



Celebrating client successes

Keaton Cooper wins Al McGuire Award

Since 1992, the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) has partnered with the McGuire Family to create a recognition program to honour the achievements of adults with disabilities in Saskatchewan. These annual awards are a celebration – both of the wonderful achievements of people with disabilities and of Al's contributions to the disability services sector during his lifetime.

As a participating member of SARC, SaskAbilities nominated an individual we're proud to have supported in his journey to meaningful employment. This year, the recipient of the Transition to Employment Award was SaskAbilities' own Keaton Cooper.

Keaton came to Partners in Employment, a division of SaskAbilities, for assistance in finding and maintaining a full-time job, developing his work readiness skills, and unveiling his true potential. With the help of employment specialists and job coaches, Keaton learned to develop his resume, hone his interview and job search skills and prepare for employment.

In September 2016, Keaton obtained full-time, permanent employment with Wild West Steelhead, an aquaculture operation nestled on the banks of Lake Diefenbaker outside of Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan specializing in steelhead trout. Little did Keaton know at the time, this job would be the first of many personal and professional achievements.

From Aquaculture Technician to Fish Processor, Keaton is developing an advanced skill set, becoming a valuable part of the team, and finding greater independence in the process. Over the course of his employment, Keaton has worked hard to fine-tune his skills, increase his speed and efficiency and immerse himself into the social aspects of the workplace community.

"Keaton is flourishing!" says Ashley Grenier, Employment Specialist at Partners in Employment. "His family says he's grown tremendously not only vocationally but also socially. Whoever I talk to, everyone mentions how Keaton has really come out of his shell."

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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.



Every step counts

Rain or shine, you can find Alan Smuk on his route delivering the news to residents of Swift Current, a smile on his face and a skip in his step. With the help of Partners in Employment in Swift Current, Alan found a job he loves. A job that brings greater fulfillment to his life.

As a Newspaper Carrier for the Prairie Post, Alan delivers 180 papers to 90 homes each week. After the Prairie Post and the SouthWest Booster amalgamated, the number of newspapers to be delivered to readers doubled. Alan has not only risen to the challenge of a more demanding route, but also proved himself as a reliable and dependable employee by filling in for other routes when his co-workers have needed support, says Alan's supervisor.

Alan joined the Prairie Post team in the summer of 2016. When he began, a job coach with SaskAbilities supported him as Alan familiarized himself with his route and the routine of the job. Now, Alan performs his tasks independently, showing both growth and responsibility in the role.

Alan's job at Prairie Post is a natural fit of employment for him. Already an early riser and avid walker, Alan took to the role quickly and enthusiastically. It's a job he looks forward to each morning.

After almost two years with Prairie Post, his customers know him and greet him on his route. One customer, Winne Reid, makes a point of coming outside to greet him when he delivers the paper to her house. Their weekly chats have sparked a friendship.

"I look forward to seeing him walk up the step every week," says Winnie. "It's delightful to see him. My husband George enjoys greeting him when he is outside as well."

The team at SaskAbilities and Alan's mom Linda could not be more proud of Alan and his achievements in the workplace. "To know that Alan's job is a 'real job,' one with pay, is awesome," says Linda. "We are very impressed with the work SaskAbilities has done here to help Alan."



From the classroom to greater independence

When it comes to employment, securing a job is not always as easy as it sounds. For some individuals experiencing disability, a little extra help is all they need to find and maintain employment.

When Cody Harper joined the New Opportunities for Work program in January 2017, he was new to Regina and looking for full-time employment. His long-term goal was to achieve financial independence and eventually live on his own. With assistance of the NOW program, he was able to achieve both.

Through classroom skill development, on-site work experience and the support of a one-on-one job coach, Cody improved his communication skills, learned coping strategies for managing stress and anxiety, and enhanced his confidence.

Following the six-week group learning classroom component, Cody felt he had made strides in achieving the skills and tools he needed to move forward and began a work experience at Canadian Tire in the seasonal department. Cody worked hard, applying the expertise he honed in the classroom to the workplace. Feedback from his supervisors at Canadian Tire was positive and by August, he was offered full-time employment.

In just a matter of months, Cody had achieved his goal of full-time employment! To make 2017 even sweeter, Cody also moved out of his grandfather's residence, found his own apartment and is now living independently. Cody is one of many NOW program participants who have reached their personal and professional goals with the help of SaskAbilities.

AROUND THE COUNCIL

Snowarama

Year after year, dedicated people are what make Easter Seals™ Snowarama such a meaningful, celebrated success. The 41st annual event was no exception. Over 175 riders and snowmobile enthusiasts from near and far joined in on the comradery on February 10 in Yorkton, Sask. Fan favourites included the pancake breakfast, extended 280 km sled trail, cabaret and great prizes.

Even after 41 years of snowmobiling for Easter Seals™ kids, the support of the community, riders, corporate sponsors, volunteers and donors is unparalleled. Together, Snowarama raised over \$146,000 for Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan and the SaskAbilities Yorkton Branch. Since 1977, over \$2.5 million has been raised in support of programs such as Camp Easter Seal, Summer Fun and Adaptive Technology Services. Thank you to each and everyone involved in Snowarama this year – your commitment means the world to countless Easter Seals™ kids!

Ability Bowl

After a milestone anniversary and record-breaking support, we're bringing the beach to the bowling alley for Beach Bowl 2018! On April 21, 2018 grab your shorts, sunglasses and bowling shoes for the 31st annual Ability Bowl in Swift Current. For more information or to register, please contact us at abilitybowl@saskabilities.ca or (306) 773-2076.

Drop Zone Saskatchewan

Calling all superheroes! Looking for a new challenge this New Year? Wanting to make a positive impact in your community? Join us for Drop Zone Saskatchewan!

Last year with the support of generous sponsors, participants, volunteers and donors across the province, Drop Zone events in Saskatchewan raised over \$170,000 for Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan! This year, join us in Regina on August 25, 2018 (tentative date) as rappellers conquer great heights to support individuals with disabilities in Saskatchewan. See our Facebook page Drop Zone Saskatchewan or our website at www.saskabilities.ca for more details.

RIKI Walkathon 50th Anniversary

On Saturday May 4, 1968 the first RIKI Walkathon made it's debut with 4,000 children and adults walking from Saskatoon to Pike Lake. The 22 mile trek raised money to send children and adults experiencing disability to Camp Easter Seal, the only completely barrier-free camp of its kind in Saskatchewan. This summer, we're celebrating our first steps as we host the 50th Anniversary RIKI Walkathon in partnership with the Riversdale Kiwanis Club.

For more information or to register, please contact us at funddevelopment@saskabilities.ca or (306) 374-4448.

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 _____



**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE
PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:**

SaskAbilities

2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

Or visit our website:
saskabilities.ca

NOTICE of 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday
April 13, 2018
10:00 a.m.**

SaskAbilities
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, Sask.

If you plan to attend,
please register by
calling Joan Nelson at
306-374-4448.

Copies of the audited
financial statements
may be available at
www.saskabilities.ca
after March 12, 2018.

SaskAbilities
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7J 2C7
T: (306) 374-4448

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Regina	(306) 569-9048
Swift Current	(306) 773-2076
Yorkton	(306) 782-2463
Prince Albert	(306) 922-0225
Moose Jaw	(306) 693-3020
Saskatoon:	
Kilburn	(306) 653-1694
Provincial Services	(306) 374-4448

We welcome your comments.
SaskAbilities
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2C7
T: (306) 374-4448
F: (306) 373-2665
E: funddevelopment@saskabilities.ca
www.saskabilities.ca



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SaskAbilities
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

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Although it hasn't always been sunshine and rainbows, Keaton persevered. He adapted to living away from home at the work camp, the unique smells of the fish, and the routine of new tasks and unfamiliar people. Living at camp taught Keaton a new level of responsibility when it came to daily house chores and making responsible decisions such as setting a sleep schedule. In addition to excelling in the workplace, Keaton has also met a personal and financial goal of owning his own Jeep.

Keaton's tenacity and determination are not the only reasons for his successes in the workplace. The staff members and management of Wild West Steelhead have created a supportive, inclusive environment in which their employees can thrive. Patience, understanding, and a solution-finding approach to supporting all their employees in achieving their best has enabled a true partnership, proving that a variety of supports truly enriches the individual's experience and longevity in the workplace.

Keaton has his sights set on advancing into a supervisory role at Wild West Steelhead, a goal his supervisors agree as the next step. He has the work ethic, personality and skills to be eligible for a promotion of that caliber should the opportunity arise.

"Keaton has worked so hard," says Ashley. "This Al McGuire Award is so well-deserved and we could not be more proud of him!"

SaskAbilities Programs & Services

Vocational Services

- Employment Opportunities
- Supported Employment
- Support Services
- Training

Rehabilitation Services

- Adaptive Technology
- Orthopaedics
- Accessible Parking Program
- Special Needs Equipment

Recreational Programs

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