

Advocate for Children and Youth Tables 2018 Annual Report

REGINA – The Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth, Corey O’Soup, tabled his third annual report in the Legislative Assembly today. The report showcases the Advocate’s work this year, along with the innovative actions and practices that are currently providing supports to children, youth and their families across the province.

With a focus on mental health and youth engagement this year, the Advocate hopes to see an increase in prevention and early intervention resulting from increased government support and communities educating each other to better support children and youth in all corners of Saskatchewan.

“Every community is faced with challenges, however very few challenges are exclusive to a single community. Many of the issues our children and youth face can be resolved with appropriate supports and services. Our government must be committed to sustainable funding for mental health services for our young people for them to reach their full potential,” said O’Soup.

As the office continues to pursue the priorities set out in the Advocate’s five-year strategic plan, our relationships with stakeholders continue to be built and strengthened, which has led to an increase in calls to our office from the citizens of Saskatchewan who want to help our young people. “Engaging with children and youth where they are is crucial in supporting them. Our increased presence in schools and on social media has amplified this engagement”, said O’Soup.

“Throughout the year, I have had the privilege of meeting people who are creating and operating amazing programs right here in Saskatchewan. We don’t need to reinvent the wheel to help our kids, if our communities come together, everyone will benefit,” said O’Soup

In March the Advocate released a special report into the death of a five-year-old boy at Saskatoon school entitled, *When Every Second Matters*. The Advocate made 11 recommendations related to policy change, information sharing, training, and supervision of children with special needs. O’Soup stated, “It’s important for my office to continue to monitor all recommendations when there is a breakdown in service resulting in tragedy like this, to ensure that the necessary changes occur to increase the safety and protection of children in this province. Solution focused efforts are critical in getting underneath the issues, and monitoring services provided to our young people is part of this work as well,” said O’Soup.

The Advocate for Children and Youth is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. He leads a team of professionals who work on behalf of the province’s young people. Our vision is that the rights, well-being and voice of children and youth are respected and valued.

For full details visit www.saskadvocate.ca to view the 2018 Annual Report.

-30-

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