



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

Minister of Social Services

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3



**JUL 16 2020**

Larry Doke, Chair  
Standing Committee on Human Services  
Room 105, Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive  
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Larry Doke:

During the June 18, 2020 consideration by the Standing Committee on Human Services of the Ministry of Social Services' estimates, I committed to reviewing additional information on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), and how this federal benefit is treated in the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program.

In all income assistance programs, including SAID, CERB is considered non-exempt income and is deducted from benefits dollar-for-dollar, like other wage replacement programs such as Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, and Workers' Compensation. The ministry has reviewed this policy for SAID clients and will continue to consider CERB as non-exempt income.

The ministry has done this so that clients are able to take advantage of their income exemptions as they are now starting to return to work. This will result in SAID clients having more of their earnings available to them and provides income stability for those clients that work intermittently and have fluctuating income while receiving future Income Assistance benefits.

The Ministry of Social Services is working with clients who may have received CERB to help them understand how this may impact their income assistance benefits and how income exemptions will benefit them as they return to work.

We encourage clients who have expressed concern to get in touch with their worker or to discuss their concerns and have any questions answered.

I trust this information helps answer some of the questions raised.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Merriman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent than the last name "Merriman".

Paul Merriman  
Minister of Social Services

cc: Members of Standing Committee on Human Services:  
Danielle Chartier, Deputy Chair; Herb Cox, Muhammad Fiaz, Todd Goudy;  
Nicole Rancourt, Nadine Wilson

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister, Social Services