

# B I L L

No. 610

## An Act Respecting Seniors' Rights

(Assented to \_\_\_\_\_ )

### Preamble

WHEREAS freedom from poverty is a human right enshrined by the United Nations;

AND WHEREAS all citizens are entitled to social and economic security;

AND WHEREAS many seniors live on fixed incomes;

AND WHEREAS many seniors are victims of abuse – physical, emotional, financial;

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

### Short title

1 *The Seniors' Bill of Rights Act.*

### Interpretation

2 In this Act “**senior**” means a person who is 65 years of age or older.

### Bill of Rights

3 Every senior in Saskatchewan has the following rights:

(a) the right to freedom, independence and individual initiative in planning and managing their own lives;

(b) the right to access viable, affordable and cost-effective services and programs that are molded by the principles of strengthening independence, affirming dignity and expanding choice;

(c) the right to be able to remain in their communities and in their homes with the support of community-based, long-term care services;

(d) the right to a system where long-term care needs are met, regardless of income, in a culturally and linguistically sensitive way as those needs change over time;

- (e) the right of access to public and private services, allowing aging in place where possible;
- (f) the right to transition between the various forms of long-term care with minimal disruption and maximum attention to quality of life;
- (g) the right to an opportunity to choose a healthy lifestyle and be supported in this choice by effective, culturally appropriate programs designed to foster health and wellness without regard to economic status;
- (h) the right to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation in the community and in health care settings;
- (i) the right of consumer empowerment to make informed quality of life decisions;
- (j) the right to be fully informed of all programs and benefits, financial and otherwise, available to seniors including the criteria, amounts and conditions of the programs and benefits.

**Annual report**

4 In accordance with *The Tabling of Documents Act, 1991*, the President of Executive Council or designate shall account to the Legislative Assembly each year the number of seniors who are not able to access the rights set out in section 3.

**Coming into force**

5 The Act comes into force on assent.

THIRD SESSION

**Twenty-Sixth Legislature**

SASKATCHEWAN

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Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time

And Passed

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Ms. Judy Junor

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