

## Backgrounder – Budget Focuses on Quality of Life for All Citizens

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### **Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program**

SAID is an income support program for people with significant and enduring disabilities, developed collaboratively by the Ministry of Social Services and the disability community. The program was designed to address two public policy goals: to assure a socially acceptable income for people with disabilities, recognizing the range of additional costs associated with disability; and to encourage and empower persons with disabilities to participate as fully as possible in community life according to their capacity and aspirations.

### **SAID Benefits**

Living Arrangement	Estimated Benefit Increases					Total
	Jan. 2012	June 2012	2013	2014	2015	
<b>Residential care</b>	\$50	\$40	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$150
<b>Single independent living</b>	\$0	\$200	\$50*	\$50*	\$50*	\$350*
<b>Couples independent living</b>	\$0	\$230	\$60*	\$55*	\$55*	\$400*

\*Estimated average increase.

### **Seniors Income Plan (SIP)**

The Seniors Income Plan provides seniors with the financial assistance required to help them meet their basic needs. A monthly supplement is provided to seniors who have little or no income other than the federal Old Age Security pension (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). SIP benefit amounts since 1992 are shown in the table below. The program received a significant increase in 2009 which not only increased the benefit amount, but extended the benefit to more seniors. July 2012 will mark an additional increase to SIP, and Government has committed to increase the benefit in each of the three years following.

#### **Maximum monthly benefits in the SIP program**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Historical Rate Changes</b>		<b>Future Government Commitments</b>			
	<b>1992</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2012*</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Single Pensioner</b>	\$90	\$190	\$240	\$250	\$260	\$270
<b>Married/Common-law Both Pensioners</b>	\$72.50	\$155	\$205	\$215	\$225	\$235
<b>Pensioner with Non-Pensioner Spouse</b>	\$90	\$190	\$240	\$250	\$260	\$270
<b>Pensioner with Spouse in Receipt of Allowance</b>	\$90	\$190	\$240	\$250	\$260	\$270

\*New maximum benefit effective July 2012.

### ***Seniors Personal Care Home Benefit***

The Personal Care Home Benefit is a new program that will provide senior citizens with financial assistance to help them with the cost of living in a personal care home. A monthly supplement will be provided to seniors who have little or no income and who live in a licensed personal care home. The monthly supplement is the difference between the senior's income and \$1,800. For example, a senior living in a licensed personal care home within Saskatchewan with a monthly income of \$1,522 from all sources (including pension income) would be eligible to receive \$278 from the Seniors Personal Care Home Benefit. Government has committed to increase the subsidy under the program each year for the next three years in order to keep pace with the expected increases to the cost of personal care homes.

About 1,500 seniors are expected to receive support from the Seniors Personal Care Home benefit.