005/06 and 12 new spaces were developed in 2006/07.</p> <p>Acute Mental Health Home Care has been implemented in all regional health authorities to support persons being discharged from in-patient mental health wards. Budget of \$1.1 million in 2007/08.</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

III. Disability Supports (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>18. The Government of Saskatchewan develop an action plan on paratransit services in partnership with local governments that would address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - operational funding; - vehicle replacement; and, - provincial best practises or guidelines for paratransit services, including training for drivers, passenger safety, and for improved services for persons with 'invisible disabilities' and seniors. These best practises to be developed in consultation with users of the paratransit services. 	<p>An action plan and new funding formula have been developed. In the 2002/03 budget, a \$500,000 increase to base funding. Over the last six years, 71 vehicles have been replaced. Ongoing operational funding is currently \$2.65 million, plus provision has been made to fund five new buses per year.</p>
<p>19. The mandate and operations of Social Services Community Living Division be reviewed in light of the Disability Action.</p>	<p>Community Living Division's planning and service delivery within the context of the Saskatchewan Community Resources strategic plan, which includes citizenship and inclusion, has been very consistent with the <i>Disability Action Plan</i>. Community Living Division's budget has increased in recent years to increase community capacity.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

IV. Health

Council Directions (Path Forward)

- Health services adopt person-centred planning and self/family management deliver options.
- Disability supports are linked to the individual not the program. Services reflect and adapt to changing needs of individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the life span.
- Individuals with disabilities and their families have access to information to make informed decisions regarding care.
- Barriers to accessing treatment are reduced (for persons unable to give informed consent) so that individuals with disabilities have a 'right to treatment.'

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>20. Increase the capacity of community-based early childhood intervention programs to ensure timely support and programming.</p>	<p>\$2.88 million dollars is provided to 17 community-based organizations to provide support and programming to Saskatchewan children and families. Since November 1, 2005, funding has increased by over 8 per cent.</p>
<p>21. Increase the availability of diagnostic services for infants and children with disabilities, particularly in the North and rural centres.</p>	<p>The Cognitive Disability Strategy has increased access to diagnostic and assessment services for individuals with cognitive disabilities in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. These three teams provide service to all residents of Saskatchewan. The Saskatoon team also provides traveling clinics in select northern communities. Work is also under way to develop a telehealth program to provide services to northern Saskatchewan.</p> <p>In 2007/08, the annualized amount of \$927,000 will be provided to maintain assessment and diagnostic services delivered through the Regina Qu'Appelle, Saskatoon and Prince Albert Parkland regional health authorities to improve province-wide access to services.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

IV. Health (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>22. Government of Saskatchewan increase accessibility to and the level of rehabilitation and therapy services for children with disabilities.</p>	<p>In 2007/08, \$750,000 will be allocated to expand outpatient rehabilitation services for children in health regions targeted with highest demonstrated need. In 2006/07, \$250,000 was invested. Services may include occupational therapy, speech language pathology and other therapy services.</p> <p>In 2007/08, \$2.99 million has been targeted to build the infrastructure and capacity for expanded autism supports that include training of professionals who work with children who have autism. Some funds will also be used to provide enhanced supports to children with autism and their families.</p>
<p>23. Government of Saskatchewan develop and implement a rehabilitation and therapy services model that recognizes that individuals with disabilities require ongoing lifelong rehabilitation and therapy services for optimum health.</p>	<p>Rehabilitation and therapy services are available to people with disabilities through the regional health authorities. The services aim to promote maximum independence, and are available based on need within the resources allocated.</p>
<p>24. Government of Saskatchewan provide resources to assist health districts to make their facilities and services more accessible to individuals with disabilities and their families.</p>	<p>In November 2004, an immediate \$66 million investment in several priority areas to improve patient access to quality health care was announced following the First Ministers' meeting in Ottawa in September. This includes \$20 million for replacement and upgrades to equipment supporting patient care, infrastructure upgrades and maintenance, telehealth, and equipment supporting safer workplaces.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

IV. Health (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>25. Government of Saskatchewan increase resources for mental health services for the treatment, rehabilitation and long-term support of mental health disabilities.</p>	<p>The budget for mental health rose to \$113.7 million in 2007/08. In 2007/08 the budget included an annualized \$2.5 million for children and youth, including support for a psychiatrist and additional social worker for distance consultation in the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region as well as seven outreach workers in Prince Albert, Yorkton, Regina, Saskatoon, the Battlefords, La Ronge and Beauval. In 2008/09, this funding is expected to rise to \$3.0 million annualized. The funding for children and youth also includes additional resources for autism services, early psychosis intervention, specialist consultation, outreach and respite services, and family-based residential services.</p>
<p>26. Government of Saskatchewan promote and facilitate the integration of health services with other community services (education, social services, community-based organizations, etc.) for persons with disabilities to develop a more seamless service delivery system.</p>	<p>The government has introduced the Integrated Case Management Model and developed a Complex Needs Case Protocol. These tools have facilitated the integration of services for people with disabilities. An integrated approach to supports and services is also a key component of School^{PLUS}, and the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy. Program integration is a priority under the framework.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

V. Education

Council Directions (Path Forward)

- All individuals have equal access to, and benefit from, educational programming and services throughout their life span. Programs may be mainstream or specialized and disability supports are provided based on individual need. Parents, caregivers and individuals have more choice in the type of supports and services they access.
- Educational opportunities focus on the improvement of the quality of life of individuals with disabilities and not only on employability and entry to the labour market.
- Student financial assistance programs recognize and respond to the additional costs of disability and the challenges that individuals with disabilities experience in the repayment of student loans.
- Parents/caregivers and/or individuals with disabilities are full partners in determining educational programs, whether mainstream programs, special programs, or a combination of programs. This includes having full access to information that will assist them in making informed decisions with respect to educational programs.

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>27. Government of Saskatchewan promote the inclusion of students with disabilities in neighbourhood schools.</p>	<p>Inclusion of students with disabilities is supported through the Children’s Services Policy Framework (Saskatchewan Learning, 2002); resources for educators (e.g. <i>Creating Opportunities for Students with Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities</i>); and supports through the ACCESS program.</p> <p>Incremental funding recognition is provided through the Foundation Operating Grant to assist boards of education to provide specialized support services and programs for students with disabilities. In 2007/2008, a total of \$138.38 million of the provincial Foundation Operating Grant was targeted to support students with exceptional learning and behavioural needs: \$64.38 million for Special Education Intensive Supports and \$74 million for Diversity. This represents an increase of almost \$10 million from 2005/2006.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

V. Education (cont'd)	
Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>28. Government of Saskatchewan ensure that all children with disabilities, beginning from birth, receive early childhood education and early intervention services to meet their needs, and that appropriate educational and intervention services continue through the life span.</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Learning provides funding recognition to support boards of education to identify and provide appropriate programs and services for preschool students with disabilities. The department also provides funding to support the inclusion of children 0-12 years, with disabilities, in licensed child care facilities.</p>
<p>29. Government of Saskatchewan promote collaboration among government departments, health districts and school divisions to ensure that disability supports and health related services are available for children and youth with disabilities in all educational institutions.</p>	<p>Collaboration for the provision of health-related supports is promoted and supported through various interdepartmental mechanisms that promote the collaborative provision of services. As well, the document Planning for Health-Related Supports for Children and Youth developed by Saskatchewan Health and Saskatchewan Learning has been made available to stakeholders.</p>
<p>30. Government of Saskatchewan explore options to provide support for parents to advocate for children in the education system.</p>	<p>Guidelines and options for parents and school divisions are outlined in the Children's Service Policy 4.1 (Personal Program Plans) and 7.11 (Local Review of Decisions).</p>
<p>31. Government of Saskatchewan implement a fair and independent appeal process for students or guardians to appeal school decisions or board policies.</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Learning supports the rights of parents and guardians of students with disabilities to appeal the decision of a school board with respect to the determination of the student's disability, the placement of the student in a special program and the supportive educational services provided to the student. <i>The Education Act, 1995</i> (s. 186.1) currently recognizes the rights of parents of special needs students to access an appeal process, which requires the matter to be reviewed by a person or persons not involved in the decision being appealed. Saskatchewan Learning is currently reviewing the legislative and</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

V. Education (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>31. (cont'd)</p>	<p>regulatory requirements for the identification and provision of intensive needs students and will take into consideration the recommendation as work progresses on this important issue.</p>
<p>32. Government of Saskatchewan address barriers and disincentives that restrict individuals with disabilities from accessing post-secondary educational opportunities. Some of the issues to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access to support that covers the disability-related costs of attending post-secondary education institutions; and - a disability-sensitive student loan policy that provides flexible student loan repayment options and expanded forgiveness options that are sensitive to individual circumstances and needs, and income levels. 	<p>Grants are available to address disability-related costs of attending post-secondary education institutions through the Employability Assistance for People with Disabilities Program and for students who are eligible for student loan funding, through Canada/Saskatchewan Study Grant for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities.</p> <p>The definition of “full-time” for students with disabilities in the Canada and Saskatchewan Student Loans Programs allows students with disabilities to take 40 per cent of a course load and still be considered full-time.</p> <p>The Canada Student Loans Program has repositioned the study grant for high-need students with permanent disabilities. The Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities now provides a grant of up to \$2,000 of the student’s assessed need. Loans are then issued in addition to the grant for students with more than \$2,000 in assessed need.</p> <p>The Canada and Saskatchewan Student Loans Programs have enhanced the Permanent Disability Benefit by removing the condition that the disability occurs within six months of the student completing studies. The Permanent Disability Benefit forgives debt for students who are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to repay their loan.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

VI. Employment

Council Directions (Path Forward)

- Disability supports that facilitate attachment to the labour force are separated from income support.
- Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities are increased through accommodation in the work place and through provision of supports based on need.
- Individuals with disabilities are recruited in all job categories in the provincial public service.
- Volunteer work is promoted and recognized as contributing to the economic, social and cultural fabric of our society.
- The positive and valued contributions of individuals with disabilities to the work force are promoted and recognized.

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>33. Government of Saskatchewan and Crown Corporations develop and implement an aggressive employment strategy for individuals with disabilities by 2002 that specifies goals and timetables for achieving a representative workforce. Elements of the strategy include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of future employment needs • Accommodations (e.g. job redesign, job coaches, mentorships) • Expansion of summer student work opportunities and co-op education opportunities in high school and university to enable individuals with disabilities to gain work experience • Peer support for individuals with disabilities employed in the public service • Work site physical accessibility • Participation in disability awareness initiatives 	<p>Although a formal strategy has not been developed, elements of the suggested strategy have been implemented. The Public Service Commission has a dedicated resource to work with executive government managers to match individuals with disabilities to jobs, enhance employer awareness and provide access and advice on accommodations and supports. The project consultant works closely with agencies that serve people with disabilities and with government managers, providing ongoing monitoring and follow-up with new employees and their supervisors/work units. This support on the job has been found to be critical to successful job maintenance.</p> <p>Representatives from the Public Service Commission, the Office of Disability Issues and the departments of Justice and Advanced Education and Employment are developing a disability support network (DSN) for executive government and crown corporation employees with disabilities.</p> <p>The Department of Advanced Education and Employment has assumed responsibility for programming that provides employment</p>

Progress on the Disability Action Plan

VI. Employment (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
33. (cont'd)	opportunities for students with disabilities in the public service through the Student Employment Experience Program, in partnership with the Public Service Commission.
34. Government of Saskatchewan support continued expansion and enhancement of supported employment initiatives.	The Supported Employment Transition Initiative (SETI) started as a three-year demonstration project with the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) to support their agencies to provide sustainable employment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Department of Advanced Education and Employment, through the Career and Employment Services Branch, will provide an additional \$100,000 to the Supported Employment Transition Initiative in the new fiscal year for an annual contribution of \$407,303. This funding increase will provide additional employment opportunities for people with disabilities by strengthening relationships with employers in specific sectors.
35. Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with community agencies, develop supports/programs to assist individuals with disabilities to volunteer in their communities.	No progress to report.
36. Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the private sector and the disability community, develop a labour market strategy for individuals with disabilities. Some of the elements of such a strategy might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and funding for private sector employers with innovative employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities • Strengthen support for community-based employment services for individuals with disabilities 	<p>The Building Independence Strategy aims to maximize labour force participation of all adult residents of Saskatchewan who are able to work. The strategy strengthens employment supports and promotes greater integration of people with disabilities in their communities.</p> <p>Since fiscal 2001/02, over \$29 million has been provided by Career and Employment Services to increase the employability of people with disabilities.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

VI. Employment (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>36. (cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage self-employment and entrepreneurial activities in rural, urban and northern areas for individuals with disabilities • Expansion of summer student work opportunities, co-op education and internship opportunities in high school and university to enable individuals with disabilities to gain work experience 	<p>Advanced Education and Employment provides multi-year funding to CBOs delivering career and employment services to individuals with barriers to employment, including people with disabilities. Multi-year funding has strengthened community-based employment services to people with disabilities. An additional three-year, \$30 million investment was announced in 2005 to assist CBOs to attract and retain staff by improving wages of front-line staff.</p> <p>Self-employment training is available through Career and Employment Services offices to unemployed individuals, including people with disabilities.</p> <p>The federal government, through Western Economic Diversification, has established the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program. Saskatchewan Industry and Resources funds small business loan associations – some dedicated to people with disabilities. A disability-related small business loan association recently won an award for job creation.</p>

VII. Income

Council Directions (Path Forward)

- Individuals with disabilities are eligible for disability supports separate from social assistance.
- Social assistance encourages participation in the work force without penalty.
- Programs recognize and provide for additional costs incurred by individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Program and policy responses recognize and address the impact of disability and not the presence of disability.

Progress on Disability Action Plan

VII. Income (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>37. The Government of Saskatchewan develop an income and disability supports model that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • separates disability supports from income • addresses the additional costs of disability • provides supports based on individual need • creates measures to facilitate the movement of individuals with disabilities into the labour market • separates training allowances and wages from income support • develops a quality of life/disability supplement outside of social assistance for individuals with disabilities who may not be able to participate in competitive employment 	<p>Community Resources is reviewing the supports available to people with disabilities, as well as the method by which support is provided. Options are being explored to provide disability supports outside of social assistance, which would benefit both those able and those unable to work. Examples of the principle in practice include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the option for those on social assistance to participate in the Saskatchewan Pension Plan without the loss of income • the extension of supplementary health benefits for a year for persons with disabilities leaving social assistance for employment • a new disability housing supplement for low-income persons with disabilities. <p>In addition, the 2003/04 provincial budget provided for an increase to the monthly social assistance disability allowance in recognition of the extra costs of living with a disability.</p> <p>In 2005/06, the earnings exemption for persons with disabilities working and receiving social assistance was increased; there was also an increase to the adult basic allowance for individuals receiving social assistance.</p> <p>In 2006/07, the adult basic allowance for individuals receiving social assistance was increased by \$40 per month. Approximately 10,000 people with disabilities received this increase to their allowance for basic necessities such as food, clothing, and other personal needs. In addition, approximately 2,900 adults living in residential care facilities, where food, shelter and care needs are provided, received an additional \$20 per month in their personal living allowance.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

VII. Income (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
37. (cont'd)	<p>Effective May 2007, the adult basic allowance for individuals receiving social assistance will increase by an additional \$10 per month that will benefit approximately 13,400 people with disabilities. Approximately 2,400 adults living in residential care facilities will also receive an additional \$5 per month in their Personal Living Allowance for items not provided by the facility. In addition, Level of Care rates will increase by \$28 per month in 2007/08.</p> <p>Enhancements were also made to the Disability Rental Housing supplement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2006, the Disability Rental Housing Supplement was expanded to include people with cognitive disabilities. • Disability Rental Housing Supplement maximum benefit amounts increased between \$90 to \$150 per month from levels of \$60 to \$96 per month. Families with children are now able to receive up to \$227 per month in combined family and disability benefits (previously \$151).
38. The Government of Saskatchewan find ways within the tax system to help offset the direct and indirect costs of disability incurred by individuals with disabilities and their families.	<p>The 2003/04 provincial budget provided for indexation of disability-related income tax credit amounts including the Disability Tax Credit, Disability Supplement, Caregiver Tax Credit, and Infirm Dependent Tax Credit. The indexation factor for the 2006 taxation year is 2.2 per cent.</p>
39. The Government of Saskatchewan continue to work with the federal government to explore options within the tax system to address the extra costs of disability.	<p>Community Resources and Finance continue to work with the federal government to review disability supports tax benefits. The federal government improved the Disability Tax Credit, the Medical Expense Tax Credit, the Caregiver Tax Credit and the Disability Supports Deduction and introduced a Child Disability Tax Credit. These improvements also enhanced the parallel provincial income tax measures.</p>

Progress on Disability Action Plan

VII. Income (cont'd)

Council Recommendation (First Steps)	Action to Date
<p>39. (cont'd)</p>	<p>In the 2007 budget, the federal government introduced a Registered Disability Savings Plan that included a Canada Disability Savings Grant and Canada Disability Savings Bond; and the Working Income Tax Benefit Supplement for People with Disabilities. In 2001, the Government of Saskatchewan significantly increased the amounts of a number of disability-related tax credits in the provincial income tax system. These credits include the Disability Tax Credit, Disability Supplement, Caregiver Tax Credit and Infirm Dependant Tax Credit. Since 2001, these tax credit amounts have been fully indexed to the national inflation rate.</p>
<p>40. The Government of Saskatchewan make amendments to <i>The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Regulations</i> to allow money to be put into a trust either from an inheritance (established by a will) or in a living trust for a beneficiary with a disability so that the trust will not affect social assistance eligibility or benefits.</p>	<p>In 2003, <i>The Dependants' Relief Trust Fund Regulations</i> were amended to allow the court to make an order up to \$100,000 without affecting a person's eligibility for social assistance. Section 9 of <i>The Dependants' Relief Act</i> allows for the creation of a trust for persons 18 years of age or older at the time of a deceased's death and who are unable by reason of mental or physical disability to earn a livelihood, or who by reason of need or other circumstances, requires a greater share of the deceased's estate than he or she is entitled without an order.</p> <p>Community Resources, Justice and the Office of Disability Issues have had discussions regarding this recommendation. This may be an area to explore as part of income security redesign.</p> <p>In 2007/08, Community Resources will review the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for People with Disabilities, announced in the 2007 federal budget, to determine how RDSPs are to be treated for assessing social assistance eligibility or benefits.</p>

Profile of Persons with Disabilities in Saskatchewan

The information in this profile comes from Statistics Canada's Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS). PALS is a national survey that collects information about Canadian adults and children with disabilities. The population covered by the PALS includes persons in private and some collective households in the 10 provinces. People living in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, First Nations reserves and institutions were not included in the survey. PALS is conducted once every five years after the census. PALS was conducted in 2006 and it is anticipated that new data will not be available until early 2008. Unless otherwise noted, this section refers to 2001 PALS data.

Highlights

- Saskatchewan has the second-highest disability rate in Canada at 14.5%, compared to 12.4% for Canada as a whole. Only Nova Scotia has a higher rate at 17.1%.
- For the working-age population – those 15-64 years of age – the rate of disability is 11.1% in Saskatchewan, compared to 9.9% in Canada.
- Seniors, a growing segment of the Saskatchewan population, account for about 44% of all citizens with disabilities in this province, with 38% of these people indicating they had severe or very severe disabilities.
- Children 0-14 years of age have a disability rate of 3.2% in Saskatchewan, compared to 3.3% in Canada.
- Aboriginal people experience twice the rate of disability as other Canadians. The rate of disability among Aboriginal youth ages 15-24 was three times higher than for other Canadian youth.¹
- In Saskatchewan in 2001, people with disabilities were almost twice as likely to be outside the labour market with 43% of people with disabilities unemployed or not in the labour force, compared to 23% of people without disabilities.

Rates of Disability

- Saskatchewan has the second-highest disability rate in Canada at 14.5%, compared to 12.4% for Canada as a whole. Only Nova Scotia has a higher rate at 17.1%.

1. Ng, Edward. 1996. "Disability among Canada's Aboriginal Peoples' in 1991." *Health Reports* Vol. 8, No. 1. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003-XPE.

Population with and without disabilities, and disability rate, by province, Canada and provinces²				
	Total Population	Population without Disabilities	Population with Disabilities	%
Canada	28,991,770	25,390,510	3,601,270	12.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	492,800	432,310	60,500	12.3
Prince Edward Island	132,850	113,880	18,970	14.3
Nova Scotia	888,900	736,690	152,210	17.1
New Brunswick	712,300	609,440	102,860	14.4
Quebec	7,052,790	6,457,100	595,690	8.4
Ontario	11,192,730	9,678,350	1,514,380	13.5
Manitoba	1,036,270	888,690	147,580	14.2
Saskatchewan	859,080	734,870	124,210	14.5
Alberta	2,830,280	2,475,540	354,740	12.5
British Columbia	3,793,770	3,263,640	530,130	14

The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

- While Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate of disability in the country, we have a low proportion of citizens who have very severe disabilities (second only to Alberta), and no other province has a greater proportion of citizens who report a mild disability. In the severe category, Saskatchewan is third, only behind Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and is considerably higher than the national average in the moderate category.

Disability rates for adults 15 years and older, by degree of severity, Canada and the provinces³					
	Total	Degree of Severity (%)			
		Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe
Canada	14.6	5.0	3.6	3.9	2.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	14.1	4.5	3.7	3.7	2.2
Prince Edward Island	17.0	6.4	4.9	3.8	1.9
Nova Scotia	20.1	6.8	5.3	5.3	2.6
New Brunswick	16.9	5.6	4.5	4.7	2.1
Quebec	9.8	3.0	2.3	2.8	1.7
Ontario	16.0	5.2	3.9	4.5	2.3
Manitoba	16.9	6.2	4.6	4.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	17.3	6.9	4.2	4.6	1.7
Alberta	14.8	5.7	3.8	3.7	1.6
British Columbia	16.3	6.0	4.3	3.9	2.0

Adults with Disabilities

- 65.7% (40,590) of working age adults in Saskatchewan report mild or moderate disabilities, while 34.3% (21,210) report severe to very severe disabilities.

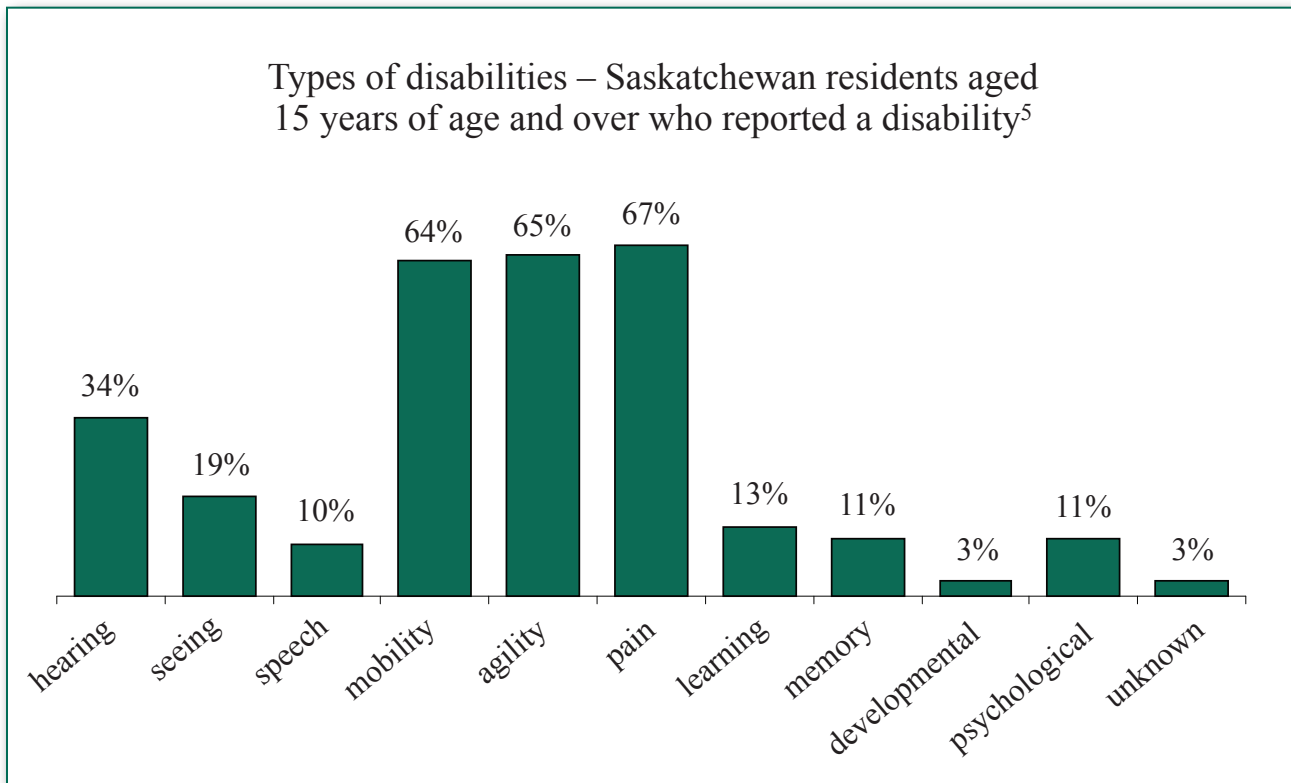
2. Statistics Canada (December 2002), *A Profile of Disability in Canada (2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey)*, Government of Canada. Total populations do not include people living on First Nations reserves or in institutions.

3. *ibid*

- 62.1% (35,340) of adults aged 65 years and over described their disability as mild or moderate, while 37.9% (21,590) indicated severe or very severe disabilities.

Severity of Disability	All adults with disabilities aged 15 years and older		Men		Women	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mild	47,230	39.8	22,060	39.4	25,160	40.1
Moderate	28,700	24.2	14,030	25.1	14,670	23.4
Severe	31,250	26.3	14,300	25.6	16,950	27.0
Very Severe	11,540	9.7	5,560	9.9	5,990	9.5
Total	118,730	100.0	55,950	100.0	62,770	100.0

- For citizens over the age of 15 years, the most common disabilities reported in Saskatchewan were chronic pain, agility, mobility and hearing. Other disabilities (ranked highest to lowest) included seeing, learning, psychological, memory, speaking, unknown, and developmental.



Children with Disabilities

- Among children aged 0-14 years in Saskatchewan, 3.2% (5,490) had a disability, compared to 3.3% nationally. For 60.5% (3,320) of these children, the disability was mild to moderate, while 39.5% (2,170) had severe to very severe disabilities.

4. ibid

5. ibid

Severity of disability for children under 15 years of age by sex ⁶						
Children 0-14 years of age	Total		Male		Female	
		%		%		%
Mild to Moderate	3,320	60.5	2,020	59.8	1,300	61.6
Severe to Very Severe	2,170	39.5	1,360	40.2	810	38.4
Total	5,490	100.0	3,380	100.0	2,110	100.0

- While Saskatchewan level data on type of disabilities in children was not released, Canada level data indicated that the most prevalent among children aged 0-4 years are developmental delay and chronic health conditions. For children aged 5-14 years, the most common type of disabilities are chronic health conditions, learning disabilities and speech disabilities.

Aboriginal People with Disabilities

- Aboriginal people are known to experience approximately twice the rate of disability as other Canadians.⁷
- In 1991, the rate of disability among Aboriginal youth aged 15-24 years was three times higher than for other Canadian youth.⁸
- In 2000/01 and 2003, off-reserve Aboriginal people were 1.7 times more likely to have activity limitations caused by injury than non-Aboriginal people.⁹

Socio-Economic Status of People with Disabilities

Labour Force Activity

- In 2001, 53% of Saskatchewan working-age adults with disabilities were employed, compared to 76% of adults without disabilities.

Labour force activity for citizens aged 15-64 in Canada and Saskatchewan (2001) ¹⁰				
	People with Disabilities (%)		People without Disabilities (%)	
	Canada	Saskatchewan	Canada	Saskatchewan
Employed	42	53	74	76
Unemployed	5	6	6	4
Not in labour force	49	37	21	19
Not specified	5	4		
Unemployment rate	11	9	7	6

6. *ibid*

7. "Disability Among Canada's Aboriginal Peoples in 1991."

8. *ibid*

9. Tjepkema, Michael. 2005 "Non-fatal injuries among Aboriginal Canadians." Health Reports Volume 16, No. 2. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003-XPE.

10. Statistics Canada (September 2003, Revised July 2006), *Education, Employment and Income of Adults with and without Disabilities – Tables (2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey)*, catalogue no. 89-587-XIE, Government of Canada.

- Saskatchewan working-age adults with disabilities are slightly more likely to be unemployed than adults without disabilities. The rate of unemployment among working-age adults with disabilities is 6%, compared to a rate of just 4% for adults without disabilities.
- Although unemployment rates are similar, nearly twice as many people with disabilities (37%) are outside the labour force, compared to people without disabilities (19%).

Education

- PALS data for Saskatchewan revealed that 38% of working age adults with disabilities had not completed high school, compared to 33% of adults without disabilities (and 25% nationally). 24% of working-age adults with disabilities in Saskatchewan have completed a university or college education, compared to a rate of 29% for Saskatchewan adults without disabilities.

Highest level of education for citizens ages 15-64 years with and without disabilities in Canada and Saskatchewan ¹¹				
Highest Level of Education	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities	
	Canada %	Saskatchewan %	Canada %	Saskatchewan %
Less than high school	37	38	25	33
High school	23	21	27	24
Trades	13	17	11	13
College	16	14	17	13
University	11	10	20	16

Income

- In 2001, the average income of people with disabilities aged 15 years and over in Saskatchewan, considering all sources including government transfers, was \$22,458. This amount was roughly 82% of the average reported for people without disabilities (\$27,428).¹²

11. ibid

12. ibid