



*Saskatoon
Community
Clinic*

Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Ltd.

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April 7th, 2008

Saskatoon Community Clinic
455 2nd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 2C2

Dear Members, Employees and Friends:

Thank you for making us aware of your thoughts regarding the Saskatoon Community Clinic response to the withdrawal of funding by the Saskatchewan Government to Station 20 West. We are very appreciative of your comments, especially in consideration of the impact such a decision will have on the community.

Our Community Clinic, as a result of this decision, faces a number of taxing issues. First and foremost, and contrary to rumours, the Community Clinic remains fully supportive of the principles and vision of Station 20 West. Time and again, we have publicly stated our endorsement for the Station 20 West concept, and have said that we can see our future as part of this 'community space'. We remain firm in our belief that the inner city community is best served by all of us, the Saskatoon Health Region, the University of Saskatchewan - Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry, local community organizations such as CHEP and QUINT, and the Good Food Junction Grocery Store, working together, creating a synergy focused on services for the inner city community. As a result, the Community Clinic made a commitment to become a tenant in Station 20 West; a commitment which we stand by today, and which we have stated publicly to the media.

We must also walk a path between the interests of our organization, and our Community Clinic's support for the concept of Station 20 West. This path is constructed around protecting all our services, our employees, and our patients - for today and tomorrow. It also has us staying the course on our commitment to working through partnerships to grow our health services for the inner city and actively advocating on behalf of, and being visible in the core neighbourhoods. In no way whatsoever will we deviate from creating community programs and actions that produce solution to issues identified by the Health Disparities Report.

To do all of this, we respectfully depend on this Government, as we have every government, for support and funds. We also fully understand every government's responsibility to make decisions. As such, we will continue to work in partnership with the government, regardless of the government's withdrawal of funding to Station 20 West. Since this new Government was elected, we have been providing them with information on our good work, the need to address the health disparities of the residents of our inner city, the importance of the initiatives we are engaged in (including Station 20 West), and on our need for funding for new programs and services of importance to our community. Our specific discussions items include the following:

“YOUR HEALTH CARE CO-OP”

- Renewal of Operational Funding Agreement with Sask Health. Our Agreement expired March 31, 2008. We are currently working on a renewal, including new money to support COLA and wage settlements.
- New funding to recognizing Joint Job Evaluation (JJE) and other wage issues (i.e. out of scope compensation) to ensure a stable and respectful work environment.
- New funding for expanded programs and services directed to the inner city (i.e. doctors, counsellors, etc.). This also includes dollars for new costs associated with Station 20 tenancy, or an alternative space should circumstances dictate our need to identify such a space.

Achieving a commitment for funding and program support for our Community Clinic is the key priority in our discussions. Our focus is to gain a commitment of funds to support our operations and to gain new funding for us to deliver expanded programs and services to communities in need. For this reason we have chosen to remain on the 'back burner' and to explore all our options. Our position in no way suggests we are moving or have moved from our belief in the value of the Station 20 West project. Further, our ongoing discussions with Government do not represent a separate or 'side deal', but rather, they are a component of our ongoing dialogue with Government and all of our stakeholders.

Lastly, our organization has been and continues to review every possible option with respect to expansion of our services. Doing so ensures that we consider all possibilities before making decisions about the future of our organization. In this, we are appreciative of the Government's interest in our Westside Clinic and of their public indication of interest in funding our expansion. We look forward to commencing discussions with them on this.

We understand that this answer does not alleviate the pressure each and every one of you feel, as everyday you see the shocking impact of poverty and poor health, and know the possibilities Station 20 West offered. Let us also remember that each and every individual who is part of our organization is also the owner of our proud forty year record of successful program and service delivery into our community and to those in need. Every day, our patients - seniors, young adults, individuals from the inner city community - tell us they need our services.

Your views are important. Please know that they serve as a guide to our organization as we move forward. As well, should you wish to share your thoughts personally, contact me or any Board Member at anytime.

Sincerely,

Signed Original on File

Cheryl Loadman
President