

# Housing Options for Saskatchewan Seniors

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF OLDER PERSONS

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# Introduction

In June 2000, the provincial government established the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons to identify the needs of Saskatchewan seniors and the means of addressing them through government policy. The Committee's *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons* identified six strategic goals, supported by a range of recommended actions to ensure the availability and access to a continuum of quality programs and services for seniors, to encourage healthy and active living, and the safety and security of all older persons.

One of the goals identified in the *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons* was: **Ensure provision of and access to affordable and supportive housing and services for older persons**. Each goal has a number of specific recommendations; one of the housing recommendations was: **Develop and make available to the public a list of housing options in each regional health authority and ensure better coordination of all housing initiatives**.

To that end, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons, in conjunction with Saskatchewan Health and the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, developed this document. This document provides housing information about public and private programs and services that are of particular interest to seniors.

For inquiries or assistance, please contact:

| Saskatchewan Health       | Saskatchewan Housing Corporation      |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3475 Albert Street        | 6th Floor, Victoria Tower             |
| Regina, SK S4S 6X6        | 1855 Victoria Avenue                  |
| Telephone: 1-800-667-7766 | Regina, SK S4P 3T2                    |
|                           | Telephone: 1-800-667-7567             |
| Or visit:                 | •                                     |
| www.health.gov.sk.ca      | Or visit:                             |
| _                         | www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/housing/index.html |

# Options

These residences are income-assisted and may also be subsidized.

## 1. Social Housing for Seniors

The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) provides housing for seniors in more than 280 communities across the province through the Social Housing Rental Program.

The program assists **low-income** seniors and persons with special needs in obtaining suitable, adequate and affordable housing.

The Social Housing Rental Program subsidizes the capital and operating costs of SHC-owned and specified non-profit housing units to allow tenants to pay lower rents than they would in the private housing market. Rents are calculated on a sliding scale based on a tenant's ability to pay. The current rental scale ranges from 25 to 29 per cent of income.

Saskatchewan Assisted Living Services (see page 8) and other optional services are made available depending on tenant participation and the community's ability to provide services.

For more information, contact your local housing authority, call toll-free 1-800-667-7567 or visit the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Web site at www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/housing/index.html

# Public **Options**

## 2. Life Lease Housing for Seniors

Life Lease Housing for Seniors is provided to seniors in a few larger communities in the province through SHC and specified non-profits.

Seniors maintain their equity in a home by paying a principal sum that will be refunded when they leave the complex. Seniors also pay a monthly occupancy fee that covers a shared cost of ongoing operations and maintenance.

SHC and non-profits may make some optional services available, such as Saskatchewan Assisted Living Services (see page 8).

For more information, contact your local housing authority, call toll-free 1-800-667-7567 or visit the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Web site at www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/housing/index.html

### 3. Affordable Housing for Seniors

SHC also assists **lower to moderate-income** seniors and persons with special needs in obtaining housing through a variety of affordable housing programs that subsidize the capital and operating costs of housing projects to allow tenants to pay rents at the lower end of the market.

For more information, call 306-787-4177 in Regina or call toll-free 1-800-667-7567 or visit the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Web site at www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/housing/index.html

# Public **Options**

## 4. Special-Care Homes

Typically, persons requiring higher levels of care use special-care home services. The primary role of the publicly subsidized specialcare home system is to meet the needs of individuals with heavy care needs that cannot be met through home care, housing, or other community-based options. However, this could include individuals classified as light care but with circumstances that require placement in a special-care home. To make the best use of special-care home resources, individuals are admitted on the basis of assessed need.

Assessments are done by local Regional Health Authorities (see pages 9 to 10 for a complete listing). Most Regional Health Authorities offer the person with the greatest need and living at the greatest risk the first available bed with the option to transfer to the facility of their choice when a bed becomes available there.

Residents pay an income-tested charge based on annual income, plus earned interest. Personal assets such as land, houses, bank accounts etc., are not taken into account in determining the resident charge. Fees range from \$888 to approximately \$1,683 per month and are adjusted quarterly.

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# Private Options

In this category residents are wholly responsible for expenses incurred. Accommodation and services may vary.

## 1. Own Dwelling

Residing in your own home requires the owner to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep. Persons choosing this option should investigate the *Programs and Services to Support Seniors Living at Home* (see page 8) to determine if they are eligible for assistance.

## 2. Abbeyfield Housing

Abbeyfield Housing is a non-profit housing concept that develops affordable housing for seniors through local volunteer organizations. The housing is developed in a way that supports independence while providing a supportive environment. Tenants have their own bedroom/sitting area and bathroom. There are communal kitchen and living areas. There is also a 24-hour, non-medical staff person on site. Rents are set at break-even levels. In Saskatchewan, there is currently one Abbeyfield home located in Prince Albert and a second is planned for Saskatoon.

For more information, phone Abbeyfield Houses Society of Canada at 416-920-7483 or visit the Society's Web site at www.abbeyfield.ca



# Private Options

## 3. Townhouse/Condominium/Apartment

Townhouses, condominiums or apartments, whether owned or rented, may entitle the owner to some services offered by the private developer (such as lawn cutting, and snow removal). As with owning a home, persons choosing this option should investigate the *Programs and Services to Support Seniors Living at Home* (see page 8) to determine if they are eligible for assistance.

## 4. Assisted Living/Enriched (Retirement Living)

Private developers have built complexes where seniors live in individual suites, and which may include three meals per day, laundry and housekeeping services as part of the rent, and sometimes other services as well. Amenity space is usually available for social/recreational activities, and scheduled transportation to local community shopping centres, etc. is usually provided.

### 5. Personal Care Homes

Personal care homes are privately owned and operated facilities. They provide another option to adults who generally do not require the health services of a special-care home (see page 5), but who need to receive assistance or supervision with personal care. Personal care homes require a licence to operate and must comply with the requirements under *The Personal Care Homes Act*. Before deciding if a personal care home is right for you, consider visiting the home to view the accommodation and services.

For more information, contact Saskatchewan Health, call 306-787-1715 or visit the Saskatchewan Health Web site at www.health.gov.sk.ca

### 1. Saskatchewan Assisted Living Services (SALS)

Saskatchewan Assisted Living Services is available in selected social housing projects for seniors in 70 communities throughout the province. SALS services help tenants to build and maintain independence and enhance their quality of life. Services may include: a maximum of one meal per day served in a common eating area; laundry and housekeeping services; a personal response service for unscheduled needs; and co-ordination of social/recreational and other activities. All services are optional. Tenants choose which services they wish to receive and pay the direct cost of those services. Costs are kept affordable to **low-and moderate-income** persons through administrative support from the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and through co-ordination, co-operation and bulk delivery at the local level.

For more information, contact your local housing authority, call toll-free 1-800-667-7567 or visit the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Web site at www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/housing/index.html



## 2. Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence

Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence provides financial assistance for **low-income seniors** who want to adapt their home for easier and safer performance of daily activities. Examples of eligible work include remodelling kitchens and bathrooms to provide easier access for those with physical limitation, installing grab bars in the bathroom, or constructing ramps for wheelchair access.

For more information, contact the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation at 306-787-4180 in Regina or call toll-free 1-800-667-7567 or visit the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Web site at www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/housing/index.html

You may also consider contacting your local seniors organization for assistance.



# 3. Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program offers financial assistance to **low-income** homeowners for necessary repairs to make an existing home healthier and safer. Repairs may include, but are not limited to, the areas of structural, heating, plumbing, electrical or fire safety.

- **Homeowner RRAP** for homeowners who live in substandard dwellings and cannot afford repairs.
- **RRAP for Persons with Disabilities** for homeowners and landlords to make permanent modifications for improved accessibility by low-income households and individuals with disabilities.
- Saskatchewan Emergency Repair for homeowners to complete emergency repairs required for the continued safe occupancy of their houses.

For more information regarding RRAP programs, call 306-787-4177 in Regina or call toll-free 1-800-667-7567 or visit the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Web site at www.dcre.gov.sk.ca/housing/index.html



## 4. Home Care

Saskatchewan Health's Home Care Program, offered through Regional Health Authorities, helps many seniors with health problems who may require acute, palliative or supportive care in order to live independently longer, in the comfort of their homes. All decisions are based on assessed need and risk to the individual if the service is not provided. The program assists people in maintaining their quality of life and provides support for people who may otherwise have to be in a hospital or long-term care facility.

Case management/assessment, home nursing, physical and occupational therapy services are provided at no charge to the individual. The fee for meals, personal care, respite care, homemaking and home maintenance is based on income and the amount of care required.

Some services once available only in hospitals may now be delivered at home. For example, some people who need intravenous antibiotic therapy and palliative care may now receive these services in their own homes.

For more information, contact your local Regional Health Authority (see pages 13 and 14 for a complete listing).



## Other Information

## 1. Office of the Rentalsman

The Office of the Rentalsman provides advice to residential landlords and tenants about their rights and obligations. It provides a hearing process to resolve disputes.

| Regina Office              | Saskatoon Office                  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rm. 120 2151 Scarth Street | Main Floor, Sturdy Stone Building |
| Regina SK S4P 2H8          | 122 3rd Avenue North              |
| Phone: 306-787-2699        | Saskatoon SK S7K 2H6              |
| Fax: 306-787-5574          | Phone: 306-933-5680               |
|                            | Fax: 306-933-7030                 |

#### 2. Ombudsman Saskatchewan

The Ombudsman is an Officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan with the authority to investigate complaints received from members of the public who believe the government administration has dealt with them unfairly. Government administration includes any department, branch, board, agency or commission responsible to the Crown, and any public servant in Saskatchewan. The Ombudsman was established by *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act.* 

| Regina                        | Saskatoon                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Provincial Ombudsman          | Provincial Ombudsman           |
| Suite 150,                    | 315 25th Street East           |
| 2401 Saskatchewan Drive       | Saskatoon SK S7K 2H6           |
| Regina SK S4P 4H8             | Phone: 306-933-5500            |
| Phone: 306-787-6211           | Toll-free: 1-800-667-9787      |
| Toll-free: 1-800-667-7180     | Email: ombsktn@ombudsman.sk.ca |
| Email: ombreg@ombudsman.sk.ca |                                |

# Regional Health Authority Contacts

#### Athabasca

Box 124 Black Lake SK SOJ 0H0 Phone: 306-439-2200 Fax: 306-439-2212

#### Cypress

429-4th Avenue North East Swift Current SK S9H 2J9 Phone: 306-778-5100 Fax: 306-773-9513

#### **Five Hills**

455 Fairford Street East Moose Jaw SK S6H 1H3 Phone: 306-694-0296 Toll-free: 1-888-425-1111 Fax: 306-694-0282

#### Heartland

Box 2110 Rosetown SK SOL 2V0 Phone: 306-882-4111 Fax: 306-882-1389

#### Keewatin Yatthé Box 40 Buffalo Narrows SK SOM 0J0 Phone: 306-235-2220 Toll-free: 1-866-274-8506 Fax: 306-235-2229

### Kelsey Trail

Box 1780 Tisdale SK S0E 1T0 Phone: 306-873-3100 Fax: 306-873-3224

Mamawetan Churchill River Box 6000 La Ronge SK S0J 1L0

Phone: 306-425-2422 Fax: 306-425-5432

## Regional Health Authority Contacts

#### **Prairie North**

1092 107th Street North Battleford SK S9A 1Z1 Phone: 306-446-6622 Fax: 306-446-4114

#### **Prince Albert Parkland**

Box 5700 2345 10th Avenue West Prince Albert SK S6V 7V6 Phone: 306-765-6100 Toll-free: 1-800-922-1834 Fax: 306-765-6096

#### **Regina Qu'Appelle**

2180 23rd Avenue Regina SK S4S 0A5 Phone: 306-766-5365 Toll-free: 1-888-354-8111 Fax: 306-766-5414

#### Saskatoon

6th Floor, Royal University Hospital 103 Hospital Drive Saskatoon SK S7N 0W8 Phone: 306-655-1576 Fax: 306-655-1037

#### Sun Country

Box 2003 Weyburn SK S4H 2Z9 Phone: 306-842-8718 Fax: 306-842-8738

#### Sunrise

270 Bradbrooke Drive Yorkton SK S3N 2K6 Phone: 306-786-0109 Fax: 306-786-0122

## **Regional Health Authorities**



## Housing Authority Contacts

#### **Prince Albert**

230 8th Street East Prince Albert SK S6V 0V7 Phone: 306-953-7420 Fax: 306-764-0970

#### Saskatoon

525 24th Street East Saskatoon SK S7K 0K9 Phone: 306-668-2700 Fax: 306-668-2701

For other housing authorities in **northern** Saskatchewan, call toll free: 1-800-667-9656 and you will be routed to the appropriate northern housing authority.

#### Moose Jaw

4th Floor – City Hall Moose Jaw SK S6H 3J8 Phone: 306-694-4055 Fax: 306-694-2021

#### Regina

1850 Smith Street Regina SK S4P 2N3 Phone: 306-525-2377 Fax: 306-347-7812

For other housing authorities in **southern** Saskatchewan, call toll free: 1-800-814-8688 and you will be routed to the appropriate housing authority.

# $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Saskatchewan \ Housing \ Corporation} \\ {\rm Delivery \ System} \end{array} \end{array}$



