

Seniors' Chat

Housing Options for Saskatchewan Seniors - April 2009

One of the most often asked questions when people start looking at retiring in Saskatchewan is what housing options are available for seniors. One of the goals the Saskatchewan government has identified is to ensure provision of and access to affordable and supportive housing and services for seniors. I'd like to tell you about some of these options.

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) Repair Programs

– SHC has a number of repair programs offering loans and grants to low-income homeowners and landlords who house low-income tenants.

Programs and Services to Support Seniors

Living at Home – Low-income residents may be eligible for private loans and grants through the Programs and Services to Support Seniors Living at Home. These programs may include lawn cutting, snow removal, modifications for disabilities, some repairs and some energy upgrades.

Home Care – This program assists people in maintaining their quality of life in their own home. Admission to the Home Care Program is based on assessed need. Some services are at no cost and others are based on income and the amount of care required.

Rental Housing for Seniors – We have government-subsidized rental housing programs, which offer affordable housing for low- to moderate-income seniors.

Saskatchewan Assisted Living Services (SALS)

– These government-subsidized housing groups manage rental housing and collaborate with their community to coordinate access to affordable services. Services may include one meal a day,



Hon. Don McMorris

laundry, housekeeping, recreational activities and a personal response system for unscheduled needs. Tenants choose which services they wish to receive and pay the provider for only those services.

Assisted/Enriched Living (Retirement Living)

– Private developers have built complexes where seniors live in individual suites. They have amenities that may be offered as part of their rent including three meals per day, laundry, housekeeping and transportation services.

Personal Care Homes – These privately owned and licensed homes are an option for adults who generally do not require the health services of a special-care home but who need some assistance with personal care.

Special-Care Homes – Persons requiring higher levels of care use government-subsidized, special-care home services. Individuals are admitted on the basis of assessed need. The province subsidizes the cost of care and residents pay a portion of the costs based on their annual income.

I've mentioned some housing options available to seniors. For a complete listing, visit www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca/housing or www.health.gov.sk.ca or phone in Regina 787-4587 or toll-free 1-800-667-7766, for a *Housing Options for Saskatchewan Seniors* booklet.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to write me at Room 302, Legislative Building, 2405 Legislative Drive, Regina, SK S4S 0B3 or phone my office at (306) 787-7345. I welcome your comments and look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don McMorris".

The Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Health



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