

News Release

April 30, 2008

**NDP: KRAWETZ MUST STALL BILL THAT EXPERTS SAY IS AN
ATTACK ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.**

NDP Education critic Trent Wotherspoon today called on Education Minister Ken Krawetz to not proclaim Bill 29 in the face of mounting evidence that its poses a threat to the rights of children with disabilities.

On Monday, Krawetz claimed he had consulted with the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL) on section 178 of his bill, which deals with how schools include children with disabilities. He also claimed the group supported his legislation.

Today the SACL issued a news release calling the Bill, “regressive, shocking and simply unacceptable.” The SACL also says they were never consulted on the legislation and that they were denied participation in the legislative process.

“The Minister has misled the public on who he consulted on this legislation and what they said about it,” Wotherspoon said. “The Minister can not in good conscience proceed with this bill. There are too many concerns being raised by experts who he failed to consult.”

The SACL says the legislation is a step backward in ensuring inclusive education and that it is a threat to the rights of students with disabilities.

“There is simply too much concern over the Minister’s legislation,” Wotherspoon said. “This all could have been avoided had he actually consulted with the groups he said he did.

“If this government is really as committed to consultation as it claims to be, the Minister will agree to our request that he not proclaim the bill until proper consultation can be done.”

-30-

For further information, please contact Jay Branch at the NDP Caucus Office - (306) 787-7388.