



The Lighthouse Supported Living  
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## **Media Statement**

### **The Lighthouse Supported Living – Urgent Call for Support Amid COVID-19**

The Lighthouse recommends that the Saskatchewan provincial government IMMEDIATELY release funds to community based organizations caring for people experiencing homelessness, poverty and addictions. The added costs for COVID-19 preparation and safety are taxing an already underfunded sector. Revenue is being diverted from essential programs and staffing to ensure safety and best practices in infection control, leaving a significant gap in resources.

The Lighthouse joins peer organizations like the Salvation Army shelter in strongly recommending that the Ministry of Social Services provide BLOCK FUNDING for essential services caring for people experiencing homelessness, poverty and addictions. The current model of funding not only creates long term financial insecurity but currently also exacerbates the risk of spreading the virus to this very vulnerable population. Currently, each individual accessing shelter services encounters several potential virus transmission points. Eg. Ministry of Social Services office, banks, computer stations, etc.

The Lighthouse agrees with Quint (Facebook post) in strongly recommending that the Ministry of Social Services make an IMMEDIATE change to all financial support programs by paying rent and utilities directly to landlords, like The Lighthouse, and to utility companies on behalf of our clients. There are a high number of transmission points in making personal payments such as return trips for tenants from their residents, to the bank, then to the landlord or utility company. Each encounter increases the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

The Lighthouse supports the urgent call for support from the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness issue today. <https://caeh.ca/covid-19-homeless-sector/>

### **Lighthouse Needs Funding**

We are experiencing a significant increase in expenses for staffing, food and infection control supply costs due to COVID-19 preparedness.

Shelter stays have increased and will continue to increase during the COVID-19 pandemic for those who are unstably housed. Many will NOT be eligible for Ministry of Social Services shelter funding, in which case The Lighthouse receives no money for their care.

## **More Details**

The volunteer program has shut down temporarily.

Visitors are not allowed in The Lighthouse until further notice.

Community suppers in the Cameco Community Kitchen on Mon & Fri are staying open for the moment. Bagged meals will be handed out at the kitchen door. NO SIT DOWN MEALS until further notice.

The Lighthouse thanks you for your patience as we continue planning for the care and safety of our residents and staff.

## **Contact**

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