



# ConnectAbilities

## Achieving our mission in 2021

2021 is shaping up to be a remarkable year for SaskAbilities, thanks in part to the turbulence of 2020. When the global pandemic challenged us to adapt our programs and services, staff at every level responded by unleashing a wave of creativity. As a result, SaskAbilities is changing the way we do things... for the better.

New remote delivery options in many areas of service – Quality of Life, Camp Easter Seal, Rehabilitation Services and Employment Services – mean we can now offer clients the opportunity to participate either in person or virtually.

In Quality of Life (QoL), for example, the closure of Day Program locations for several months at the start of the pandemic led staff to develop online activity kits to replace in-house group activities. Clients played the games at home and connected in real time with other participants via home computer. QoL staff also put their heads together to come up with fun indoor versions of favourite community activities, such as bowling, swimming, basketball and curling.

From now on, if bad weather or facility closures force staff to cancel a community activity, they can quickly shift to offering an indoor or online version.

An unexpected “virtual” success has been the increase in young people from rural areas signing up for SLYP-Out. The program provides youth and young adults experiencing disability with opportunities to interact, have fun, and gain independence. It is normally offered in our four branch locations with the new virtual option being extended to young people province wide.

Although the pandemic has led to the cancellation of in-person camping for both the 2020 and 2021 season at Camp Easter Seal, there is a silver lining here too. After months of program development, SaskAbilities and Camp Easter Seal have introduced Camp Connected, a free, online virtual program open to all Saskatchewan residents experiencing disability.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

### 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.

## NOTICE OF 71ST 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 2021 Annual General Meeting of SaskAbilities will be held virtually on Friday, April 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The virtual Annual General Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- receiving the minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting held in April 2020
- electing directors
- receiving the President's Report
- receiving the Executive Director's Report
- presentation of audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020

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

To join SaskAbilities' Virtual Annual General Meeting, please visit: [saskabilities.ca/AGM](http://saskabilities.ca/AGM)

To be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting, individuals must have purchased a 2021 SaskAbilities membership on or prior to March 9, 2021.

Registration of voting members begins at 9:45 a.m., April 9, 2021.

Copies of the audited financial statements will be available at [www.saskabilities.ca](http://www.saskabilities.ca) on or about March 9, 2021.

Charitable Business Number:  
10795 5221 RR0001.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Board of Directors

Bruce Acton	Saskatoon
Brenda Bancescu	Regina
Paul Blackstock	Saskatoon
Kyle Christ	Saskatoon
Bruno Konecsni	Saskatoon
Stan Lautsch	Swift Current
Andy Livingston	Saskatoon
Brad Mitchell	Saskatoon
Sandra Ruff	Yorkton
Bill Schwarz	Regina
Grant Wilson	Saskatoon

President: Tom Spence  
 Vice President: Michelle Hunter  
 Executive Director: Ian Wilkinson

ConnectAbilities is published twice per year and distributed free of charge to members of SaskAbilities. Articles printed in the newsletter may be reproduced with written permission from SaskAbilities. For more information on our programs, products and services, please contact one of our offices located across the province:

Regina	(306) 569-9048
Swift Current	(833) 526-5299
Yorkton	(833) 444-4126
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



E-MAIL:  
[communications@saskabilities.ca](mailto:communications@saskabilities.ca)

ONLINE:  
[saskabilities.ca](http://saskabilities.ca)

Publication Mail Agreement No.  
 40069020 Return Undeliverable  
 Canadian Addresses to:  
**SaskAbilities**  
 2310 Louise Avenue  
 Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

## MISSION CONTINUED

Camp Connected begins June 14th and offers 10 weeks of engaging, fun, interactive programming. Organizers are especially excited about its "open to all" aspect. Instead of being limited to one specific week, Camp Connected campers will register for specific camp weeks based on their interests. There's no limit to the number of campers or how many weeks each camper can register for.

This spring, SaskAbilities is relaunching an updated Camp Easter Seal website to provide a gateway to all things Camp Connected. Meanwhile, a small support crew will be onsite at Camp Easter Seal to maintain facilities and make sure everything is ship shape when campers return in 2022.

Keep on carrying on is the theme for Rehabilitation Services in 2021, which has remained open throughout the pandemic. Orthopaedic Services, Special Needs Equipment and Adaptive Technology are all vital, and staff have continued to work with the healthcare community to ensure timely service for inpatient, trauma and palliative clients.

Accessible Parking is one area where remote access to service could provide a client benefit.

Staff have been working closely with the SaskAbilities technology team on an online parking permit renewal function which they hope to introduce later this year.

Partners in Employment, a vocational program offered by SaskAbilities that works directly with employers and individuals seeking employment, is also expecting another busy year. To meet demand from both employers and individuals with employment barriers, Partners in Employment has developed several online tools.

Virtual job simulations and job coaching have enabled staff to continue providing clients with employment support, even when they can't be on-site with them. Using virtual meeting software has also allowed staff to stay in touch with employers to respond to issues as they arise. It is part of the wrap-around service that has made Partners in Employment so successful in creating job opportunities.

In 2021, SaskAbilities will continue to support people experiencing disability with programs and services that enhance their lives. The difference is that new virtual tools will open the door to participation to people wherever they live in Saskatchewan.

# 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](http://saskabilities.ca)

