
Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister responsible for eHealth Saskatchewan
Room 204, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
REGINA, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Reiter:

I would like to express my frustration and disappointment in the lack of progress on the indexing of historical vital statistics records in Saskatchewan. As a genealogist and family historian, these primary records are essential to my research and the research of other genealogists across the province, country and around the world.

The lack of an up-to-date online index of births, marriages and deaths in Saskatchewan, within the parameters of privacy legislation, is very disappointing and certainly adds more work and pressure on your staff to fulfill requests for genealogical copies of records. It must be even more frustrating for your staff when they must undertake research for records that may not even exist!

As well, the fee for genealogical records is excessive compared to most other provinces. A comparison of other jurisdictions in Canada shows that Saskatchewan lags behind almost all other provinces, and yet charges far more to access records. I encourage you to alleviate the indexing backlog to allow researchers easier access to their Saskatchewan heritage, and at less cost. If fees were reduced, it is quite likely that you would gain additional revenue as people would be more inclined to seek genealogical copies of records.

There is an ever increasing interest in genealogy research. This is evidenced by the increase in genealogical society memberships across Canada, the number of courses now available on genealogical research, the interest in DNA and other genealogical tools and websites, the tours designed specifically for genealogy researchers around

the world, and the number of retired baby boomers taking an interest in genealogy and family history, etc.

Please join the bandwagon! Make Saskatchewan a leader rather than a source of frustration for researchers. If you are unable to make any progress I know the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society has offered to be of assistance with experienced volunteers. I encourage you to reach out to them in a joint effort to improve the resources for all those interested in this growing field.

Sincerely,

Copy to: Jim Hornell, CEO
eHealth Saskatchewan
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REGINA, Saskatchewan
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