The Honorable Donna Harpauer

Ministry of Finance

Minister’s Office

Room 312

Legislative Building,

2405 Legislative Drive

Regina, SK, S4S 0B3

**The Product of Summer Camp: Creating Good Citizens**

Dear Minister Harpauer,

The Saskatchewan Government has made the decision to close overnight summer camps across our province in response to the transmission risks of COVID-19. Although understandable, this decision has had a significant impact on the camp industry of Saskatchewan and has been a devastating blow to the tens of thousands of campers not able to attend camp this summer.

For decades, Saskatchewan overnight summer camps have welcomed campers from all walks of life. The camp experience has given those children confidence, a sense of community, and with the guidance of caring camp staff, these campers have grown into compassionate community leaders, understanding team players, and persevering Saskatchewan citizens. At camp young leaders are mentored and confidently handed responsibilities, experiencing first time employment in multi-talented positions, and developing valuable transferable life skills. Current research from the University of Waterloo has now substantiated what parents of campers have always known – summer camp creates good citizens.

Having made the decision to shut down overnight camps this summer, I believe that the Government of Saskatchewan must **now** make the decision to provide funding that will save the summer camp experience for generations to come. This is not just about summer 2020. It is about a professional industry dedicated to the well-being of children across Saskatchewan that has lost nearly all its 2020 revenue source, with no ability to make it up.

As a parent of a Saskatchewan camper, I implore you to direct targeted financial assistance for these valuable businesses to ensure our province’s summer camps remain viable.

Please also keep in mind the importance of ‘SUMMER CAMP’ to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Respectfully,

[Parent(s)/Guardian]