

Date:

Dear

The Saskatchewan government is to be congratulated on its commitment to healthy people and a healthy province. I am writing to ask your support of the development of a human milk bank in Saskatchewan to further enhance the health of our youngest citizens.

Since 1988, Saskatoon Breastfeeding Matters – a community-based organization of mothers and health professionals – has been working to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

Now, we would like your support in establishing a donor human milk bank in Saskatchewan for mothers who are not able to breastfeed their infants.

Many mothers want to feed their baby breastmilk, as recommended by the Canadian Pediatric Society, Health Canada, the World Health Organization and many other agencies. However, not all mothers are able to feed their baby their own milk, and pasteurized donor human milk is recommended as the preferred source of nutrition for infants when mothers' own milk is not available.

Establishing a donor human milk bank in Saskatchewan would save lives and money. Providing human milk instead of infant formula reduces the risk of many diseases including necrotizing enterocolitis among pre-term infants, and among full-term infants, human milk reduces the risk of acute ear infection, eczema, diarrhea & vomiting, hospitalization for lower respiratory tract diseases in the first year, asthma, childhood obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus, acute lymphocytic leukemia, acute myelogenous leukemia, sudden infant death syndrome (reference: US Department of Health and Human Services. The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding, 2011)

I believe the Saskatchewan government has committed to children's health. But we can do more to have healthy people in a healthy province. I respectfully request that you support the establishment of a human milk bank in Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,