



A Voice for Youth

MEDIA RELEASE

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Children's Advocate Tables 2011 Annual Report

REGINA — Bob Pringle, Children's Advocate, tabled his 2011 *Annual Report* in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly today.

The report sets a new tone for the Advocate's Office under Pringle's leadership in recognizing the significance of the provincial government's *Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda*, while strongly encouraging a broadening of the Agenda to include community engagement and address issues beyond the initial four cross-government strategies.

"It is my hope that in the coming years, the Government of Saskatchewan—with the assistance of our Office, First Nations and Métis leaders, and communities—builds a successful and sustainable *Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda*," said Pringle. "Working openly and together, I believe that Saskatchewan can become an innovator and leader on child and youth matters."

While Pringle expressed strong support for the goals and early work of the Agenda, he also highlighted the need for more urgent action on:

- developing a Saskatchewan poverty reduction strategy to address social and economic drivers of the child welfare and criminal justice systems;
- transforming the child welfare system to better respond to the needs of families prior to points of crisis, and keep all children and youth in safe and supported homes; and,
- improving services and outcomes for Aboriginal children, youth and their families, with substantial supports, interventions and opportunities to succeed and counter the inter-generational trauma experienced by First Nations and Métis families and communities.

"Poverty-related conditions are at the heart of challenges affecting children, youth and their families," said Pringle. "Saskatchewan's strong economy provides many opportunities to address these issues, and many sectors in our society can work together to create an anti-poverty strategy that works."

Pringle recognized the good work that has been done to address the challenges identified in the 2010 Child Welfare Review and that change of the magnitude envisioned will take time and require the effort of all of us—government, communities and individuals—to achieve.

“It’s an exciting time in our province and in our Office,” said Pringle. “New partnerships, directions and solutions are created everyday to the benefit of children, youth and their families. There is still much work to be done, but I am proud to be a part of this change.”

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For the full report please visit: www.saskcao.ca.

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The Saskatchewan Children’s Advocate Office was established in 1994 as an independent office under *The Ombudsman and Children’s Advocate Act*.