

### **23. Social Assistance Benefits**

**Whereas** Saskatchewan's Social Assistance benefits are inadequate, with confusing rules;

**Be it resolved** the SLP implement the following:

- a) Social Assistance be redesigned from the ground up, writing a new, simpler Act
- b) Scrap Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) and replace with a more effective benefit package;

**Be it further resolved** the SLP reinstate the Rental Supplement including the following:

- a) all Social Assistance clients will receive the Rental Supplement
- b) the Rental Supplement will subsidize rents to the cost of the average rent in Saskatchewan
- c) any resident who pays more than 40% of gross income towards rent will qualify; clients will be subsidized from 40% of income up to average rent or actual, whichever is less;

**Be it further resolved** Social Assistance rates will be indexed to inflation;

**Be it further resolved** Social Assistance clients will have actual cost of utilities paid directly;

**Be it further resolved** Social Assistance clients will receive enough assistance such that they are no longer having to sacrifice food or rent;

**Be it resolved** the SLP simplify rules for Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) whereby any client with a disability, who needs any type of assistance and whose quality of life is affected by the disability, qualifies for SAID. This includes ensuring SAID applications no longer assume that a permanent disability has suddenly, miraculously been healed.

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