

Poverty Reduction Strategy Priority Area Actions

1. Income Security	
Short-term Actions	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign provincial income assistance programs to better align with the Ministry of Social Services objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve services and programming to help people experiencing low income improve their quality of life. • Increase sustainable transitions to training, education, and employment for adults receiving income assistance. • The specific focus of the redesign will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing basic income support programs and supplements to better match benefits and services with citizen needs. • Setting up a process to review the redesigned benefit programs to ensure they are meeting intended goals and objectives. • Streamlining administrative processes to improve the citizen experience. • Strengthening service practices to better define a person’s career status and the best next steps on the path to employment. • Developing mechanisms to incentivize participation in employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase earned income exemptions under the Saskatchewan Assistance Program and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disabilities program. • Increase the Low Income Tax Benefit. • Increase the Basic Personal Amount Tax Exemption.

2. Housing and Homelessness	
Short-term Actions	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community agencies to expand opportunities for housing for those deemed hard-to-house. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will support households that include individuals who have physical disabilities, mental health issues, addictions issues, behavioural issues, or a number of these issues concurrently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community Housing First initiatives. • Continue to partner with stakeholders to increase the availability of safe, affordable, and adequate housing for individuals and families with low incomes. • Increase access to safe, affordable housing for First Nation and Métis people.

3. Early Childhood Development and Child Care

Short-term Actions	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a comprehensive Saskatchewan Early Years Plan. • Explore options to help parents choose healthy and safe child care environments and to better connect families with home-based child care providers. Potential options could include an “accredited” child care category. Target Prekindergarten programs to vulnerable children. • Make it easier for parents to find child care and other local early learning options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish child care centres in all new school builds in the province, as appropriate. • Enhance Before and After School Programs. • Increase available of early learning spaces including Prekindergarten programs.

4. Education, Skills Training and Employment

Short-term Actions	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop links between human services providers and the K-12 education system to support vulnerable students and their families. • Develop a Truth and Reconciliation/Residential Schools resource for educators. • Extend the age of eligibility to receive financial support for continued education for youth and young adults who are Long Term Permanent Wards of the Province. • Strengthen services to individuals on social assistance by identifying the interventions they need to make progress toward economic independence. • Improve transition supports for at-risk youth who are graduating from high school, and for youth in care who are turning 18. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance support for programming to provide professional development for teachers that improves First Nations and Métis student engagement and achievement in school. • Enhance employment readiness and literacy programming in correctional facilities to assist offenders in gaining employment once they leave the facility.

5. Health and Food Security	
Short-term Actions	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Health Regions and community-based organizations to improve access to primary health care services in vulnerable neighbourhoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential partnerships with business and communities on projects to improve Northern food security. • Work with Northern leaders to improve access to healthy food and support food self-sufficiency by promoting best practices in local harvesting and food production (e.g., fishing, gardening, and community supported agriculture) within all Northern communities. • Review adequacy of the food allowance for Social Assistance clients in the North. • Work with health regions and community-based organizations to strengthen supports for access to healthy food in settings where children live, learn, and play.

6. Vulnerable Families and Individuals	
Short-term Actions	Future Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate implementation of the 10 year Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan. • Implement the Disability Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a collaborative Saskatchewan Government plan to prevent and reduce interpersonal violence and domestic abuse.

Additional Action Area

Collaboration and Coordination	
Short-term Actions	Future Directions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement a “no wrong door” policy and simplify processes to provide easier access to Government programs and services.• Expand the Hub model across Saskatchewan, including to First Nations and the North.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Hub model brings together human services from across the community and different levels of government to find ways to immediately connect common clients to meaningful supports.• Provide an integrated, co-ordinated, and multi-system response to support marginalized and vulnerable families.