



September 28, 2018

Dr. Jon Tonita, Co-Chair  
Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth and Community Well-being  
jon.tonita@saskcancer.ca

Mr. Jason Young, Co-Chair  
Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth and Community Well-being  
jasonyoung@nlsd113.ca

Dear Dr. Jon Tonita and Mr. Jason Young:

The Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of working together with educational and community partners for the success and well-being of all Saskatchewan students. Sharing this philosophy, the Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth and Community Well-being (SAYCW) is helping schools, school divisions, communities and families support student learning and understanding of healthy behaviours by hearing directly from youth in the province.

The Ministry of Education reviewed the provincial results from the 2015 SAYCW survey that showed most students felt safe at school (86%), felt they were a part of their school (77%), and felt motivated to do well in school (90%). Other results from the survey outlined the challenges experienced by students ranging from overall wellness, bullying, a sense of belonging and engagement.

Through the *SAYCW Thriving Youth, Thriving Communities Survey*, a clear picture of the personal health and well-being of more than 9000 Saskatchewan students in grades 7-12 is presented. Information from regular surveying can help schools, school divisions, government and community agencies better understand student health behaviours, to monitor and evaluate changes in student well-being, and to continually address identified needs.

SAYCW has developed online toolkits to support action at the local level, supported a community action planning guide, and has acted as a liaison to help schools and communities connect with stakeholders who can support health promoting actions.

... 2

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Dr. Jon Tonita and Mr. Jason Young

September 28, 2018

Page 2

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In addition, through donations, SAYCW has offered a Healthy Schools and Communities Grant that encourages schools and communities to address the results of their survey. This successful program has seen more than \$450,000 provided to over 60 initiatives that will assist schools and communities in their health promoting actions. From school-community gardens to fitness programs, from culture camps to mental health programs, and from family literacy programs to robotics clubs, these initiatives provide real opportunities for youth to be engaged and to improve their learning and well-being.

The Ministry of Education recognizes the work of the SAYCW and is supportive of the 2019 *SAYCW Thriving Youth, Thriving Communities Survey*. The student feedback, follow up actions, and the grant program will help make a difference in the lives of students in our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Robert Currie". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

J. Robert Currie  
Deputy Minister