



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.

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



Quality of Life satellite location offers more choices for individuals experiencing disability

In early 2019, a capital investment from the Ministry of Social Services provided support to the Saskatoon Branch to establish a second Quality of Life satellite location in Saskatoon. This funding provided the Saskatoon Branch with the opportunity to create a space that is inviting and is designed to engage clients with safety, accessibility and comfort at its core.


The program, which is located on Jessop Avenue in Saskatoon, celebrated its grand opening on Friday, January 31. Representatives from the provincial and municipal government, program clients, members of the community and of other community-based organizations joined SaskAbilities Board and staff members for the celebration.

Crystal, a Quality of Life client, welcomed guests to the grand opening saying, "I've been at SaskAbilities for about 3½ years and I enjoy being here at Jessop Avenue and like the fun stuff we do. Thank you for my fun experience here!"

The ribbon cutting ceremony included words of dedication from the Honourable Paul Merriman, Minister of Social Services. His Worship Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon, brought greetings on behalf of the City of Saskatoon.

Tom Spence, SaskAbilities Board President said, "Over the last 70 years, services and programs have changed, but the core goal to support clients and community remains at the forefront of everything we do. This new space will provide inclusive opportunities for people experiencing disability to enrich their lives. Individuals can learn new skills, develop friendships, and experience life in a meaningful and fun way. A great deal of thought has gone into each room here at Jessop Avenue – to make it a great place for people to come together."

The Quality of Life satellite program provides community-based support for adults experiencing disability. Clients choose activities for the day based on their unique goals and interests. Individuals spend time both at the Quality of Life centre and in the community. Activities include physical activity, such as swimming, walking and dancing, as well as volunteering, skill building, arts and music. Outing schedules are built around clients to ensure that clients have opportunity to pursue their own interests.

As of 2020 SaskAbilities now offers three Quality of Life programs in Saskatoon with hopes of opening additional satellite locations in the future to accommodate the high levels of interest. 

Yorkton Respite Program

Respite care is a key component of any caregiving program. It supports families by providing temporary care for a loved one who requires assistance. This important service temporarily relieves primary caregivers of their duties so that they can have a needed rest, recharge their batteries or address temporary short-term scheduling conflicts.

It was identified that the Yorkton region would benefit from a respite program to help meet the needs of families and caregivers of individuals who experience disability. SaskAbilities' Respite Program was developed in October of 2017 with support from various community organizations. In 2019, the program was utilized by 25 families.



Courage is a young man who enjoys exploring and interacting with people around him and his environment. He is always smiling and cheerful to everyone and such a pleasure to spend time with. Courage and his father Guy were one of the first families to join the program. Support workers from the program pick Courage up from his home to attend the program. He accesses both group programming as well as individual one-on-one activities. Guy said, "This program is so helpful to families in the Yorkton area. The Respite Program has given me the opportunity to have this time to have a break from caregiving and participate in activities I would otherwise not be able to be part of. It also gives Courage a chance to experience independence from his family, something that is an important part of growing up for any child."

The SaskAbilities Respite Program offers both community activities and programming at the Yorkton Quality of Life Centre. Courage enjoys a wide range of activities while attending the program, such as swimming, visiting petting zoos and spending time outdoors, especially at the Yorkton splash park where he always enjoys an opportunity to sit in the hot tub. One of Courage's favourite activities at the Centre is music time where he loves playing the chimes. ♪



Swift Current Branch in the Community

If you're looking for someone who puts a smile on the face of everyone he meets, look no further than one of Swift Current's own, Kent Nordholm. Kent is a transit driver of the Access Bus, accessible transportation that is operated through a joint partnership between SaskAbilities and the City of Swift Current.

Known to his colleagues and clients as "Tank" - a moniker bestowed upon him by good-natured friends who swear he looks exactly like UFC fighter Tank Abbott - Kent is one of the kindest people around, quite the opposite of his nickname.

parts of his life in Montreal, Edmonton, and Calgary; in fact, his French language skills come in handy as one Swift Current client frequently has conversations with Kent in French, another way he excels in customer service.

Kent is entering his third year of employment with SaskAbilities Swift Current Branch. "I just love the aspect of being able to help people out in the community," he said. "Those exceptional people that make our community so great and I get to come to work every day and deal with some of the most incredible human beings with some of the most incredible stories."




Kent was recently the recipient of an award given by a local radio station, "Eagle Applause", which acknowledges individuals within the region who go that extra mile to make their communities a better place.

A SaskAbilities colleague of Kent's wrote in his award nomination that, "Kent is the most kind, big-hearted and caring person you could ever meet. You can always count on him to greet customers with a friendly smile and they are happy to find out that he is driving each day. He goes above and beyond to make their ride a great experience." Born in British Columbia, Kent has lived

In another life, Kent thinks perhaps he could have been a stand-up comedian. "I love making people laugh and smile," he said.

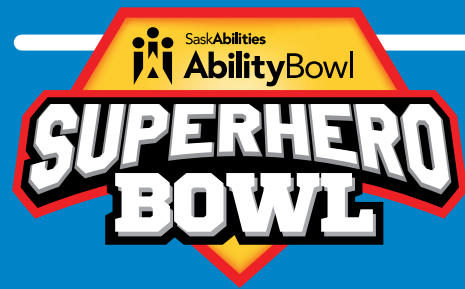
"It's just such a fulfilling job. I just can't get enough of it, just love everything about it. And of course, SaskAbilities and everything we do with the City. I work with some of the greatest people and some of the greatest managers you could possibly ever work for."

With employees like Kent "Tank" Nordholm on its team, SaskAbilities continues to strive for quality, service and excellence. 

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Have you ever dreamed of rappelling from a high-rise like Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible?

Want to swing from a building like Spiderwoman? Registration for this year's Drop Zone in Regina is now open! Join us for an over-the-top experience and cap it off with some great food, prizes, and music this August 22 (rain-out date August 23). If you are faint of heart and prefer a more grounded experience, you can always help to fundraise and gift someone else the experience of a lifetime. Visit www.thedropzone.ca for more information!



Swift Current's 33rd Annual Ability Bowl happens on April 25 this year. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 with proceeds going to programs and services offered by the Swift Current Branch of SaskAbilities. There is still time to purchase an Ability Bowl 50/50 ticket for a chance to win up to \$10,000! Tickets can be purchased for \$2 each at the Swift Current Branch office, the Saskatoon Provincial office or by calling Candace Toma at 1-833-526-5299. Draw date: April 17/2020.

SLGA License #RR19-0308



GENERAL INFORMATION

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Executive Director: Ian Wilkinson

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Saskatoon:	
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We welcome your comments.

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NOTICE OF 70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SASKATCHEWAN ABILITIES COUNCIL INC. (SaskAbilities)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995* and the bylaws of SaskAbilities, that the 2020 Annual General Meeting of SaskAbilities will be held on Friday, April 3, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at 825 McDonald Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, for the following purposes:

- receiving the minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting held in April 2019
- electing directors
- receiving the President's Report
- receiving the Executive Director's Report
- presentation of audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019

- appointment of auditors
- to transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

If you plan to attend, please register before March 27, 2020 by contacting Joan Nelson by telephone at (306) 374-4448 or by email at jnelson@saskabilities.ca

To be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting, individuals must have purchased a 2020 membership in SaskAbilities on or prior to March 3, 2020.

Copies of the audited financial statements will be available at www.saskabilities.ca on or about March 9, 2020. Charitable Business Number: 10795 5221 RR0001.

JOIN SASKABILITIES TODAY!

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

Name _____
Address _____
City/Town _____ Postal Code _____
Email _____
Phone _____

Enclosed is my membership contribution of:
 \$25 \$75 \$150 Surprise us! \$ _____

BY CHEQUE:

Please Make Cheque Payable To:
SaskAbilities
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

BY CREDIT CARD:



CARD #:

Name on Card: _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Or to join online visit our website: saskabilities.ca

