



265 Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4S 0B3

Phone: (306) 787-7388  
Fax: (306) 787-6247  
Email: leader@ndpcaucus.sk.ca

July 8, 2022

The Honourable Gene Makowsky, E.C.S., M.L.A.  
Minister of Social Services  
Room 303 Legislative Building  
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Makowsky:

I write to you to share concerns regarding the decision to suspend funding to the Lighthouse in Saskatoon. While there are valid concerns regarding the governance and management of the organization, the suspension of funding leaves a significant gap in services for some of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable people.

Additionally, the move by your Ministry begs many questions about the process that was followed before this decision was announced on talk radio, a questionable choice itself. I am writing for answers to the following questions:

- Stakeholders are stating they do not plan to take on the full suite of programs that were offered at the Lighthouse and they do not have the bed capacity to house all clients who will be displaced. What work was done in advance of this decision to ensure there would not be gaps in service? What service providers were consulted in advance of this decision?
- How could such serious governance issues and misuse of public funds have developed without being recognized by your ministry? Why did the Ministry's auditing process not catch these anomalies?
- Given what unfolded at the Lighthouse without your government's knowledge, what does this say about the Ministry's current oversight structure of third-party organizations it is funding?

Saskatchewan's social safety net is already broken, and without immediate action to ensure these services continue to be funded and accessible, more people in need will fall through the cracks. I look forward to your timely response to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

Meara Conway, M.L.A.  
Regina Elphinstone Centre Constituency  
Official Opposition Critic for Social Services, Housing and Human Rights