



# **SaskAbilities** ConnectAbilities

## A Closer Look at the Yorkton Skills Development Program!



### VISION

Working together to build inclusive communities for people of all abilities.

### MISSION

SaskAbilities supports people experiencing disability with programs and services to enhance their lives.

### VALUES

We treat people with respect, honesty and compassion.

Our programs and services are client-centred, goal-oriented and accountable.

We value teamwork, excellence and innovation.

Justin is someone who enjoys attending Yorkton's SaskAbilities Day Program. The program provides people experiencing disability with a chance to take part in some pretty great adventures throughout the local community. It also provides a place to socialize and have fun with games, music and technology, while learning daily living skills.

Participating in the program has given Justin an opportunity to make new friends. He feels lucky that he is able to do some of the things he really enjoys while being exposed to new things. One experience that stands out for him was being able to take a bus with his friends to attend a Roughriders™ game in Regina! His participation has also led to opportunities to spend time socializing with his friends outside of the program in the evening and on weekends.

Since participating in the Skills Development Program at SaskAbilities, Justin has tried so many new things and has been offered some very exciting opportunities. The Skills Development Program provides assistance developing social, daily living and vocational skills, both at SaskAbilities and in the community at worksites.

Justin's supervisor, Julia, is so proud of him. She says his sense of humour makes him a lot of fun to work with, "Justin has blossomed. His happy disposition and his perseverance is a great testament to how far he has come in the last two years." She went on to say that Justin has developed some skills



that have put him on the path to gainful employment in the future.

Because of his keen interest in cars and trucks, one of Justin's favourite worksites was the local race track. According to Justin, "It was a good place to work, and you could talk to people while selling tickets on the grounds or in the ticket booth." He also had the opportunity to learn some unique skills while working in their concession stand and, while he was there, he enjoyed some exciting races!

Another highlighted worksite for Justin was a local gym. He was able to learn about infection control through proper cleaning techniques by cleaning and disinfecting equipment. Julia said, "Since Justin loves to socialize, these were two great job experiences for him."

Justin, we wish you all the best in working towards your future goals! ■

# Introducing the Newest SARC Great Work Award Recipient!

The Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) Awards is an event that celebrates the unique accomplishments, journeys, skills, and contributions of community builders, inclusive employers and people across Saskatchewan. The awards reflect success in inclusive employment for people of all abilities! This year's event was held in Regina on October 24th, and saw six awards presented to people and organizations who have accomplished great things in their communities.

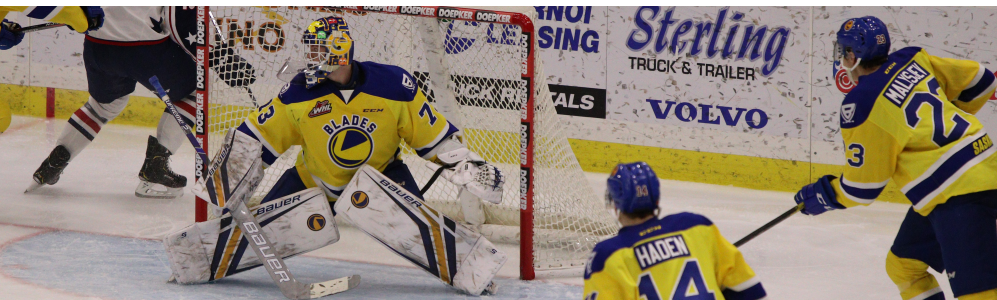
Pictured here are two of this year's SARC Award recipients. Nolan Paradis received SARC's "Great Work Award", and Nolan's employer, the Swift Current Broncos represented by Nathan MacDonald, received the "Great Advantage Award".



Nolan came to SaskAbilities, Swift Current Branch, with a dream of working in a sports related field. He knew where he wanted to be, and he was looking for the resources to get there. After joining the Youth Employment Program, he gained work experience by volunteering in the community, something he takes great interest in, and he completed several certifications that helped him build his resume.

After all of his hard work and perseverance, Nolan was hired by the Chinook Golf Course and the Swift Current Broncos, giving him multi-seasonal employment that he really enjoys. Everyone that Nolan has worked with at SaskAbilities is so proud of him for all of his accomplishments.

If you would like to learn more about this year's SARC Awards, please visit: [sarcsarcan.ca/blog/posts/meet\\_the\\_sarc\\_awards\\_recipients](https://sarcsarcan.ca/blog/posts/meet_the_sarc_awards_recipients). ■



## Saskatoon Blades Team Up with SaskAbilities

The Saskatoon Blades are no strangers to supporting our local community. This hockey season, the Blades have teamed up with SaskAbilities and generously donated season tickets so that we could celebrate successes of clients. A client and a guest of their choice is able to attend every game. They get a chance to meet with players and take home an autographed program.

Recently, Walter was one of the winning recipients who attended a game, and it was an exciting one! The Blades took the win in the last 5 minutes with a score of 5-3 against the Tri-City Americans. Walter was really grateful to be able to enjoy such an exciting game with his brother Mike. When asked about his time spent with SaskAbilities, Walter said he really enjoys working in the Metal Shop in Saskatoon. He is excited about the interesting projects he takes on and the great people he has the pleasure of working with every day!



Walter received an autographed program and met with Saskatoon Blades Defenseman Majid Kaddoura. Spokesperson Eric Anderson is excited about the new relationship between the Saskatoon Blades and SaskAbilities, and hopes that it can expand to accomplish even more! ■





## Running for SaskAbilities!

### 2018 Brainsport Gingerbread Run

It might have been cold outside, but not too cold for over 400 participants to venture out in the 2018 Brainsport Gingerbread Run. Runners from near and far ran in support of SaskAbilities' Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan programs including Camp Easter Seal, Summer Fun and Adaptive Technology Services.

Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark, one of many participants, says he has tremendous respect for our local businesses and the way they work with local community charities and organizations. He says, "SaskAbilities has been a leader in so many ways by helping us to give people the ability to live more full lives even if they experience disabilities."

The generosity of the many sponsors behind the Brainsport Gingerbread Run make it possible to provide the many programs that SaskAbilities' Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan supports.

Many of the runners in the Brainsport Gingerbread Run know someone whose life was touched by Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan programs. Many have expressed how thrilled they are to support SaskAbilities in events like this.



Kimberly and her two-year-old son Brexton are second-time runners in the Brainsport Gingerbread Run. She runs to support the people of SaskAbilities and Camp Easter Seal and her plan is to continue to run with Brexton every year going forward. What a great tribute! Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants who made the event an excellent, fun time! ■

**A big thank-you goes out to Brainsport for sponsoring and hosting such a successful event!**

We would also like to thank our community partners and the many local businesses who ensured we had all of our needed supplies on hand: Simply Grounded Coffee Gallery, CBI Health Group, Extra Foods on Broadway, Rona Saskatoon, The Griffin Takeaway, Tommy Guns' Original Barbershops, Goodlife Fitness, Nutana Bakery, and Leopold's Tavern - Broadway.



## Here is what Easter Seals™ Has Been Up To!

December 3rd was "International Day of Persons with Disabilities" and this is Easter Seals™ belief: "Facing challenges in life is inevitable - backing down is optional!"

Starting December 3rd, Easter Seals™ began sharing 365 #Unstoppable™ stories showing that people experiencing disability can do anything they set their minds to.

As part of the Giving Tuesday campaign, many individuals shared their accomplishments and dispelled misconceptions and stereotypes that exist.

If you would like to learn more about the #Unstoppable™ Campaign or read some incredible stories, please visit: [easterseals.ca](http://easterseals.ca).

If you would like to share your Saskatchewan story, let us know, we would be happy to talk to you!

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

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Regina	(306) 569-9048
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## Upcoming Events!



## Join Us for the 42nd Annual Snowarama!

Be part of the comradery! Rev your snowmobile engines for Easter Seals™ Snowarama! Join us in Yorkton, SK on February 9, 2019 for a great event! Enjoy 200 km of beautiful groomed and marked trails, complimentary meals, and a ticket to an awards banquet and cabaret! Each participant must raise a minimum of \$200 in pledges to qualify, and for every \$200 a participant raises their name will be entered to win a 2019 Arctic Cat Lynx!

Even after 42 years of snowmobiling for Easter Seals™ kids, the support of riders, corporate sponsors, volunteers, and donors is unprecedented. Last year's event raised over \$140,000! To register online and start raising funds visit [www.snowarama.ca](http://www.snowarama.ca) for regular updates. For more information or to register for this event, please contact Community Relations Coordinator Deana Jesmer at 1-833-444-4126. ■



## April 27th is our 32nd Annual Ability Bowl!

Yee Haw! We're bringing the rodeo to the bowling alley for the 32nd annual Ability Bowl in Swift Current! Last year over 30 teams made a splash at the Beach Bowl themed event! Teams bowled in support of the programs and services offered by SaskAbilities Swift Current branch, and helped raise over \$85,000! This year, pull on your boots, tie on your bandana and join us for 'Rodeo Bowl'! A special shout out goes to over 30 vendors at the Southwest Showcase Tradeshow, part of the CCA Rodeo, who donated over \$2400 towards this year's event! If you would like more information about Ability Bowl or to register, please contact Community Relations Coordinator Michelle Poirier at 306-773-2076. ■



### Join SaskAbilities today!

I know my membership will help improve the quality of life for thousands of people experiencing disability in Saskatchewan.

Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$75.00 ☐ \$150.00 ☐ Surprise us! \$

I am already a member, but I am purchasing a membership for

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



**SaskAbilities**

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE  
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Or visit our website:  
[saskabilities.ca](http://saskabilities.ca)