



*Saskatoon
Community
Clinic*



Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Ltd.

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Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS)
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver CO 80202
United States of America

To whom it may concern,

Saskatoon Community Clinic is a cooperative owned and operated by Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Limited and operates comprehensive primary health and social services for residents of the greater Saskatoon community. We provide services at three locations in Saskatoon and surrounding area. One of our key partnerships is with the student-governed and run clinic "Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health", better known as SWITCH. SWITCH operates out of our Westside Clinic facility and plays an integral role in helping serve people living in the core neighborhoods of Saskatoon. I am providing this letter of affirmation for this student-managed organization.

SWITCH not only contributes to social sustainability in Saskatoon's low income neighborhoods, but also helps to engage future health care providers with issues of health equity and social determinants of health. Social equity is an integral part of sustainability and SWITCH contributes to our work at the Westside Community Clinic to enhance social equity within our city, especially as it relates to the social determinants of health. Being a part of an outreach team allows students to interact with and serve clients at SWITCH (both patients and non-patients), providing fundamental education on social determinants of health (SDOH) that is underemphasized in the current curriculum.

Formal education can often cause students to become disconnected from broader aspects of healthcare, because of the focus on disease rather than patient and family-centered care. Service learning, such as that offered by SWITCH, exposes students to underserved patients who have experienced barriers to health equity and allows them to develop skills such as leadership, communication, and empathy skills which are critical to patient and family-centered care.

"YOUR HEALTH CARE CO-OP"

SWITCH makes many valuable contributions to the Saskatoon community while at the same time enriching the lives and perspectives of students, our future leaders. I cannot overstate the importance of this or the added value that SWITCH provides to Saskatoon Community Clinic, to the University of Saskatchewan, and most importantly, to the lives of thousands of Saskatoon citizens who need our continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Archer", written in a cursive style.

Tim Archer, Executive Director
Saskatoon Community Clinic