

BILL

No. 625

An Act to Respect People with Intellectual Disabilities in Saskatchewan

(Assented to)

Preamble

WHEREAS people with intellectual disabilities are equal and are contributing Saskatchewan citizens;

WHEREAS for far too long hurtful words like “mental retardation”, “mentally retarded”, “retardation”, “retarded”, or “retard” have been used to refer to those living with intellectual disabilities and these terms have commonly come to be used as derogatory insults and denigrations of a person’s value and ability;

WHEREAS the words “mental retardation”, “mentally retarded”, “retardation”, “retarded” or “retard” are used several times in Saskatchewan laws, regulations and other government materials, both in print and on-line and it is time the language is updated to reflect a more respectful and inclusive society; and

WHEREAS we know that language has a strong impact on our perception and treatment of people and that people with intellectual disabilities are offended by the use of this terminology:

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

Short title

1 *The Saskatchewan Respectful Language Act.*

Purpose

2 All references respecting individuals that refer to “mental retardation”, “mentally retarded”, “retardation”, “retarded” or “retard” shall be removed from all legislation and regulations in force in the Province of Saskatchewan and replaced with “intellectual disability” or its appropriate form or derivative as the case may be.

R.R.S. 265/72 amended

3 *The Saskatchewan Rehabilitation (Mentally Retarded Persons) Regulations* are amended by striking out “mentally retarded” and “mental retardation” wherever they occur and in each case replacing it with the appropriate form or derivative of “intellectual disability”.

RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE

R.R.S. c.D-23 Reg 3 amended

4 Subsection 6(5) of *The Social Services Rehabilitation Institutional Collective Benefit Funds and Trust Account Regulations* is amended by striking out “persons who are mentally retarded” and substituting “persons with intellectual disabilities”.

S.S. 1961, c.82 amended

5 An Act to incorporate *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi* is amended by striking out “retarded” wherever it occurs and in each case substituting “people living with intellectual disabilities”.

General application

6 All regulations and legislation created by the Province of Saskatchewan shall use respectful, inclusive language such as “intellectual disabilities” and must not use derogatory terms.

Policies and manuals

7 All agencies, commissions and ministries of the Government of Saskatchewan, especially the Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Social Services shall, in the construction of their print, audio, visual and on-line materials, use respectful, inclusive language and refrain from using “mental retardation”, “mentally retarded”, “retardation”, “retarded”, or “retard”.

Consequences of revision

8 All changes by this Act are made without any intent to change the coverage, eligibility, rights, responsibilities, or definitions referred to in the statutes, regulations, print, audio, visual and on-line materials of any agencies, commissions and ministries of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Coming into force

9 This Act comes into force on Assent.