



2006/07 Budget and People with Disabilities

FACTSHEET

- The 2006–07 Provincial Budget provides over \$12M to support the inclusion of people with disabilities in the social and economic life of the province.
- These investments further demonstrate government’s commitment to advance citizenship for people with disabilities and its continuing response to the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issues’ *Disability Action Plan*.

2006-2007 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

Health

- \$1.0M for mental health services and supports for children and youth, including additional resources for autism services, early psychosis intervention, specialist consultation and medium-term residential services.
- \$250,000 to expand outpatient rehabilitation services for children in Regina and Saskatoon. Services may include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology and other therapy services.

Income Support

- The adult basic allowance for individuals receiving social assistance will increase by \$40 per month. Approximately 10,000

people with disabilities will receive this increase to their allowance for basic necessities such as food, clothing, and other personal needs.

- Approximately 2,900 adults living in residential care facilities, where food, shelter and care needs are provided will receive an additional \$20 per month in their personal living allowance.

Housing

- Beginning in April 2006, the Disability Rental Housing Supplement will be expanded to include people with cognitive disabilities. The changes to expand the supplement were developed by a community and government task team.
- Disability Rental Housing Supplement maximum benefit amounts will increase to between \$90 and \$150 per month from the previous levels of \$60 and \$96 per month. Families with children may now receive up to \$227 per month in combined Family and Disability benefits (previously \$151).

Supporting Individuals and Families

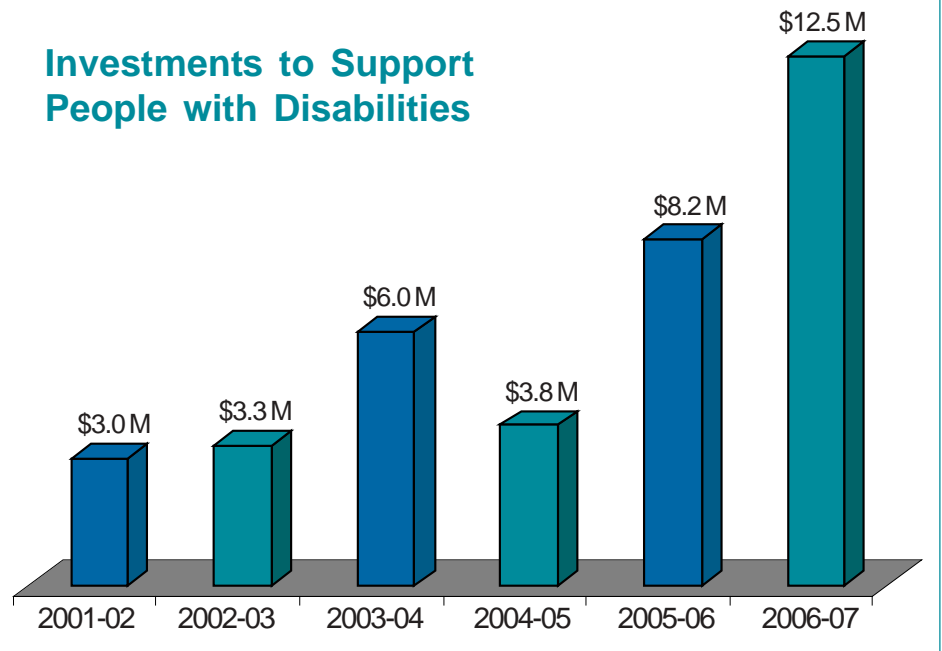
- \$2.0M will be invested in the development of new or enhanced community-based residential and day program supports to advance the citizenship and inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

- Over the next year, in consultation with key stakeholders, Community Resources will implement a redesigned respite program for families with children with intellectual disabilities.

Accessibility - Saskatchewan Property Management

- \$1.251M will be allocated to improve the physical accessibility of government buildings for people with disabilities.

Investments to Support People with Disabilities



Taxation initiatives - Finance

- Indexation (2.2% increase for 2006 tax year) to disability-related tax credit amounts:
 - disability tax credit - \$6,741
 - disability supplement - \$3,933
 - caregiver tax credit - \$3,933
 - infirm dependent tax credit - \$3,933

Interdepartmental Initiatives

- An additional \$2.5M will be invested in the Interdepartmental Cognitive Disabilities Strategy bringing the annualized budget to \$4.15M in 2006-07. This increase will allow further enhancements to initiatives for people with cognitive disabilities and their families, including people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Did you know . . .

- Since the release of the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issues' *Disability Action Plan* in June 2001, the government has invested almost \$37M to support people with disabilities.
- The province is investing \$30.1 million over three years to help human service Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) attract and retain staff by targeting new money for wages, benefits and operating costs. Over \$21 million of this new

money is earmarked for human service CBOs affiliated with the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC).

- A dedicated employment consultant at the Public Service Commission works with Executive Government managers to assist in the hiring of people with disabilities within the public service. This initiative started as a partnership with the Public Service Commission and the Department of Community Resources and is now a permanent resource. For more information, contact Janell Elder at (306) 787-7538.
- The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, as part of their Student Employment Experience (SEE) program, is partnering with the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL) and the South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre (SSILC) to create quality jobs for students with disabilities. This year they anticipate the program will help create 35 jobs for students with disabilities. For more information, contact (306) 787-5729.
- As of March 2006, 66 people were using the individualized funding option available through the regional health authorities' home care programs. Ten of the 13 regional health authorities had one or more people using individualized funding. This option is designed to provide people with increased choice and flexibility.