



**SASKATCHEWAN APPROVED
PRIVATE HOMES INC.**

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www.saph.ca

FALL 2016



During this holiday season and throughout the year, take time to care for yourself. You are the strength and the foundation of your Approved Home, as you create memories for your residents remember to be good to yourself.

Saskatchewan Approved Private Homes Inc. Wishes Each of You a Very Merry Holiday Season and Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Time and the seasons do not stand still, with our extended fall, summer seems not long past. Yesterday was a pleasant fall day, today the forecasters are giving ice warnings and talking about 20 cm. of snow in some areas.

The following reports review what SAPH Inc. has undertaken in the last quarter.

As we soon enter the winter season SAPH will continue to travel the province listening to, and representing its' membership.

President's Report Fall 2016

Hello and welcome to fall. This is the time of year that we hurry about getting our winter tires installed, organizing fall activities and medical appointments for our residents and generally restarting the year. As President of SAPH Inc., our professional association, I recognize the difficulty in finding time for yourself. It is imperative that each of you takes the time to rejuvenate and celebrate the amazingly generous and gifted person that you are. It is not possible to support others when you have exhaust your own resources.

Your professional association is dedicated to improving your lives and the lives of your residents. We have formalized a working relationship with government as well as expanded our community-based connections.

As the policies, and acts that govern our homes change SAPH Inc. continues to represent our homes as a group and as individual issues arise.

We can only represent and advocate for those issues brought to our attention, contact the association if there are issues in your home that we are unaware of. As an association we may be able to assist you.

Hearing from our members is always welcome.

The lack of respite, lack of behavioral supports and the need for essential funding are raised by our regional associations as well as by individuals on an ongoing basis. These issues and needs are valid and SAPH Inc. recognizes the toll they are taking on our members. There is much work to do in acquiring the essential supports needed to sustain the Approved Private Service Home sector. These issues are at all times our priority, and your association will continue to work diligently on your behalf. It is SAPH's responsibility to advocate for you, it is your responsibility to take care of yourselves and the residents of your homes. If we all prioritize that which we are responsible for the APSH sector will not only be sustainable but will grow while providing the best option for people requiring supported accommodation.

Take time to breath, not just essential oxygen rich air; the brisk fall air that allows us to celebrate the change of seasons while filling our beings with the promise of pumpkin spice everything, crunching leaves and cozy sweaters.

It continues to be a privilege to represent you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Usselman
Provincial President, SAPH Inc.

Executive Director Report Fall 2016

When we think of summer in Saskatchewan we often think of relaxing at the beach, going for drives in the country, traveling North to do some fishing or just enjoying going out of doors without a coat. I have had the Saskatchewan Approved Private Homes Inc. Executive Director version of summer. Representing 400 homes situated throughout a large portion of Saskatchewan, I have travelled much of the province and was often rewarded by seeing our beautiful wildlife and amazing vistas. Summer travel is easier not wearing a coat and not having to scrape windows, sadly this has now come to an end. This summer SAPH Inc. joined the Northern Disability Coalition, which has taken me to Pine House and La Ronge.

There has been no time to fish but I was given the opportunity to meet many caring individuals and look forward to this 'Northern Exposure' increasing the number of approved homes that provide supported accommodation so that all people experiencing disability, who choose to, can stay in their home communities.

As for relaxing at the beach I did get locked out of my hotel in La Ronge (door automatically lock prior to 6:30 AM), there was a beautiful view of the lake but slapping at mosquitos and knowing my CLSD travel partner and myself needed to be on the road did not allow for relaxing. But it did make for a travel story!

This summer held many steps forward for SAPH Inc.;

The Partnership plan that we developed last summer and presented to government was accepted. We now have an official partnership with SAPH Executive Director and the CLSD Executive Director Co-Chairing. Representatives from Health are also invited to the table.

The Terms of Reference have been signed off and we're in the process of finalizing a work plan.

The priorities of the Partnership are; essential funding, recruitment and retention, training and education, implementation of the National Building Code as it effects our private homes. All of these items speak directly to the sustainability of the Approved Home sector, which is priority one.

The Utilization Project that has had CLSD and SAPH meeting with our APSH providers to get data on who our homes can support has been very successful.

We have completed Moose Jaw, and finishing up in Saskatoon and are starting in Regina this month. I would anticipate this project would extend to cover the province.

Being a member of The Northern Disability Coalition (working title) has afforded SAPH Inc. the opportunity to work with government and other agencies to address the needs of The North, and specifically to help in the development of supported accommodation for residents in need of the supports an APSH can offer. The work on this project has just begun. I anticipate this being a long term relationship with the residents of Northern Saskatchewan. I am pleased that Michelle Christensen and Chad Ryan from CLSD could attend our PA Regional meeting to further inform our members on The Northern Disability Coalition.

Each of you received a letter in June from government regarding the previous requirement for sprinklers. As stated in the letter, sprinklers are no longer required by the provincial government in Approved Private Service Homes. Any municipality however, by amending their bylaws can increase the requirements to effectively nullify the provincial regulations. This could then require our homes to have sprinklers. This by-law change was brought forward in one jurisdiction. SAPH Inc. was instrumental in having it set aside for a review in one year. The municipality wants to review fire prevention proposals that will be brought in effectively eliminating the requirement for sprinklers.

To this end a task team has been set up that includes representatives from Health, Social Services, Government Relations, Fire Officials and SAPH Inc.

We have been working closely to develop feasible fire prevention protocols and requirements. All APSH providers should be receiving detailed information from government on this in the New Year.

While SAPH Inc. works on the big picture issues we try to be mindful of the issues that affect our individual homes. To this end we continue to represent our members during reviews, when under investigation or providing support during the appeals process.

We bring forward issues that affect many:

There have been changes to the Mental Health Act and Policy, as these roll out SAPH has received many inquiries and requests for assistance.

The issue that has affected many of our homes is the change to room size requirements. After much discussion with the Ministry of Health the following information was put forward:

Policy changes re room sizes:

If an Approved Home was operating pursuant to a certificate issued under the previous version of the Act on the date that the new Act and Regulations came into force, these transitional provisions have the effect of exempting that Approved Home from complying with certain new requirements of the Regulations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these regulations, an operator is not required to be in compliance with section 30.71 if the mental health approved home:

(a) Was certified as an approved home pursuant The Mental Health Services Act on the day before the day on which The Mental Health Services Amendment Regulations, 2015 came into force; and

(b) Met the requirements of section 30 of The Mental Health Services Regulations, as that section existed on the day before the day on which The Mental Health Services Amendment Regulations, 2015 came into force.

All health regions have been notified.

In CLSD shared rooms have been called into question and it was deemed in some regions that single rooms is 'best practice' and double occupancy rooms were no longer being certified as 2 spaces.

There is nothing in the legislation, or policies that prevent two individuals from sharing a bedroom, as long as the square footage meets the regulations, and as long as the two individuals are willing and happy to have a roommate. This is the official stance of the government. SAPH Inc. wants to retain this option in our homes.

It is often preferred by the resident to have a single room but there are many instances where a shared accommodation is preferable for the residents.

I look forward to continue to serve you, and welcome the opportunity to share your ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Miller Dennis
Executive Director
SAPH Inc.

Why are both Community Living Service Delivery Approved Private Service Homes and Mental Health Approved Homes Represented by SAPH Inc.? by Iris Miller Dennis

Recently at a Provincial meeting of SAPH Inc. the question was raised why are both Mental Health and Community Living APSH represented by SAPH Inc.?

Aren't there a lot of differences?

- The answer is there are far more similarities than differences;

It is important that the membership know that the Board of Directors of Saskatchewan Approved Private Homes Inc. (SAPH Inc.) has both Mental Health and CLSD Approved Home Providers representing your interests.

The way an APSH provider is compensated is by paying a DLSA level to our residents who then pay us. In the vast majority of the cases this funding is from Social Services. Because the funding ministry is the same for both types of home, the assessment tool and method of payment are the same advocating for both types of Approved Homes is done together.

The laws surrounding both The National Building Code and Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards (UBAS) apply uniquely to both types of home. In these acts we are referred to as Alternate Family Care Homes. These laws effect whether or not our homes require sprinklers, window sizes, accessibility guidelines and all building code.

SAPH Inc. along with the ministries of Government Relations and Public Safety, Health and Social Services, as well as representatives from fire protection meet on an ongoing basis to develop fire prevention policy. This policy will be standardized throughout the province for all Alternate Family Care Homes (both types of Approved Homes).

The municipal governments view both CLSD and MH homes as the same when considering zoning, by-laws and fire regulations. Working with the appropriate ministries we represent all APSH equally and with clarity.

Often residents of one type of home are moved to the alternate type of home.

When we factor in dual and multiple diagnoses many of the services and supports required by our residents overlap. SAPH Inc. often functions in assisting with identifying and securing the appropriate supports.

Although the Mental Health Act governs MHAP, and the Residential Services Act governs CLSD homes many of the aspects of these Acts are similar.

Both ministries have policies that accompany the Acts and SAPH Inc. participates in the review of the policies and works closely with the ministries to ensure that the policies reflect the spirit of the Acts, and are practical and reasoned.

When there is a request for representation by either type of home provider, the ministries recognize our professional association SAPH Inc. as that representative.

If there is to be an appeal over a decision that is made by the ministries or municipalities SAPH Inc. can be included in these negotiations at the request of the home provider. Your information is kept confidential unless you request otherwise.

Both ministries work closely with SAPH Inc. to preserve and support our sector.

In 2015 The SAPH Inc. Strategic Plan was finalized. This foundational living document clarifies our Vision and Mission statements and advises the work plan for SAPH Inc. SAPH Inc. represents the Approved Private Service Home Sector to ensure sustainability. This document was achieved through multiple surveys of our home providers and workshops to ensure a broad based representation of our homes.

In the spring of 2016 the Government of Saskatchewan approved a Partnership that includes Health, Social Services and SAPH Inc. this partnership is developing a work plan that will guide the future of all Approved Homes.

The development of respite options and associated funding affects both types of home equally. SAPH Inc. has made submissions to the respite review and continue to work at identifying the specific needs as they apply to Approved Private Homes.

Many training opportunities are relevant to both types of home and SAPH Inc. encourages its members to participate when training and educational opportunities are made available. Several opportunities are presented each year for our members to participate in. It is through shared knowledge; education and training that we continue to develop skills that help us to be quality Approved Home providers.

All Approved Home Providers work in isolation. SAPH Inc. gives each of us the opportunity to connect, whether in person or via the News Letter and website.

I hope that this answers the question. I am sure if we think about our similarities, we will recognize the strength that comes from working together and hopefully identify many more opportunities than I have listed.

2016 SAPH Executive Contact List

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Executive Director	Iris Miller Dennis 306-522-1145 306-536-3651(c); irisdennis@accesscomm.ca

Congratulations to the Prince Albert Region on a successful AGM, the following individuals were elected as your new executive:

- Dawn Desaulniers President
- Tracy Sinclair VP
- Caroline Sinclair 2nd VP
- Judy Gesner Secretary
- Susan Ashworth Treasurer

Upcoming Events

Moose Jaw: *Regular Meeting*, Tuesday, March 7, 2017 @ Rodo's @ noon. Future coffee get-together dates and times to be decided at this meeting.

North Battleford: *AGM*, Tuesday Jan. 17 @ Blend's Restaurant; Dinner/Appetizers @6 pm, meeting @ 7 pm. *A Fun-filled Saturday afternoon*, March 25, for residents and caregivers followed by supper at Co-op Restaurant. *Provincial Executive meeting*, April 24, 2 pm at 504 Frontier Way.

Regina: *Regular Meetings*, Jan. 16 and Feb 22 @ North-West Leisure Centre at 10 am. *AGM* scheduled for March 22, 2017.

Prince Albert: 2017 Meetings and activities TBD. Members will be contacted.

Saskatoon: *Christmas Luncheon*, Dec 20, 2016 at Western Development Museum, Reception 1130 am and Luncheon 12:00 pm
Regional Meeting, Jan. 11 2017, @Saskabilities Council, 1410 Kilburn Ave @ 10:30 A.M.
March 2017 *Coffee Group* - Date and time TBA

Swift Current: TBD. Call of the Chair.

Yorkton: *Regular Meeting*, Tuesday, Jan. 17, and *AGM* on March 14, 2017, 9:30-noon @ Partners in Employment, 222 Broadway St. E. AGM

CPR First Aid recertification is being offered in Regina:

Feb 13 8:30 - 5PM

1375 Lorne St.

To register call Laura at 306-347-2256

Health Benefits Package

Saskatchewan Approved Private Homes Inc. has had a health benefits package available to its members for several years with Group Medical Services (GMS).

The group plan # 329493 under Saskatchewan Association of Private Homes is in effect and was last revised May 01, 2011. SAPH Inc. suggests if you are looking for extended coverage that you review this as an option for you and your family.

