



**We Could Use a Little Help:  
Parents of Children with ASD looking for Respite Support**

**Sample Letter to Minister of Social Services**

Date:

Your Name Here  
Street  
Town/City, Postal Code

Honourable Donna Harpauer  
Minister's Office  
Room 346, Legislative Building  
2405 Legislative Drive, Regina, SK S4S0B3

Dear Honourable Minister,

**Re: Parents of Children with ASD need Respite Reform**

I am/We are parent(s) of one of the estimated 1675 children/teens living with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Saskatchewan.. His/her name is \_\_\_\_\_. **[Write something important about your son/daughter]**

We are asking for your help, in your role as the Minister of Social Services, to address the challenges we are currently facing in attempting to access respite services for our family. We love our child(ren) desperately but in order to have the energy and patience needed to care for **(insert child's name)** we occasionally need to take a break. We **(choose the one that applies)** *do have the support of our extended family but we often need to rely on paid caregivers* **or** *we do not have extended family who are able to care for our child so we must rely totally on paid caregivers* to provide us with some relief.

Some of the challenges we face in obtaining respite services are : **(Choose the ones that apply to you and explain how your family is impacted)**

1. We inquired about respite support but were told that we did not qualify for this support because **(insert reason here)** even though **(explain your need for respite care)**

2. We were told we did qualify but did not receive any funding from the program because (ie child's assessed need and or our income disqualified us from the receiving any funding, explain what your situation is like, and why you could benefit from the funding support.)
3. We did receive funding from the respite program but were disqualified from the program as of March 31, 2009 do to the income-testing provisions that have been brought into place. (Explain impact on your family)

**We need your help now** to address the respite needs offamilies caring for children with ASD. We would ask that you meet with representatives from Autism Services to formulate a plan to address our collective concerns.

We look forward to hearing from you personally regarding your Department's plans to address concerns outlined above.

Sincerely,

Name(s) of Parent(s)  
Phone number