



Saskatchewan Abilities Council Bulletin

Council Partners on the 3Rs

Recycle... Reduce... ReUse Warehouse in Swift Current

Reduce, reuse, recycle—the 3Rs—might not be first things that come to mind when you think of Swift Current, at least, not until June 16, 2014, when the Swift Current Branch proudly opened the ReUse Warehouse store.

A Community Leader in Recycling

The Saskatchewan Abilities Council has been a leader in community recycling for years. It currently operates SARCAN recycling depots in Swift Current, Saskatoon and Yorkton. In 2014, the three depots combined recycled over 10.5 million beverage containers!

Recycling operations have grown over the years, providing training and employment opportunities while also diverting recyclable material from our landfills. In 2009, the Council expanded its recycling effort by entering a joint venture with the City of Swift Current to open a household recycling depot for items like paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum and batteries.

The Council again expanded its recycling services when it opened the ReUse Warehouse in June. The ReUse Warehouse gives local residents an opportunity to donate reusable items, everything from furniture and appliances, to flooring, insulation, windows, lumber and hardware. Whether the items are left over from a construction site or a home renovation, if they are in good condition, the ReUse Warehouse will take them for resale. Items many might consider garbage are actually perfectly good for refurbishing or reuse.



Grand Opening Day at the ReUse Warehouse. Left to right: Wanda Friesen, Matthew Bayliss, Matthew Haubrich, Debbie Bowditch, Ted Andreas, Dale Lowe, Councillor George Bowditch, Wanda Shipman, Aaron Matthews.

“The ReUse Warehouse is a great idea,” said Matt Haubrich, current recycling foreperson at the warehouse. “It helps keep things out of the landfill; good stuff like two-by-fours. It beats paying full price for them.”

Work Experience in a Retail Setting

More important, the ReUse Warehouse has opened new training and employment opportunities for Council clients. Getting the warehouse in shape to receive donated items in time for the grand opening was a group effort that involved clients from the wood products, sewing and quality of life areas at the Swift Current Branch.

The ReUse Warehouse provides work experiences to Training Centre clients like Aaron, Wanda and Ted. It is an ideal place to develop the necessary skills for finding long-term employment in the community.

For Wanda, the ReUse Warehouse is a chance to prove her abilities in a supportive

environment. The learning atmosphere and clearly outlined duties at the ReUse Warehouse have made her employment experience very positive. Keeping the warehouse displays arranged and in order is one of her favourite responsibilities.

For Ted, the ReUse Warehouse not only provides a community-based work experience, it keeps him from “being out of his tree.” Ted, being the very social person he is, loves to talk to customers. He excels at running the till and helping customers find what they need.

The benefits of the ReUse Warehouse go well beyond helping the environment or building another recycling success story in Swift Current. This exciting new initiative is giving individuals of varying abilities the opportunity to work in a positive, supportive environment, one that allows them to strengthen and broaden their skills, leading to more opportunities for community employment.

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Saskatchewan Abilities Council
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

Partners in Employment



Ted at the till.

The ReUse Warehouse not only provides work experiences to Training Centre clients, it also provides work placements for the *Partners in Employment* program and Chinook School Division. Ted, Wanda and Aaron are not alone. More individuals just like them are waiting for their chance to gain work experience at the ReUse Warehouse, and take another step toward the ultimate goal of long-term community employment.



Thank you for your part in helping children living with disabilities succeed!

OUR MISSION

The Saskatchewan Abilities Council works with people of varying abilities to enhance their independence and participation in the community through vocational, rehabilitation and recreational services.

2014 Awareness Week – Awareness Challenge



Left to right: Carley Martinson, Jayda Watson and Jackie Powell at the CNIB booth during the Awareness Challenge.

For the past several years, the City of Swift Current has proclaimed one week in September the *Saskatchewan Abilities Council Swift Current Branch Awareness Week*. Awareness Week 2014 kicked off with the annual pancake breakfast on September 14, followed by a variety of activities and events aimed at raising awareness of Council programs, services and community involvement.

The highlight of the week was the Awareness Challenge. The Council partnered with the CNIB, Saskatchewan Cerebral Palsy Association, Autism Services of Saskatoon, Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association to set up a series of booths.

To complete the challenge, participants visited each partner's booth to learn about the disability they were representing. Participants were also given a chance

to experience, first-hand, the barriers individuals of varying abilities face in day-to-day living.

High profile events such as Awareness Week and the Awareness Challenge are key to raising awareness of the ongoing need to provide supports to individuals of varying abilities.



RCMP Staff Sergeant Gary Hodges of the City Detachment and Keith Crowter, bus driver, demonstrate the new wheelchair lift in the Abilities Council bus during Awareness Week

Photo courtesy of the Prairie Post.

OUR VALUES

At the Council we treat people with:

- Respect • Honesty • Compassion

Our programs and services are:

- Client-centred • Goal-oriented • Accountable

We value:

- Teamwork • Excellence • Innovation

AROUND THE COUNCIL

EASTER SEALSTM PAPER EGG CAMPAIGN

Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan kicks off its annual Paper Egg Campaign! Stop by one of our retailer sponsors from Monday, March 9th to Sunday, April 5th and purchase a Paper Egg for \$1 in support of Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan programs, including Camp Easter Seal. Each Spring, through the generous support of retailers throughout the province, we encourage the public to purchase a Paper Egg for \$1.00 and write their name on their egg. The eggs are prominently displayed by the retailers in their windows and on their walls, showing the community's support for individuals living with varying abilities.

Please take a moment to visit one of our supporting retailers to purchase your Paper Egg and show your support!! You can find a complete list of our retailer sponsors on the Council's website.



2015 ABILITY BOWL, SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Ability Bowl is a one-day bowling event that raises funds to support programs and services at the Swift Current Branch.

This year, we're having a *Birthday Bowl* to celebrate the Swift Current Branch 50th anniversary. Since 1965, the Swift Current Branch has helped thousands of individuals become more independent and more engaged in our community.

Strike up some fun at the 2015 *Birthday Bowl*, Saturday, April 25! For more information, please call (306) 773-2076.



EASTER SEALSTM DROP ZONE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Registration is now open for both the Regina and Saskatoon events. Challenge yourself and change lives! Rappel down a high-rise building and send a child living with a disability to Camp.

Visit thedropzone.ca or call (306) 569-9048 in Regina, (306) 653-1694 in Saskatoon.



Join the Saskatchewan Abilities Council today!

Yes!

I know my membership will help improve the quality of life for thousands of people living with disabilities 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 _____

SASKATCHEWAN
Abilities
COUNCIL

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE
PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
Saskatchewan Abilities Council
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

Notice of 65th Annual General Meeting

Friday

April 10, 2015

11:30 a.m.

**Ramada Plaza Hotel
1818 Victoria Avenue
Regina, SK**

**Business to be conducted
will include:**

- election of directors
- receipt of the President's Report
- receipt of the Executive Director's Report
- presentation of audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014
- appointment of auditors
- such other business as may come before the meeting.

The members will be asked to pass a special resolution amending the Council's Bylaw. Details of the amendment are available at the address below.

Copies of the audited financial statements may be obtained from the address below after April 10, 2015.

Saskatchewan Abilities Council
2310 Louise Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7J 2C7
Telephone: (306) 374-4448

Charitable Business #: 10795 5221 RR0001

Staff Profile

Melissa Smart is the Program Services Coordinator/Vocational Evaluator at the Swift Current Branch. As the initial contact for clients, you might say Melissa is the face of the Council. She handles inquiries for service, talks with individuals about the kind of support they might need, and guides them through the application process.

Once an individual becomes a client, Melissa sits down with them, finds out what their goals are, determines which services and support can best support those goals, and directs them to either the Training Centre or the Quality of Life program. She also provides ongoing support whenever it is needed.



*Melissa Smart
– Swift Current
Branch*

But there's more—Melissa also looks after staff training, payroll for the Training Centre, some client training, and conducts vocational evaluations for the Southwest Region.

“No two days are the same and I enjoy all the extra jobs that pop up in a day's work,” she says. “There's always a challenge.”

In her 24 years with the Council, Melissa has seen a lot of growth and change. Looking back, she sees how much she has grown as well, something she credits to the clients and staff.

“I'm happy with the changes I've seen at the Council with our clients and in myself. I feel lucky to work with an employer that offers so many opportunities.”

When she's not working, Melissa enjoys walking, visiting with friends, reading, and travelling to the U.K. In fact, right now she's busy preparing for her next trip.

General Information

Board of Directors

Steven Bobiash (Saskatoon)
Rose Cardiff (Regina)
Lynsey Gaudin (Regina)
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Bruno Konecsni (Saskatoon)
Tamara Larre (Saskatoon)
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Doug Surtees (Saskatoon)
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President: Stan Lautsch

Executive Director: Ian Wilkinson

Design and Layout: OneOliveDesign

The Bulletin is published three times per year and distributed free of charge to members of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. Articles printed in the Bulletin may be reproduced with written permission from the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. For more information on our programs, products, and services, please contact one of our offices located across the province:

Provincial Services

(Saskatoon) (306) 374-4448

Regina (306) 569-9048

Saskatoon (306) 653-1694

Swift Current. (306) 773-2076

Yorkton (306) 782-2463

Prince Albert (306) 922-0225

Moose Jaw (306) 693-3020

We welcome your comments.

Saskatchewan Abilities Council

2310 Louise Avenue

Saskatoon SK S7J 2C7

phone: (306) 374-4448

fax: (306) 373-2665

email: fundraising@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

Charitable Business #: 10795 5221 RR0001

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Saskatchewan Abilities Council Programs & Services

VOCATIONAL SERVICES

- Employment Opportunities
- Supported Employment
- Support Services
- Training

REHABILITATION SERVICES

- Adaptive Technology
- Farmers with Disabilities
- Orthopaedics
- Parking Program for People with Disabilities
- Special Needs Equipment

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Quality of Life Centres
- Camp Easter Seal
- Life Enrichment
- SLYP-Out
- Summer Fun
- Access Transit

