



**Mission Statement:** To provide local representation, support, resources, advocacy and to assist high risk families with medically necessary treatment with the autism spectrum disorder throughout the province of Saskatchewan.

**PETITION REGARDING AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in legislature assembled:

The Petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Saskatchewan humbly showeth:

Whereas people who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are some of the most vulnerable in our province;

And whereas, in Saskatchewan the number of children being diagnosed with an ASD is high (1 in 251, 2003), and the rate of increase is alarming (159% over 6 years up to 03/04);

And whereas, until the cause and cure of autism are found, research has shown that children and adults who have an ASD can benefit from the provision of Intensive Behavioral Intervention (IBI) therapy based on the Principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), speech/communication and occupational/physical therapy as well as medical attention for ASD related conditions (as a result of effective treatment, 50% more people with ASD develop speech, 66% more have typical IQ levels, and 230% more adults with ASD achieve some degree of independent living);

And whereas, for a variety of reasons including lack of assigned resources, and delegation to Ministries with little or no expertise, the provision of IBI/ABA therapy treatment to people with ASD is not available on a provincial basis, with the provision of other therapies being either not available or subject to unconscionable long waiting lists, and that Saskatchewan is the only province without a current or planned provincial autism effective treatment program;

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to act upon the following recommendation made February 2005 by the Government of Saskatchewan Caucus Committee on Human Services to the Saskatchewan Minister of Health, the Hon. John Nilson: "*The presentation from Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment concerned issues surrounding the support of autistic children and adults that need review, one in particular being the availability of behavioral therapists. The committee was impressed with the commitment of the parents and families of people with autism and encourages you to look for ways to improve their lives from diagnosis to therapies, work opportunities and family support*" by doing the following:

- Coordinate among the Departments of Health, Learning and Community Resources and Employment, with input from stakeholders, to formulate a provincial comprehensive Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) treatment program
- Provide adequate effective and early treatment based on Intensive Behavioral Intervention, and include speech/communication, occupational/physical therapy and medical attention for ASD related conditions
- Continue to provide Intensive Behavioral Intervention and other therapies for as long as an individual's lead medical professional deems it/them to be required
- Increase the early diagnosis of children with ASD
- Have respite and family support accessible based on need
- Make access to specialized equipment and supplies based on need
- Support regional autism service providers and provincial autism organizations that are providing support to families and individuals with ASD
- Ensure ASD adult services and supports are accessible and based on need rather than on IQ or physical disability.
- Encourage and support autism related research in Saskatchewan

And, as in duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town/R.M.

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