



September 11, 2018

Dr. Jon Tonita  
Mr. Jason Young  
Steering Committee Co-Chairs  
Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth & Community Well-Being (SAYCW)

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, we are writing in support of the important work being done by the Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth & Community Well-Being (SAYCW).

The data from the school surveys provides school leaders, communities, health organizations and policy-makers with insights into the issues facing Saskatchewan including the rationale to recommend policies and interventions that will improve student health and well-being. The Canadian Cancer Society has used the data in presentations, ministerial briefs and other tobacco control advocacy efforts.

We are particularly concerned about the high rate of tobacco use and obesity among Saskatchewan youth, both which are risk factors for cancer. We have chosen to be part of the SAYCW Steering Committee and Knowledge to Action working groups as we value the opportunity to offer input into the survey questions that provide relevant and meaningful data and to partner with other stakeholders to promote healthy public policy and programs.

We also strongly support the SAYCW grant project and recognize the need of community and schools to draw on funding to implement meaningful projects that directly impact youth. Without the SAYCW grant project, many of the health promoting actions that occurred in 2017 would simply not be possible. Recipients of these projects reported positive impact on youth health and well-being, greater youth involvement, extra-curricular activities that otherwise youth would not have experience, and cultural pride.

The best cure for cancer is prevention. In order for youth to grow into healthy adults, it is important they develop healthy behaviors at a young age. SAYCW is doing this strategically, and respectfully, developing a knowledge translation framework to improve the health of youth through effective, local efforts.

Participating in *the Thriving Youth, Thriving Communities Survey 2019* provides schools with custom analysis of issues facing its student and an opportunity to partner with stakeholders to address those issues. We encourage schools to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angelina Webb".

Angelina Webb  
Regional Manager, Health Policy  
Canadian Cancer Society, Prairies