DATE

ADDRESS

Dear INDIVIDUAL,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of the organization Survivor’s Hope Crisis Centre. Survivor’s Hope is a non-profit resource and crisis centre dedicated to supporting rural Manitobans who have experienced sexualized violence including assault, abuse, harassment, exploitation, and trafficking. Survivor’s Hope is the only agency in Interlake-Eastern Manitoba providing inclusive support and 24/7 sexual assault crisis intervention to survivors and those affected by sexual violence. They also act as a much-needed education resource for schools and youth and engage with community and service providers. Survivor’s Hope is committed to addressing the pervasive issue of sexual violence that continues to exist in Manitoba and the societal root causes of this harm that is experienced by individuals of all ages, genders, and backgrounds, but more predominantly to our Indigenous relatives, women, and girls. Additionally, they support survivors of sexualized violence through their comprehensive programs and services, mainly the SARAH Counselling Program (Sexual Assault Recovery and Healing).

Last week, Survivor's Hope received notification from the Federal Government that funding for their SARAH Counselling Program is not being continued. Without this funding, SARAH cannot be sustained and will cease operations in May 2024, leaving hundreds of current and future survivors immediately without the therapeutic counseling, community-based legal options, advocacy, and systems navigation that it provides. As a nonprofit organization, Survivor’s Hope relies heavily on the support of our community and more importantly, the Manitoba and Canadian government (at all levels) and all government parties.

That is why you are receiving this letter: to request your support in securing immediate and lasting funding for the SARAH program. A GoFundMe page has been launched (<https://gofund.me/7be2bbed>), direct donations can be made to the organization ([www.survivors-hope.ca/donate](http://www.survivors-hope.ca/donate)), Box 925, Pinawa, MB, R0E 1L0, and the community is providing their support, but it’s not enough – we need our Government to commit to lasting and reliable financial support to ensure Survivor’s Hope can continue the SARAH program, enhance their existing services, expand their outreach efforts, and develop new initiatives to better serve survivors, and help spread the education and awareness needed to help prevent sexual violence in our communities.

We, as Manitobans, believe that investing in programs like SARAH is not only morally imperative but also economically prudent. You are in turn investing in the future of Manitoba and the future of this country. Educating youth and our communities is also anti-violence work, crime prevention and community building, thus contributing to a healthy population, less strain on health care and police/RCMP services as well. By supporting survivors and addressing the root causes of sexual violence (offenders/those who cause harm), Manitobans can reduce the long-term social and economic costs associated with this issue and create safer, healthier communities for all.

We urge you to use this opportunity to invest in the future of our most vulnerable Manitobans, in this huge region of the province, to create a just and equitable society for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical request. I look forward to hearing a response from you.

Sincerely,

FROM