

SAMPLE LETTER

Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Health
Room 302, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

minister.he@gov.sk.ca

Dear Minister McMorris:

The Ministry of Health, Community Care Branch and Prairie North Regional Health Authority have partnered to develop a provincial project that addresses the lack of adequate mental health facilities and community resources for persons with severe psychiatric illness and/or persons considered to have high complex needs.

They recommend that the Provincial Government immediately follow up on previous commitments to replace Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, and to put in place community residential options for persons with high complex needs.

Key components of this approach in a document entitled "Charting a New Course for Mental Health's Most Vulnerable" include:

- Replacement of Saskatchewan Hospital with a new facility in North Battleford.
- Establishment of community-based residential facilities in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and Battlefords with a total of 40 beds available.
- Establishment of "step-down" beds in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, Battlefords and Moose Jaw with a total of 80 beds available.
- Intensive case management and needs-based daily living supports, with intensive case managers located in Regina-Qu'Appelle, Saskatoon, Prince Albert Parkland, Prairie North, Five Hills, Sun Country, Kelsey Trail, Heartland, Cypress and Sunrise Regional Health Authorities.

(Include any personal "story" or experience you may have had which would support the proposal's need)

I/We would ask that you respond positively to the recommendations in the report and commit funding for the recommendations in the 2011-2012 Provincial Budget.

Urgent action is needed as there is a growing bottleneck of care for persons with significant psychiatric needs, and a gross lack of resources for persons with complex needs.

Our Government can, and must do more to address these serious needs.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to my MLA and Premier Wall, asking that they support the recommendations mentioned above.

Sincerely,

cc. Premier Brad Wall
Room 226, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3
premier@gov.sk.ca

MLA

Canadian Mental Health Association

Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan