



OCT 20 2010

Ref: #1502JD(537-10)

Mr. Doug Tratch, President  
IDEA Regina  
Box 24014  
REGINA SK S4P 0J0

Dear Mr. Tratch:

Thank you for your letter outlining IDEA Regina's suggestions for discussion points at a potential meeting of provincial and territorial (PT) Ministers responsible for disability issues to discuss the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

At this summer's meeting of the Council of the Federation, the Government of Manitoba was tasked with the intention to convene such a meeting later this fall. To date, no meeting has been scheduled, nor has there been any further information received by my office regarding potential agenda items or the framework for discussions. If there were to be a request for PT Ministers to meet in the future, Saskatchewan would be most pleased to attend.

Your letter raises important points about the Convention, including issues regarding the establishment of a focal point for managing issues relating to people with disabilities as well as raising concerns about the Optional Protocol appended to the Convention.

The Government of Canada is responsible for international treaties and conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. At this point, the federal government has provided no indication that they are intending to sign the Optional Protocol. While I appreciate hearing your concerns, these are questions that should be directed to the federal government's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

...2

Mr. Tratch, President  
Page 2

---

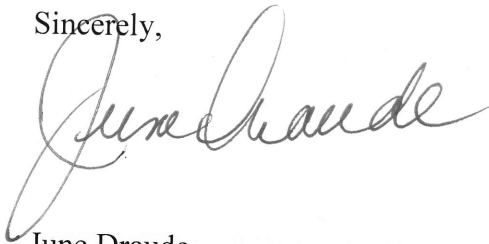
The federal government is providing national leadership by developing the information requirements of reporting and monitoring activities required by the Convention. Saskatchewan's participation in these discussions is led by my colleague, the Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C., Minister of Justice and Attorney General. He and his officials will be working with all provincial ministries and agencies to provide the information required and to ensure that Saskatchewan law and policy is consistent with the Convention.

I can assure you that the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to the inclusion of people with disabilities in the deliberations surrounding future disability policy and legislation. We want to continue to build on the successful process of collaboration and inclusion used to develop the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability Program (SAID).

I note that Michael Prince cites the Saskatchewan experience with SAID as a good example of the type of process he advocates in Absent Citizens - Disability Policy in Canada.

I appreciate your ideas and thoughtful advice for improving the lives of people with disabilities. As indicated in the quotation from the Premier, the Government of Saskatchewan remains committed to the principles of full participation included in the Convention.

Sincerely,



June Draude  
Minister of Social Services

cc: Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan  
Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C., Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Laurie Beachell, National Coordinator, Council of Canadians with Disabilities