

## **Budget 2017: SASW Respectfully Requests a Rethink**

REGINA, SK – April 11, 2017 – The **Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW)** is deeply concerned that the March 22 provincial budget will affect those most vulnerable in Saskatchewan; especially children, seniors, and low income individuals and families.

“While SASW is supportive of the increase to the Ministry of Social Services, of most concern to SASW members are the changes in Budget 2017 that will directly impact the quality of life for Saskatchewan residents and the people we have the honor to serve”, states SASW President, Ryan Labatt. “As we hear more each day about the outcome of the budget, it is becoming clear to SASW members that the elimination of programs and services may have the unintended consequence of placing families at risk.” The loss of supports for children with varying abilities, cuts to services in rural areas including transportation and library programs, and changes to important health and community services, will affect many in our province.

In this regard, SASW respectfully requests that the Government of Saskatchewan rethink its reduction in funding to the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, the pre-kindergarten-to-Grade-12 school system and Saskatchewan’s public library system. Further, SASW requests that elimination of the Saskatchewan Transit Corporation (STC) be reversed.

“From the perspective of SASW, the priorities of Budget 2017 run contrary to long-term best interests of Saskatchewan residents” states Labatt, “SASW implores the Government of Saskatchewan to rethink its course.”

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