

December 1, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regina, SK – In response to the speech from the Throne, delivered November 30, 2020, SASS supports the efforts of the provincial government to remove barriers experienced by survivors of sexual violence through the proposal to amend the *Residential Tenancies Act*. Allowing survivors to seek safety and terminate long-term leases without financial repercussions is one condition of improvement which provides survivors of sexual violence choices on how to proceed following a traumatic experience.

SASS is also optimistic that the proposed legislation, which seeks to offer protections for survivors of human trafficking, will further reduce harms and ensure impacts of trafficking on survivors are mitigated. Drawing from the frontline experiences of agencies and organizations already supporting survivors of human trafficking, we can ensure Saskatchewan has robust and comprehensive legislation which supports survivors' needs and contributes to the elimination of sexual violence and human trafficking in our communities.

As the provincial government drafts the proposed legislation, SASS is hopeful that stakeholders and experts, such as our organization and our member agencies, and those with lived experiences are consulted on how the legislation can best serve the needs of survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking.

SASS believes the responsibility in changing the attitudes and cultures of sexual violence should be shared amongst all of us: individuals, businesses, professional sectors, and at all levels of governments. SASS is committed to being a resource for trauma and violence-informed supports, services, policy, legislation, and education as we works towards a Saskatchewan where every person is free from the treat, fear, or experience of sexual violence in all its forms.

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For More Information:  
Ashley Kilback  
Communications Specialist  
306.541.4655  
[comm.sass@sasktel.net](mailto:comm.sass@sasktel.net)  
SASS – Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan  
[Sassk.ca](http://Sassk.ca)