



Media Release

March 27, 2010

Province Cuts Funding to Quint

The board and staff of Quint Development Corporation were surprised to learn that their provincial Neighbourhood Development Organization (NDO) funding was eliminated in Wednesday's budget.

"This came as a complete shock to us; there was no consultation prior to this decision, we were informed by a Social Services representative at 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon," says Len Usiskin, Quint's manager.

"We really don't understand the rationale behind this decision," says Dr. Sean Shaw, chair of Quint's board of directors. "Given the growing need for affordable housing, increased incidents of homelessness, and the rising number of people on social assistance, cutting funding to organizations that are making a real difference addressing these issues does not make a lot of sense. As the City continues to grow, the pressure to support people in housing and employment is only increasing. Our work supports the building of capacity so that all neighbourhoods can participate in Saskatoon's growth."

A Social Services budget day news release entitled Government Invests in Housing, Children and Families, says the government is committed to "helping citizens build better lives for themselves through economic independence, strong families and active involvement in labour market and the community."

"This is precisely what Quint has been successfully doing for the last 15 years. What part of our work does the government think does not fit within their stated priorities? How does the decision to eliminate the NDO funding fit with the government's commitment to increasing support for community based organizations?" asks Shaw. He went on to say that he would like an opportunity to meet with government representatives to discuss these questions and to ask them to reconsider their decision.

The NDO funding amounts to \$165,000 annually. "This is a very significant cut to for a small community organization and we are going to have to make some very hard decisions in order to maintain our programs and services. The NDO funding plays a critical part of Quint's operations. It supports our ability as an organization to develop and manage projects that address the unique needs of Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods on an on-going basis," Usiskin said.

...2

Quint has been funded through the NDO program since 1998. This has allowed the organization to develop successful initiatives that have that has directly improved the quality of life for hundreds of core neighbourhood families (see backgrounder attached).

- 30 -

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Quint Development Corporation

Backgrounder

Quint is a not-for-profit community economic development organization whose mission is to enhance the economic and social well being of Saskatoon's west side core neighbourhoods. Quint was formed in 1995 by residents of the Westside core neighbourhoods of Saskatoon. It is governed by a board that consists mainly of core neighbourhood residents.

Some of Quint's programs include:

- **The Neighbourhood Home Ownership Program** has assisted 110 low income families to own their own homes
- **The Affordable Rental Housing** provides renovated, family friendly rental housing for 65 families
- **The Core Neighbourhoods at Work program** supports over 300 individuals a year in their employment and training goals.
- **The Male Youth Lodge** provides transitional housing and support for over 40 homeless young men each year, while supporting them to seek education, training, and employment opportunities
- **Pleasant Hill Place** provides supportive transitional housing that allows families to be reunited as an alternative solution for at risk mothers who are at risk or have had their children put into foster care
- **Community Economic Development**
 - developing Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre,
 - assisting in developing Good Food Junction Co-op food store.
 - providing small business consultation and loans,