

(Sample letter to the local MLA of your Constituency)

March 30, 2017

Name and address of your MLA

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Last week, on Wednesday March 22, 2017 the Saskatchewan Provincial Government presented their 2017-2018 budget and eliminated \$1.5 million dollars of funding for pastoral care services across our province. What was once deemed as important has now been eliminated.

Pastoral Care services provided a coordinator who worked to make sure that the spiritual needs of the patients and their families were met. It was also a ministry of listening, of presence to the sick and their loved ones and an opportunity to provide care and hope to the terminally ill, to be a support to those with medical hardships and disabilities and to bring hope to those with mental health issues. It was an essential part of the healing of body, mind and spirit for all human beings of all religions and denominations. There have been numerous studies conducted over the years that show that a person's health and well-being benefits when his or her spiritual needs are addressed. Having a coordinator of pastoral services on site made it much easier for the various denominations to do their ministry.

I am deeply concerned about this budget cut and decision to eliminate entirely the coordinators for pastoral care services from our health care system. I am saddened by the impact that it will have on those whose spiritual lives are fed and nurtured through these services. People who are well cared for in a holistic way will have the opportunity for healing and thus be able to recuperate and become stronger members of our society and province.

I would appreciate you bringing these concerns to our provincial government officials so that they will know that we who are citizens of this province do not agree with their decision to eliminate the funding of pastoral care services.

Sincerely,