

**Advocate for Children and Youth celebrates its 20th Anniversary
with Open House on November 7th**

SASKATOON – The Advocate for Children and Youth is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Friday, November 7 with an Open House at its Saskatoon office from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. There will be a short program at 3:00 pm. Media and members of the public are invited to attend any time during the afternoon.

Current Advocate Bob Pringle was the Minister of Social Services at the time the office was established and the first Advocate, Deborah Parker-Loewen, was appointed on November 7, 1994.

“While developing the Advocate position, we sought a great deal of input, meeting with or receiving submissions from more than 100 individuals, organizations and agencies across the province,” says Pringle.

“As I said at the swearing in of the first advocate, they told us that they wanted a Children’s Advocate who would be a voice for children and youth in crisis; who would have a role in community education and prevention; be independent of control or influence of any government department or minister; and be visible and accessible to the community.

Looking back over the last 20 years, I believe that we have been successful in putting this vision into action.”

Dr. Deborah Parker-Loewen, who served as the first Children’s Advocate from November 1994 until June 2005, as the position was known then, will be in attendance at 2:30 pm.

The Advocate for Children and Youth is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. He leads a team of regional advocates, investigators and other staff who work on behalf of the province’s young people. Our vision is that the rights, interests and well-being of children and youth are respected and valued in our communities and in government legislation, policy, programs and practice.

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