

Project Hope

● One Year Update

On August 4, 2005, Premier Lorne Calvert announced Project Hope, a three-year plan to strengthen substance abuse prevention and treatment services in Saskatchewan. Based on the four pillars of treatment, supply reduction, coordination and prevention, Project Hope enlists a multitude of communities, health care services, law enforcement agencies and educational programs in a concerted and sustained effort to prevent substance abuse and lessen its harms to individuals and families.

Today, Project Hope is already making a difference. This report outlines the progress made to date in implementing this three-year plan. In addition to the initiatives described below, the government has enacted legislation and established an interim unit for the short-term involuntary stabilization of addicted youth who are considered at high risk to harm themselves or others. *The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act* came into effect on April 1, 2006. As of October 1, 2006, 60 young people had received stabilization services in the interim unit at Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina. As well, health regions are developing outreach and associated services in order to provide enhanced intervention, case management and support.

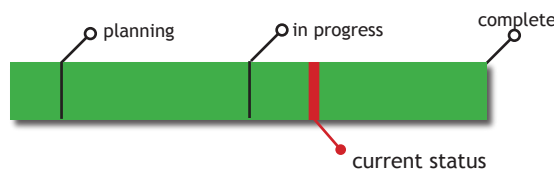
Treatment:

Accessible, flexible,
effective

We will expand our ability to treat addiction, particularly among our youth.

Project Hope Plan

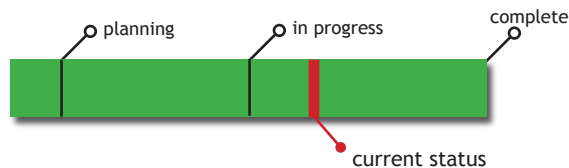
Develop a 12-bed youth stabilization unit in Saskatoon.



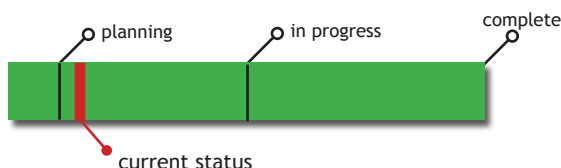
Progress to Date

Interim six-bed unit now operational at Calder Centre. Working with Saskatoon Health Region to determine location for 12-bed permanent unit. **Target for opening: By spring 2008.**

Develop a 15-bed inpatient residential youth treatment facility in Prince Albert in partnership with First Nations; review opportunities for a similar project in the southern portion of the province.



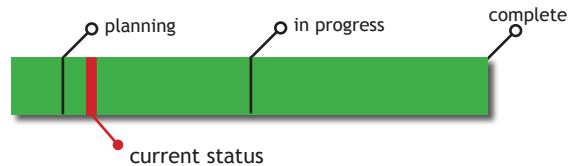
Interim six-bed centre now operational at Pineview Youth Terrace in Prince Albert. Working with Prince Albert Grand Council and Prince Albert Parkland Health Region to finalize plans for a 15 bed permanent centre. **Target for opening: By spring 2008.**



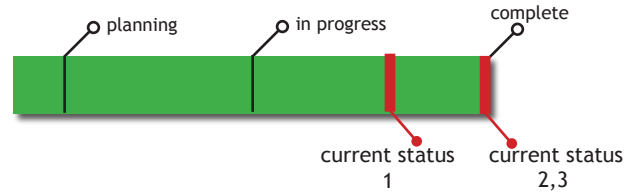
Discussing potential provincial involvement in southern treatment centre with New Dawn Valley Centre. **Target for opening: TBA**

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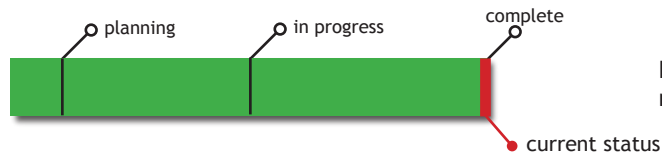
Develop 12 detoxification beds in Regina.



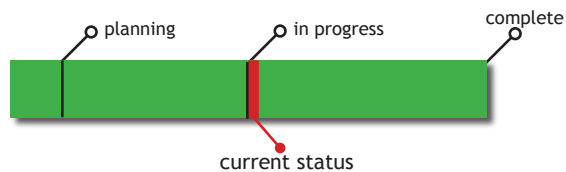
Hire four additional addictions counsellors in the North.



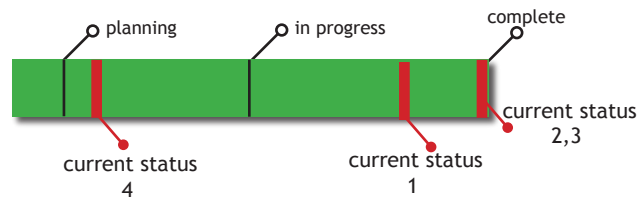
Develop mobile treatment service for youth in northern communities.



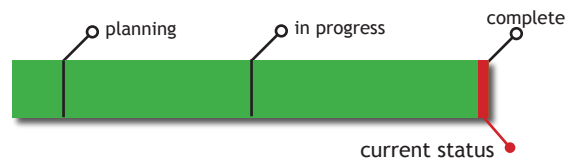
Provide operating funding for brief detox services in Saskatoon.



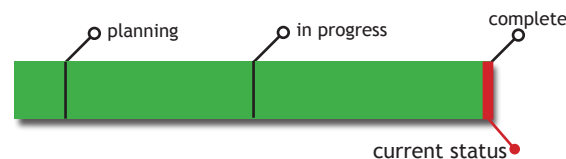
Double the social detox capacity in Prince Albert, from six beds to 12.



Develop outreach centres in Saskatoon and Prince Albert and expand existing outreach services in North Battleford and Regina.



Make substance abuse treatment available to individuals who are in custody as well as to those who are appearing before a new drug treatment court.



Expand methadone services in Prince Albert and Saskatoon; expand needle exchange programming in general.

Progress to Date

Working with Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region to determine a suitable location for the centre.
Target for opening: Spring 2008.

1. Mobile treatment team leader in Mamawetan Churchill River commenced work in April and region will launch service this fall, more than a year ahead of original target date.
2. In addition, a day program for youth has been developed in La Ronge.
3. Keewatin Yatthe has hired its Mobile Treatment Coordinator.

Funding is being provided. Facility is now operating.

New beds should be in place in 2008.

1. Saskatoon outreach centre will be operational this fall.
2. Two outreach workers have been hired by Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.
3. Prairie North Health Region has hired an additional youth outreach worker.
4. Plans for Prince Albert outreach centre are progressing well, and centre should be operational well ahead of original target of spring 2008.

Regina's new Drug Treatment Court opened October 3, 2006. Saskatchewan Corrections and Public Safety is working with young offender and adult programs around the province to coordinate treatment for individuals in custody.

Methadone services have been expanded in these two locations; funding has been provided to expand services elsewhere in the province.

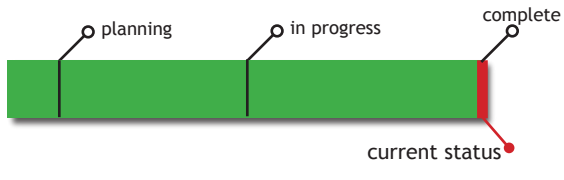
Treatment:
Accessible, flexible,
effective

We will redevelop our provincial treatment model so that it reflects the best known practices.

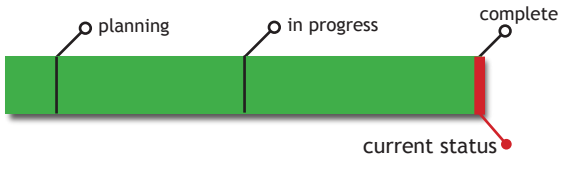


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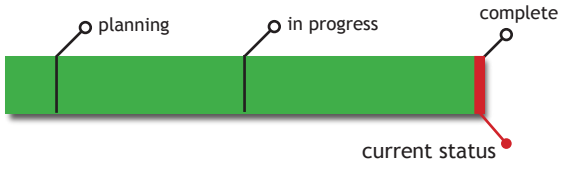
Provide training to substance abuse counsellors and other addictions and mental health workers in Saskatchewan's health regions.



Hire program consultants to work with our partners to introduce, develop and implement the many initiatives in this new substance abuse model.



Host an annual clinical conference for the education and inspiration of those working in the addictions field in Saskatchewan.



Progress to Date

Concurrent Disorders training is currently being offered to a number of addictions and mental health workers; pilot projects to offer further training are planned to start in October, 2006.

Project Hope Implementation Team is in place.

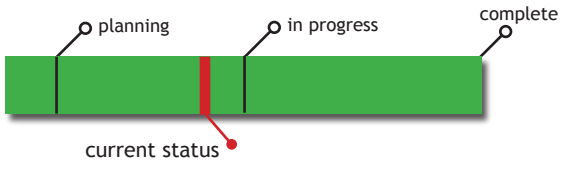
Moving Forward 2006, a national clinical conference, attracted hundreds of participants from across Canada. Planning is underway for a provincial conference in the spring of 2007.

Treatment:
Accessible, flexible,
effective

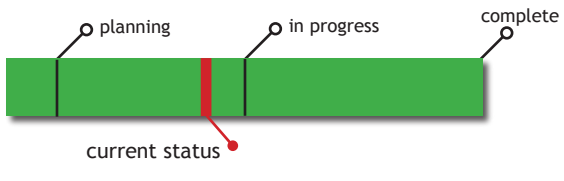
We will introduce more flexible and accessible treatment supports for individuals and their families.

Project Hope Plan

Provide community supports which may include transitional housing for youth and adults or respite services for families with substance-abusing youth.



Develop a family treatment centre to offer inpatient care for people with young children.



Progress to Date

Regional Health Authorities are preparing proposals for such services. Saskatchewan Health will begin review of these proposals this fall, with full funding to be in place by spring 2008.

An architect has been hired to complete the planning for this facility, to be located in Saskatoon. **Target for opening: Spring 2008.**

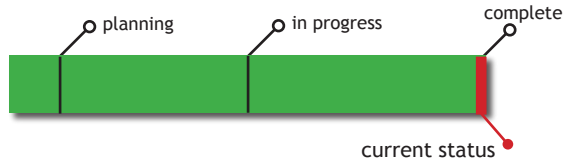
Supply Reduction: Going after the Source



We will make communities safer.

Project Hope Plan

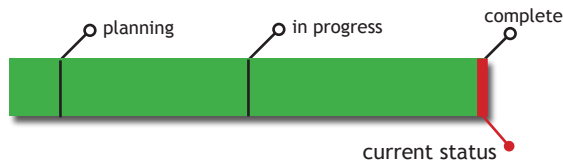
Put in place two additional officers to enforce The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act.



Progress to Date

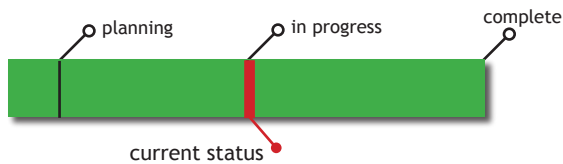
The officers began work in Regina and Saskatoon in February 2006.

Hire four additional drug enforcement officers.



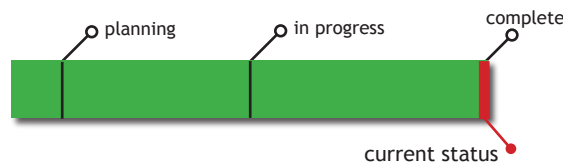
All four positions have been filled (2 in Yorkton and 2 in N. Battleford.)

Make it more difficult to manufacture and distribute illicit substances in Saskatchewan, by promoting the province's toll-free hotline for reporting drug houses.



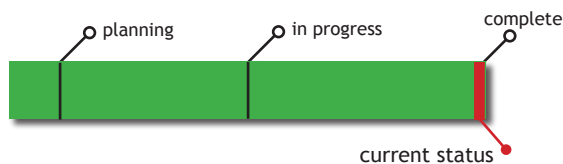
A public information campaign was conducted in the fall of 2005; a second campaign will commence this year.

Continue to urge the federal government to strengthen penalties for drug possession.

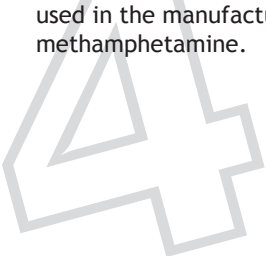


The federal government has taken action to strengthen penalties for offences involving crystal methamphetamine.

Build on MethWatch, a coalition of retail and wholesale businesses, to restrict the supply of ingredients used in the manufacture of crystal methamphetamine.



This program has expanded in Saskatchewan, and is complemented by Saskatchewan Health's decision to move single entity pseudoephedrine products (a common precursor for crystal meth) behind pharmacy counters.



Coordination:

Working together,
with the best tools
available.

Project Hope Plan

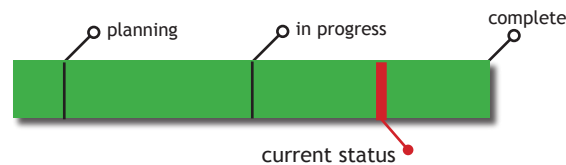
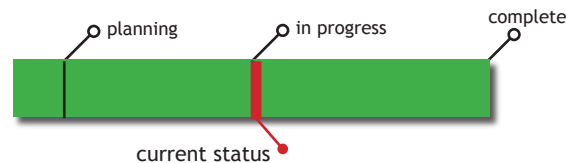
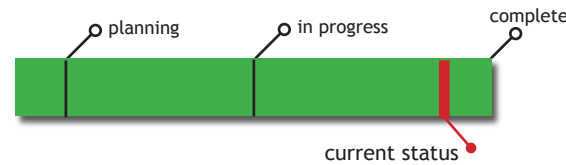
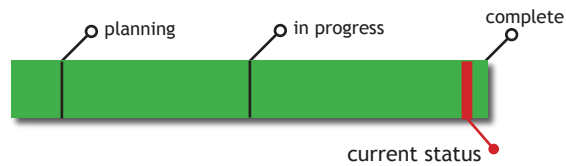
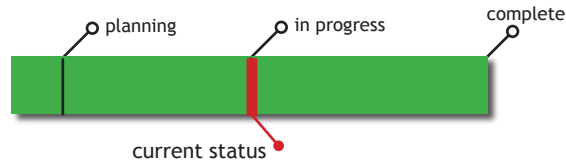
Create and implement a Community Development Framework, which will bring communities together in a cohesive and shared approach to battling substance abuse issues.

Create a treatment database that will provide substance abuse programs and services with up-to-date centralized information about treatment options.

Empower communities to address substance abuse on the streets and in their homes, by providing community toolkits, a web-based inventory of speakers and experts on substance abuse, and centralized prevention and education resources.

Introduce a central accreditation process for substance abuse programs and services so that clients and their families can be assured of quality and trustworthy expertise.

Improve our knowledge about substance abuse by conducting a provincial survey regarding alcohol and drug abuse and by creating a new research chair at the University of Saskatchewan and improving evaluation of substance abuse programs and data collection.



Progress to Date

Will be in place before targeted date of spring 2008: partners are currently gathering information about substance abuse activities in Saskatchewan communities.

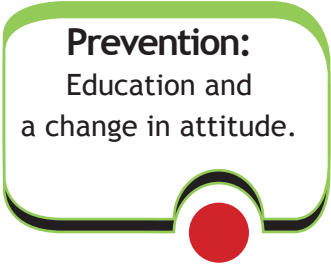
The database has been developed and will be available in October, 2006.

Toolkit targeted for completion this fall.

The standards and processes for accreditation are now in development.

The University of Saskatchewan is currently recruiting candidates for the Research Chair position, with interviews scheduled for October, 2006.

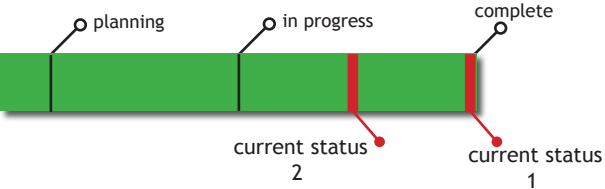
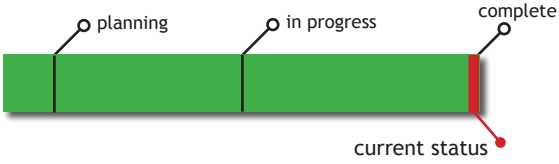
This fall, Saskatchewan Health will complete some polling on substance use among adults. As well, we are currently participating on working groups through the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) to implement a national student survey. Plan to purchase extra samples from Health Canada and Statistics Canada for early spring, 2007.



Project Hope Plan

Create a new Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Education Directorate within Saskatchewan Health, a dedicated team whose mandate will be to work with regional health authorities, schools and other agencies to enhance prevention and education efforts.

Work to change attitudes about the use and abuse of alcohol in our province.



Progress to Date

The Directorate is in place and began its work in November 2005.

1. Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority has implemented a minimum price on beer (consistent with other alcohol products) and a surcharge on high-alcohol beer. They continue to consult with stakeholders to develop further recommendations for the liquor regulatory review.
2. Saskatchewan Health began the development of a public awareness campaign about the use and abuse of alcohol: public messaging should start appearing before the end of 2006.

