



## president's message



I am pleased to present my final report as president of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. The past two years have given me a deeper understanding of what an inclusive community can look like - a place where people of all abilities have an opportunity to work, volunteer, make friends and have fun.

The Board of the Council is committed to providing proper oversight and accountability to its stakeholders. Communities are constantly changing; change brings challenge, growth and opportunity. New needs emerge; others change; and over time, some disappear. During 2016, the Board reviewed the Council's strategy to confirm that its focus on client and community, people and financial sustainability continues to guide the Council in meeting its mission. The Board also reviewed the client feedback program, concluding that the information gathered assists staff members to plan and deliver relevant and effective programs for Saskatchewan people with varying abilities.

Continuing with an initiative that began in 2015, the Board spent time at Camp Easter Seal, the Yorkton Branch and Provincial Services. Visiting the various locations provided Board members with an opportunity to meet clients and staff members and learn more about the needs of each community. Board and staff members share a common goal - to support people in meeting their vocational, rehabilitation and recreational goals. By working together, success stories like the ones found in this Annual Report are possible.

Thank you to the Council's staff members, donors, supporters, funders and volunteers for all you have done to assist the Council in meeting its mission. Thank you as well to my fellow Board members for their contributions; the gift of your time is priceless. It has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience to serve as president; I am amazed by what we have accomplished together.

Zamai Lane

**Tamara Larre** 

#### **Board Of Directors**

Back row: Elaine Caswell, Dr. Ulla Nielsen, Stan Lautsch, Ian Wilkinson - Executive Director, Larry Goodfellow (January to April 2016), Brenda Bancescu, Shona Switzer, Carolyn Rebeyka. Front row: Paul Blackstock. Doug Surtees, Tamara Larre, Bruno Konecsni, Michelle Hunter. Missing: Tom Spence,



# executive director's message



Another exciting year has passed at the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and I am happy to present many positive and inspiring activities and achievements in the 2016 Annual Report.

With every year, we continue to provide services to tens of thousands of individuals with disabilities across the province. The impact of our work is felt in the lives, families and communities of those we provide services to in Saskatchewan. Our hope is that we can continue to provide lasting impressions and meaningful change to all those we serve and in turn create a positive and inclusive community that is progressive and accepting of all. In this year's Annual Report you will read examples of our impact and reach through the highlights and stories from our Branches, Camp Easter Seal and Rehabilitation Services.

In keeping with our vision, mission and values, we are dedicated to achieving our organizational goals with financial responsibility in mind. Although a challenging year, the Council produced a small surplus in 2016. While we continue to see programs and services offered grow and evolve, our goal is always to maintain the highest level of consideration to clients while monitoring our financial health and investing in programs that are sustainable long term.

Recognizing the accomplishments and the achievements of the Council also means acknowledging the efforts of the whole team. Many thanks to the Board of Directors for its contribution and wisdom. Thank you to the dedicated staff members across the province who truly change lives every day. Also a very warm thank you to the many funders, donors, partners, businesses, community organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders whose support and dedication to the Council is not only appreciated but is invaluable.

Our Vision: Working together to enrich futures through abilities.

**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.

**Our Values:** At the Council we treat people with respect, honesty and compassion. We value teamwork, excellence and innovation. Our programs and services are client-centred, goal-oriented and accountable.



**lan Wilkinson** 

#### **Administrative Council**

Joyce Phillips - Saskatoon Branch
Heather Rasmussen - Rehabilitation Services
Kimi Duzan - Swift Current Branch
Ian Wilkinson - Executive Director
John Denysek - Yorkton Branch
Corey Hadden - Regina Branch
Karen Moore - Provincial Services



## Rehabilitation Services

#### Quick Numbers

20,707

permits issued through the Parking Program for People with Disabilities

clients served by Adaptive Technology

12,766
clients served by Orthopaedics

35,489
pieces of equipment issued by Special Needs Equipment

#### **Year In Review**

## **Enriching Lives, Enhancing Independence**

Rehabilitation Services responds to the needs of people living with disabilities province-wide. Services include Adaptive Technology, Orthopaedics, Special Needs Equipment and the Parking Program for People with Disabilities. Statistics show the number of people accessing these services, the number of pieces of equipment loaned, the number of parking permits issued—but numbers cannot tell the whole story.

When you see a parking permit in the window of a car, for example, remember that for someone with a mobility issue, being able to park close to services and stores can mean the difference between moving independently in the community and being homebound. When you read that over 35,000 pieces of equipment were loaned out in 2016, from transfer tub seats to bedside sask-a-poles, picture an elderly couple able to stay together longer because they have aids to help them move safely about their home.

When you see a young person in a power wheelchair zoom by you in the mall, just think of the independence and freedom that chair gives them. With it, they can move independently around school, meet up with friends, go to the movies. But without it?

When you see that 12,766 clients were served by Orthopaedics in 2016, imagine someone with foot ulcers learning that pedorthic services provided by the Council can help them avoid a foot amputation. Consider the difference specialized seating

services can have on someone's quality of life by allowing them to sit more upright so they can eat at the dining table with family. Imagine the sense of empowerment a young person feels when a new prosthetic limb enables them to keep their job.

And what about those you often don't see—people with complex needs who may have limited community contact? Adaptive Technology is working on their behalf as well, using electronics and computers to build autonomy, increase self-reliance and foster community connections.

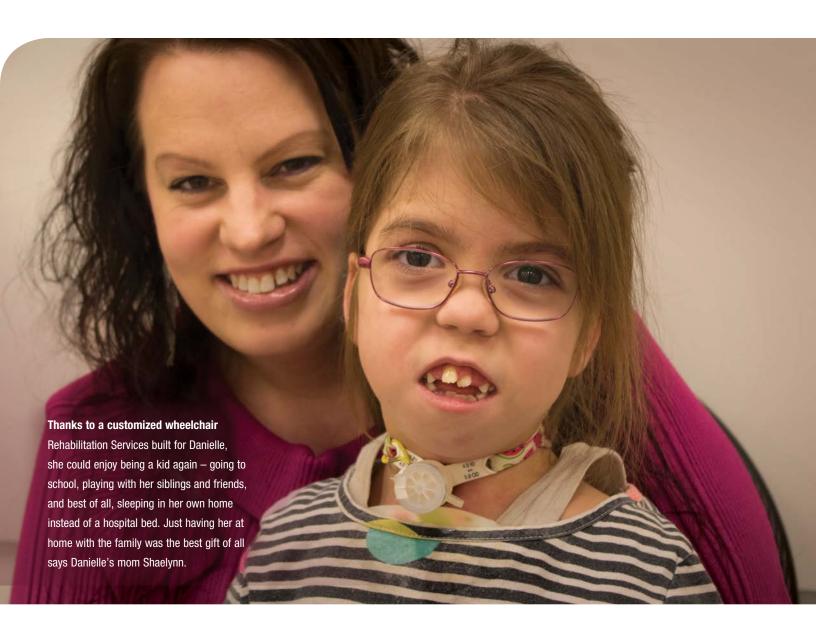
All of these examples are from actual clients; all reveal the story behind the numbers. Rehabilitation Services is more than equipment and more than specialized, high-tech services. It is the very foundation of inclusion and active participation.

#### The Freedom to Be a Kid

Danielle loves games, playing outside, joking around and, sometimes, just being silly. In short, she's a typical eight-year-old. Unlike other children her age, though, Danielle is no stranger to hospitals. She has a spine deformity and bilateral hip dysplasia that has required a number of surgeries, including five that led to halo gravity traction.

Her surgeon asked the Council's team if they could build a halo gravity wheelchair that she could use at home.

Halo gravity traction uses a halo cage around the head to gently pull on the joints and muscles to help straighten the spine. In the rural area where Danielle lives with her family, the only way to get halo gravity



traction was in the hospital. When you're a kid, staying in the hospital is no fun. You're away from school, friends, family—everything you know. So last year, when it looked like Danielle would again need the procedure, her surgeon asked the Council's Rehabilitation Services team if they could build a halo gravity wheelchair that Danielle could use at home. The team responded with an eager, yes!

The Ministry of Health supported the request, and staff from Special Needs Equipment, Orthotics and Specialized

Seating set to work. With a bit of ingenuity and a lot of problem-solving, they modified a manual wheelchair into a traction wheelchair that fit Danielle to a T.

"The Council wheelchair was great, mainly because it let her be at home," says Danielle's mom, Shaelynn. "Also, the Council chair was more compact and lighter than the hospital wheelchair. I could lift the Council chair in and out of the vehicle by myself, which made it easier for us to go places. It felt like we weren't as tied down because Danielle could go to

school and be out in the community. She could also reach the wheels, which meant she could roll herself around."

Danielle used the chair for several months. Then in August, she had a full spinal fusion. "She's doing great now," Shaelynn says. "She's more comfortable, not as tired and she can breathe a little better. She still has a back brace, but she's just so happy to be free of traction—she's enjoying being a kid again."

## Swift Current Branch

#### Quick Numbers

250

businesses/ organizations engaged with client services

13

fantastic Summer Fun volunteers

369

clients served through Partners in Employment

1,665

volunteer hours by day program clients within the community

#### **Year In Review**

Community and inclusion are cornerstones of the Swift Current community, and this was evident in public support of Council initiatives, programs and services throughout the year. In 2016, Annual Awareness Week hosted by the Swift Current Branch had a record turnout of over 250 people in attendance enjoying a BBQ lunch and live music in the city's downtown core. The community's engagement and unwavering support in events such as this are a contributing factor in the success of two new high-profile initiatives offered by the branch.

#### **Turning the Tables**

After a successful pilot phase, the Swift Current branch launched a new community initiative called Volunteering in Community (VIC). The program enables individuals with varying abilities to turn the tables and become givers of their time and talents by volunteering in the community. During the first year, more than 40 individuals shared their unique talents with 16 non-profit organizations and 24 community events, contributing 1,665 hours of volunteer service in the community.

"We credit our many community partners with the success of the pilot and the expansion of the program," says Kaitlyn Neustaeter, community inclusion specialist at the Swift Current Branch. "The welcoming nature of local organizations and numerous events created an ideal environment, and individuals with disabilities embraced opportunities to pursue their volunteer interests."

Opportunities included volunteering at high-profile events like the Ford

Women's World Curling Championship, where volunteers set up the gift shop. The program also matched participants with volunteer opportunities at popular local events such as Windscape and Picnic in the Park. Many local organizations, from the SPCA to Southwest Crisis Services, also benefited from ongoing volunteer contributions.

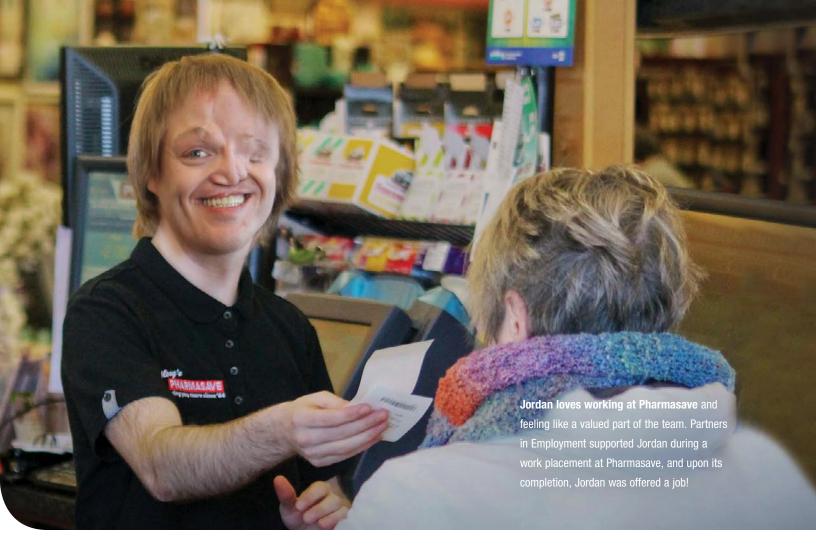
"Volunteerism is an opportunity for Council clients to share their unique talents in a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, and for all citizens to connect in a meaningful way with others of common interest," Neustaeter says. "It is also a natural means of developing skills, social connections and employment."

The success of the program comes as no surprise to Kimi Duzan, regional director of the Swift Current Branch. "The common theme in so many Council programs is community engagement. In VIC, volunteers gather around interest rather than disability. When the Council connects talented people with community opportunities, everyone wins."

## **Honouring Our Employer Partners**

The Spirit of Swift Current Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards shine a spotlight on innovation and the contributions of local businesses and non-profit organizations. In 2016, Partners in Employment sponsored the Employer of Persons with Disabilities Award. Six businesses were nominated: Home Inn & Suites, Burger King, The Bentley by Revera, Prairie Post, Original Joe's and Pharmasave.

"Partners in Employment is very prominent in engaging with businesses in our community, as demonstrated by



their offering the Employer of Persons with Disabilities Award," says Clayton Wicks, CEO of the Swift Current & District Chamber of Commerce. "The award showcases businesses employing

"We feel privileged and honoured to be able to give all people **the opportunity to have a rewarding career** and be contributing members of society."



persons with disabilities and reminds all businesses of this viable option for employees. "

When Pharmasave was announced as the award recipient, owner Jahnaya Mann was both surprised and humbled. "I truly don't feel we did anything extraordinary. We work with Partners in Employment and other organizations to provide work placements and valuable work experience because we think everybody has different talents and abilities to offer," she says.

Mann was equally gracious in accepting the award. "I am not entirely sure that having great employees qualifies you to be an award recipient, but thank you," she told assembled business leaders at the gala event. "As a business that has been in this community for decades, we feel privileged and honoured to be able to

give all people the opportunity to have a rewarding career and feel like valued and contributing members of society."

"Pharmasave earned the accolade for Employer of Persons with Disabilities this year in a group of many deserving nominees," Wicks says. "The Swift Current & District Chamber of Commerce is proud to have Partners in Employment as an active member of our chamber and our community. Their hard work has provided businesses in Swift Current with valuable employees and those employees with a promising future. There is no more you can ask for from a business in a community that supplies success for business and employees. We thank Partners in Employment for what they have done for Swift Current, and we're eager to see what they bring in the future."

## Saskatoon Branch

#### Quick Numbers

1,700
people accessed employment services

350 clients found jobs in the community

children, youth and adults participated in recreational programs

3,175
individual and group outings were organized

#### **Year In Review**

The Saskatoon Branch served approximately 1,900 individuals with varying abilities through vocational and recreational programming in 2016. More than 1,250 individuals developed detailed vocational plans, more than 750 took a class in resume writing, interviewing skills or job development, and more than 350 found employment in the community. These statistics provide a measure of how the Branch enriches the lives of clients and the quality of life in the community.

## First-ever Autism-Specific Program

In 2016, the Saskatoon Branch launched a new pre-employment program specifically for individuals ages 15 to 29 with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Employment Works Canada is a first for the Council and the first program of its kind to be delivered nation-wide. The need for the program is clear: individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder have an astounding 83 percent unemployment rate. The program aims to improve this statistic by providing program participants with the opportunity to develop and practice their social, communication and employment skills via job sampling activities at a variety of local workplaces.

The program represents a remarkable joint effort. It begins with Worktopia, a federally-funded project designed to improve the employment futures of young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Sinneave Family Foundation and Autism Speaks Canada were tasked with implementing and evaluating a network of vocational training programs in five regions across Canada. The Council was selected to offer

the Employment Works Canada program in the prairie region.

"EmploymentWorks is the first-ever autism-specific program in the Council's history," says Janine Baumann, Saskatoon Branch program manager. "It's designed to support the transition of young adults with autism into the workforce, while also creating awareness of the value and competencies these individuals bring to the workplace and their community."

The Saskatoon Branch launched the three-year program in January 2016, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities Program. "We delivered three program sessions in 2016," Baumann says. "Each session is 12 weeks long and includes both classroom and workplace experience. Sessions were limited to eight students, and we were at capacity in each one, so to date we have served 24 young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder."

An astounding 83% of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder are unemployed. The Council aims to change this with the launch of a new employment program.

At the end of the three years, the Council expects to have delivered the program to 64 young people in Saskatoon. The Council also plans to expand the program into Yorkton in 2017.

"Response from the business community has been great. But then, the Saskatoon business community has always been very supportive of working with people of varying abilities," Baumann says.



Agriculture Pilot Expands Employer Network

In October, Saskatoon Partners in Employment wrapped up the Agriculture pilot, an innovative program designed to match people of varying abilities with jobs in the agriculture sector. Between March and October, over 150 employers were contacted and 45 employment opportunities in the agriculture sector were found across the province. The Council hopes to build on this new awareness and expand its network of employer contacts in the agriculture sector province-wide.

#### **Making the Big Move**

In 2016, the Quality of Life program received funding to expand its

programming and move to a new location in Stonebridge. The larger space has a central gathering area, furnished to promote socializing and group activities, a full kitchen where participants can learn to bake and cook, and several small rooms for individual or small group activities, such as music and movies. There's also a quiet room and a Snoezelen room, where participants can go when they need time to themselves.

The move was an exciting one for clients and staff, but perhaps none more so than Christopher. 2016 was a big year for Christopher: he moved out of his parents' home and into L'Arche House, a non-profit home where live-in staff provide supports and amenities so people with disabilities can live safely and comfortably in the community.

When Christopher arrived at the Quality of Life program the next day, he was smiling from ear to ear and filled with excitement. When asked to describe his feelings about moving out, Christopher shrugs and says, "nervous but happy." The same as anyone would feel moving out on their own for the first time? "Yes, exactly!" he says with a big smile.

Christopher's social and vocational skills have grown since the move. He continues to attend Quality of Life five days a week, where he has assigned himself the job of chief paper recycler. He also enjoys baking (cookies), watching movies (all kinds) and going on community outings (especially bowling, mini golf and Tim Horton's). He's a member of the After Hours Gang, which meets several evenings a week, and also participates in community theatre, where he loves to act out different emotions and scenes from favourite movies.

#### **Yorkton Branch**

#### Quick Numbers

3,597

metric tonnes of recyclables diverted from landfills by RecyclAbility Enterprises

110

new jobs found by Partners in Employment

172

employers providing jobs and work experiences

38,556

city transit trips made in 2016

#### **Year In Review**

Programs and services continued to evolve at the Yorkton Branch in 2016. The closure of the Training Centre marked the end of an era, but also the tremendous success of transitioning clients into community-based or other employment. The Centre's remaining contracts were moved to the Commercial Services and Products department, part of a newly created business unit that also includes RecyclAbility Enterprises, SARCAN, Plant Maintenance and Access Transit.

Other highlights of 2016 included more job-carved opportunities for clients, record-breaking attendance at the Festival of Cultures and creation of a list of local respite service providers in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living. Branch staff were invited to make presentations on Yorkton's leading-edge Day Program at events around the province. The year ended on a high note when the local Remax office and Kinsmen Foundation purchased a wheelchair-accessible van for the Day Program.

#### **Mental Health Drop-in Program**

2016 was the first full-year operation of the Mental Health Drop-in Centre (MHDC) since it merged into the Council's Quality of Life services. "The MHDC provides social and recreational programming for adults who experience mental health symptoms," says Jeannette Bouvier, program coordinator. The program's person-centred approach promotes interaction, independence and personal growth through social and recreational

activities. The After Hours Gang facilitates community integration by offering evening and weekend activities.

Programming adapts to the needs of participants. This can be a challenge for a drop-in centre, where people come and go throughout the day, but the Centre has a core group of 15 to 20 regulars. "Jason is one of our regulars; I think the Drop-in Centre gives him a place to come," Bouvier says. "For people with mental health issues, it's sometimes hard to get up in the morning, and then once you're up, it's hard to know what to do. One of our strengths is that we provide a common gathering place. People can come and have coffee, help cook a meal, watch movies or get involved in group activities."

According to Bouvier, Jason is the first one to sign up for activities, everything from cross-country skiing to glow bowling to disc golf. He's also the first one to help out with cooking or cleaning. "One day he heard us talking about an icy sidewalk; the next day he arrived early with an ice chopper and cleared away the ice. That's the kind of guy he is," Bouvier says.

Yorkton residents find a sense of belonging and community at the new Mental Health Drop-in Centre.

Thanks to the successful merger with the Council, the MHDC continues to provide Yorkton residents who live with mental health issues with a welcoming gathering space and a sense of community belonging.



#### **Summer Fun with Makynli**

Summer Fun provides new experiences and lasting memories for children and youth with varying abilities in a safe, structured environment. "Summer Fun is about getting out in the community, having fun, having social contact. It's sensory stimulation and social inclusion," says Jackie Washenfelder, Quality of Life senior supervisor. "Every session is unique because it's based on the needs of the individual participants and their families."

Being responsive to changing community needs was a catalyst for the program's move to a full-day format in 2016. Response from participants' families was overwhelmingly positive. "We decided to sign Makynli up for the Summer Fun program because we thought it would be an awesome way for her to meet new children and have an amazing, structured, fun summer—which she did," says Makynli's mom Courtney. "She went all day, every day. She enjoyed going to the theatre, the fair, the beach, the parks and the fire hall. She got up every day excited to go see all her new friends."

2016 was Makynli's first time in Summer

Fun. At just six years old, she was one of the youngest participants, but her outgoing nature helped her fit right in. "We definitely want to send Makynli back next summer because it is a constant in her life like school," Courtney says. "She looks forward to seeing all the other children. The program was very well organized and thought out, and the workers were honestly so amazing with her."

By promoting inclusion and community engagement, Summer Fun continues to enrich the lives of the Council's youngest clients.

























## Regina Branch

#### Quick Numbers

537

individuals served by Partners in Employment in Regina and Moose Jaw

210

individuals supported in Quality of Life services

3

individuals transitioned from Valley View Centre to community-based living

25

participants each SLYP-Out session

#### **Year In Review**

The Regina Branch continued to work with people of varying abilities in Regina and Moose Jaw, enhancing independence and participation in the community through vocational, rehabilitation, recreational and residential services. 2016 was a year of evolving opportunities and new directions.

#### **New Direction in Moose Jaw**

The closure of Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw created a need for expanded services for individuals transitioning out of the Centre and into the community. The Council responded with the development and implementation of Home and Day Supports in Moose Jaw. This is a new area of service delivery for the branch and one of the most significant undertakings of 2016.

Beginning in March, staff had the opportunity to provide supports to three men ranging in age from 55 to 65, who were transitioning into community-based housing. The men had each lived at Valley View since the 1980s, so the transition was an exciting, sometimes overwhelming time for them. The Council's personcentred, inclusive approach helped make the transition a positive experience. As a result, all three men are living richer, fuller lives with more options, more choices and greater independence.

#### **Laying the Foundation**

Renovation of the cafeteria and installation of phase one of the commercial kitchen facility was completed in 2016. These facilities will provide a foundation for the Council's Hospitality Skill Development Training Program.

#### **Connecting with Seniors**

Social inclusion and community engagement are changing the traditional view of volunteers—for the better. Gord is a Quality of Life participant at the Regina Branch who not only benefits from the support of volunteers, but also has become a volunteer himself.

"Gord loves to give back to his community, and what better way to do that than by spending time with seniors?" says Cheryl McKechney, Regina Branch supervisor of Quality of Life services . "So our Quality of Life coordinator made a connection with Riverbend Crossing Memory Care Home, and in short order some great friendships were made."

It hasn't taken long for Gord to become a valuable member of the volunteer community in Regina.

Gord volunteers at Riverbend Crossing once a week. During his two-and-a-half-hour shift, he helps recreation staff set up afternoon activities and then guides residents from their rooms to the activity room. Residents respond to his friendly manner and look forward to his visits. It hasn't taken long for him to become a valuable member of the volunteer community at Riverbend Crossing. In fact, he fit in so well, it only took a few months before he was able to work independently with recreation staff, without support from the Regina Branch.

"For now, the Council provides Gord with transportation to and from Riverbend Crossing, partly as a touch point with



Riverbend recreation staff to ensure things are going smoothly," McKechney says. "The next step is to have him learn the bus routes to Riverbend Crossing, so he can travel independently to his volunteer experience."

## **Impressive Start to New Training Program**

The Custodial Skill Development Training Program was implemented in 2016 to help individuals develop practical, marketable job skills for custodial-related occupations. The program incorporates both classroom learning activities and hands-on training. It includes connections to community work experience and employment opportunities.

"In just the first year, two participants found employment with Regina businesses as a result of their involvement in the Custodial Skill Development Training Program," says Murray Giesbrecht, supervisor of Employer Services at the Regina Branch. "One of those individuals is Bradley. Until recently, he was a client at the Regina Branch. He still visits his old friends, but now he's got a new job in the community that is keeping him busy."

Bradley was one of the first individuals to complete the program. This included a successful work experience at Cosmopolitan Community Services, a non-profit program that provides supported employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities in

Regina. In fact, Bradley's placement went so well, he was offered a job in the fall of 2016.

Today, Bradley is part of a janitorial crew that does cleaning jobs for various businesses throughout the community. His employers describe him as a highly focused worker who knows how to use his skills in different situations and adjusts well to changing work environments. They praise his pleasant manner, saying his positive social interactions have made him a role model for his colleagues.

"All of his friends at the Regina Branch are proud of Bradley's success and inspired by his desire to make positive strides in his life," Giesbrecht says.

## Camp Easter Seal

#### Quick Numbers

785 online camper

116
new applications

applications received

43% return staff rate

100%
of students
graduated from the
Counsellor-in-Training

program

#### **Year in Review**

More than 60 years after it began, people are still raving about Camp Easter Seal. Why? Ask any of the 641 campers who came to camp in 2016, and you'll probably hear 641 different reasons. All will have something to do with swimming, boating, horseback riding, wagon rides, bus tours, sports, special events days, arts and crafts, rustic camping, cook-outs, picnics, dances, campfires and singsongs.

You will also hear a common theme: Camp opens the door to new experiences, cherished friendships, social inclusion and greater independence. Camp has some of the best programs and facilities in all of Canada. It is the only barrier-free, 100% wheelchair-accessible camp in the province. It is unique in that staff provide assistance with minor medical needs while providing attendant care for campers, and programs are regularly reviewed to ensure camp maintains a high standard of care.

In 2016, three full-time staff, 58 seasonal staff and more than 60 volunteers worked

Throughout its
62-year history, camp has
relied on grants, donations
and fundraising to
meet operational costs.

together to deliver a great camping experience for adults and children with intellectual and physical disabilities. There were 10 camp sessions, each six days long and designed for specific age groups and abilities. In fact, each session catered specifically to the needs and interests of campers attending that session.

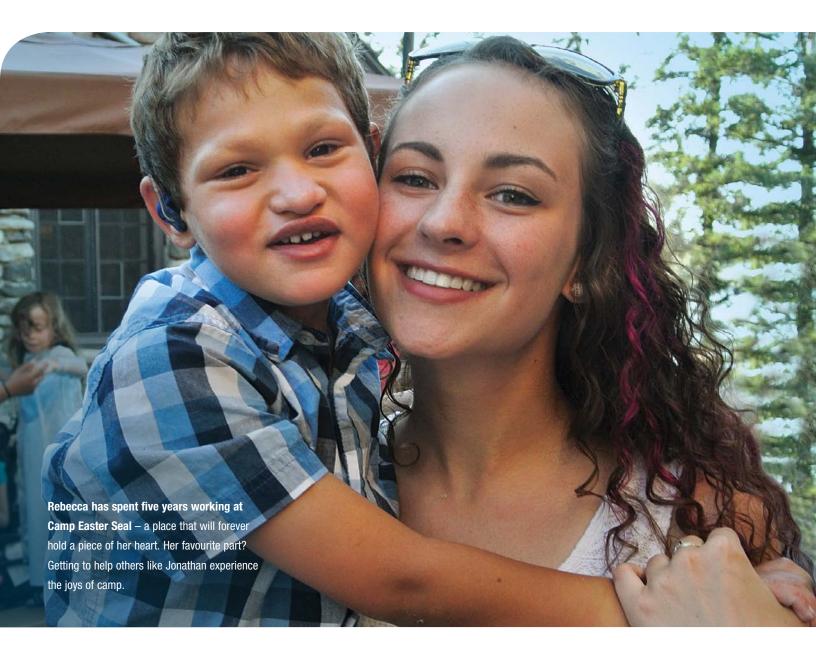
Here's something else that sets Camp Easter Seal apart. Throughout its 62-year history, Camp has relied on grants, donations and fundraising to meet operational costs. That is a remarkable testament to the generosity of Saskatchewan people. The reward for such generosity is in the smiles of campers ... and also in the accomplishments of young camp counsellors, many of whom go on to change the world by becoming doctors, nurses, therapists, counsellors and teachers.

Add all of this together—excellent activities, enthusiastic staff, first-rate facilities, inclusive environment and the opportunity to be, well, just like everybody else—and you've got the answer to why Camp Easter Seal is everybody's favourite place.

#### A Sister's Story

Rebecca began as a counsellor-in-training at Camp Easter Seal five years ago and is now a counsellor coordinator. Her experience at Camp is especially inspiring, because it is a family affair—her sister Jeanette has been coming to Camp since she was nine years old.

"When I got into the Counsellor-In-Training program, all I really knew about Camp was that it was an amazing place. My sister Jeanette had never said a negative word about it. She loved it. She would talk about her week for months after leaving. Throughout my life, I saw how people would look at Jeanette differently when we went out. I never thought anything of it since that is what I was used to seeing. It wasn't until I went to Camp that I saw people look at Jeanette like they would



look at everyone else. Camp is the place where everyone is seen as equals. Maybe that is the reason campers love it so much.

"Having a sister who comes to Camp is great. Some of the best memories I have with Jeanette were made at Camp Easter Seal. She has pushed me into the lake many times, she has bent camp rules and made me sit on her lap, she has told counsellors embarrassing things about me, but most of all, she has made me laugh

until I cried. Camp is Jeanette's favourite place in the world and it is mine too."

#### A Mom's Point of View

Jeanette and Rebecca's mom Charlotte is proud to have both daughters involved in Camp Easter Seal. Still, she clearly remembers that very first visit ...

"I was sick to my stomach at the thought of leaving Jeanette for the first time as I had NEVER left her before. I packed the van with her stuff ... she was so excited. Me, not so much. When I bent over with tears in my eyes to kiss her, she gave me a big wave and said, 'Bye Mom!!' I couldn't believe it! As shocked and surprised as I was, I knew this was a good thing for HER. To this day, she is 21 and still lives for that one GREAT week at camp! I truly believe that Camp Easter Seal contributed hugely to helping Jeanette become as independent as she is."

## Fund Development





**Top:** Campers enjoyed delicious home-made no sugar lemon-limeade as part of Safeway's Feed Ability Campaign, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of nutrition.

Bottom left: Runners braved the cold to chase "Gingy" the life-sized gingerbread man at the Brainsport Gingerbread Run on November 22.

Bottom right: Snowmobile riders travel from across the prairies to attend Snowarama, the annual fundraiser for Easter Seals<sup>TM</sup>

Saskatchewan that supports hundreds of individuals with disabilities each year.

#### **Special Events**

Each year the Fund Development staff across the province host a variety of fundraisers and events in support of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan programs and services, most notably Camp Easter Seal.

We extend the most sincere appreciation to our many sponsors, businesses, organizations, volunteers and attendees that have donated or contributed in any way to the success of these events, campaigns and fundraisers. Your support is vital in changing the lives of children and adults with disabilities.



#### Snowarama | February 6

A staple annual event in the Yorkton community, Snowarama celebrated 39 years of fundraising success in 2016. With well-groomed trails, evening banquet, live auction and the opportunity to win a brand new snowmobile, this family—oriented trail ride fundraiser is a highlight for the Yorkton Branch, which raised over \$130,000 in

2016. Snowarama is supported by many generous local businesses and avid snowmobile riders who return year after year to raise funds for the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan and Camp Easter Seal.

#### **Ability Bowl | April 23**

One of Swift Current's most fun and well-attended events is the annual Ability Bowl, which raises funds to support Swift Current Branch programs and services. Celebrating its 28th year of success, the theme for the 2016 event was Sport Bowl with teams encouraged to dress up and enjoy in the day's festivities. Over 180 participants made up 38 teams that enjoyed competitive and fun games of 5-pin bowl. Together, participants, pledges and sponsors raised over \$59,000 for the Swift Current Branch.

#### Safeway Feed Ability Campaign June 30 – July 4

A partnership between Easter Seals™ Canada and Safeway Canada, this instore event is a great opportunity for the Saskatchewan Abilities Council staff and Camp Easter Seal families to engage with individuals in the community to bring awareness to the importance of nutrition and Camp Easter Seal. This year Safeway's Feed Ability Campaign raised close to \$12,000 thanks to the amazing management and staff of Safeway stores and generous customers across Saskatchewan.

#### Boston Pizza Day for Camp Easter Seal | July 13

The 4th annual Boston Pizza Day for Camp Easter Seal was another amazing opportunity for the Fund Development staff to engage with our communities and Boston Pizza staff members across



Saskatchewan. With the help of staff and volunteers, Camp Cards were sold at each Boston Pizza location in the province. In the past four years this event has raised over \$220,000 for the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan.

#### Camp Day | July 26

Camp Easter Seal is a magical place, but not everyone has experienced it for themselves. Camp Day is an opportunity for our funders, sponsors, partners and supporters to see first-hand where their dollars are going and catch a glimpse of a day in the life of one of our campers. Hosted at Camp Easter Seal at Manitou Beach, Camp Day features tours of the cabins, activity rooms and recreational spaces — not to mention lively camp songs and scenic views of Manitou Beach. It's our way of saying thank you and showing

appreciation to all those who support Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan.

#### Drop Zone Saskatchewan August 20, 23 and September 7

It was another exciting year for Drop Zone Saskatchewan in 2016. This highoctane event features superheroes rappelling down high-rise buildings all in support of Easter Seals™ programming and Camp Easter Seal. In 2016 a new location was added to the Drop Zone event roster: individuals from Prince Albert and surrounding areas braved the rappel lines for the first time as they scaled down the side of the L.F. McIntosh Building. It was a milestone year in Regina as Drop Zone celebrated its 10th anniversary and record turnout of superheroes scaling town the picturesque Hill Tower Il building downtown. Saskatoon hosted



Above: Thank you to Boston Pizza staff and volunteers across the province for helping sell Camp Cards on Boston Pizza Day on July 13.

its 11th year for Drop Zone at the Carlton Tower. Combined, all three events raised over \$170,000 for Easter Seals<sup>TM</sup> Saskatchewan.

#### Prairie Perogy YXE and YQR October 23 and 28

A new annual event was added to the Fund Development roster in October with the hugely successful Prairie Perogy in Saskatoon and Regina. Raising a combined total of over \$12,000 with the sponsorship and support of Baba's Homestyle Perogies in Saskatoon, this event dished out thousands of perogies and countless toppings to hungry guests.

#### Brainsport Gingerbread Run November 22

The 3rd annual Brainsport Gingerbread Run was another successful fundraising event in Saskatoon. The sold-out fun run had a record turnout of over 400 participants who braved the cold November weather all in support of Saskatchewan Abilities Council programs and services. Raising well over \$9,000 in 2016 this event continues to grow thanks to the management and staff at Brainsport and the Saskatoon community.

# Fund Development

#### **Our Supporters**

Every year we are so grateful and humbled by the generous support of individuals, businesses and organizations that donate to the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. We thank all of our donors for their contribution in 2016 – your support plays a pivotal role in helping children and adults with disabilities reach their goals and achieve success!



Over 180 bowlers participated in the 28th annual Ability Bowl in Swift Current on April 23. The community's support and generosity helped raise over \$59,000 for the Swift Current Branch.

#### Donor names are recognized with permission.

Donor information is carefully reviewed for accuracy. We sincerely apologize if there are errors or omissions and ask that you contact our Fund Development office at 306-374-4448 if you note any inaccuracies.

#### **Member Leaders**

The Saskatchewan Abilities Council is a membership-based organization. Members provide important financial support for the Council's work. Those who make an annual minimum gift of \$150 during the membership year are recognized as Member Leaders.

Arthur J. Affeldt Jeff Auer Rino Bacchetto Brenda Bancescu Mark and Patty Beck David and Lynda Bendel Patrick and Loretta Benning Jim and Allana Biss Paul Blackstock Harvey L. Blanchette Jeff Braid Donald and Susan Bristow John and Ina Brockelbank Dwaine and Gayle Brown **Donald Buckingham** Laird Cooper Pat and Pat Cooper Vicki Corbin Marcie and Bill Delday John Denysek Gene and Adele Dupuis Paul and Kathie Dyck Dr. Ahmed M. El-Serafi Nels Frickson Dwayne and Karen Fettes Isobel M. Findlay Fraternal Order Of Eagles #4126 Lynsey Gaudin Ellen Gaunt Ernest J. and Ruth Geisbauer David W. Gillatt Jeanne F. Gosselin Paul Elizabeth Guest Corey Hadden

Norm and Elsie Halldorson

L. Jean Halliday Victor Hamilton Jack Harris Flizabeth Heidt Simon E. Hitcherick Rick Hopkinson C. Jane Horner Hornoi Leasing Ltd. Michelle Hunter Hutterian Brethren Mr. A. J. Jacek Peter A. Jansen John and Anita Jarrell Leonard and Joanne Kehrig Ron and Kristy Kolodziejski Bruno and Marjorie Konecsni Siegfried Kunstel Donald and Carol Lamarsh Graham and Anita Langford Tamara Larre Stan Lautsch and Marilyn Mudry-Lautsch Mary Legros Darryl W. Leshko Carl and Diane Lind Douglas and Barbara Mader Clifford R. Martin Earl McKone Eleanor I. Melsom Ron and Cheryl Minke Karen Moore Dennis and Nina Morey Dr. Ulla Nielsen Murray and Adele Pask

Justina Peters Arne F. Petersen Joyce Phillips Lyle Phillips Helen Pranke John Prietchuk Heather Rasmussen Rayner Agencies Ltd. Henry Remai J. Steven Richardson Dr. Lila M. Rudachyk Rick and Janet Sanden Anne Sawchuk Thresa Schreiner Frances T. Schultz Jim and Donna Scissons Walter Sedlick William and Laurie Shaw Bill and Gail Sinnett Dr. James N. Smart Charles E. Smith Peter and Corinne Smith Spectra Energy Sheila Spence Tom and Darlene Spence Supreme Steel LP Doug and Cathy Surtees Mrs. R. Sykes David J. Thornton **Edith Tomilin** Janice and David Vetters Arley Wieler lan and Kirsten Wilkinson James S. Wilson Mark and Barb Wouters

Don and Dorothy Zopf

Sylvia Pasman

Eva Paton

#### **Companion Club**

Individuals are recognized as Companion Club donors if they have contributed regular monthly gifts, making a world of difference throughout the year in support of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and Easter Seals<sup>TM</sup> Saskatchewan.

Jim Achtymichuk Corey Adam Tressa F. Allard Erika O. Altwasser Cameron Anton Blair Baller Mary Ann Beavis Edwin E. Beland Jeff and Lara Bergen Ronald and Sandra Bland Randy Boyko Sandy Braun Roy K. Brinkworth John and Pamela Burt Joylene Campbell Joseph and Sylvia Chorney Rita Coghill Vicki Corbin Dr. Nan Davies Brian and Linda Davis Steven and Stella Devenney Richard Keith Downey Marilyn Drever **Bev Engstrom** Lyanne Engstrom **Eberhard Fass** Keith and Jennifer Fillinger Aime and Raymonde Forcier Linda Forzley Erik Frederiksen Andrea Gareau Lynsey Gaudin Jeanne F. Gosselin Paul Helen Gress Lawrence and Elaine Gusta George and Shirley Haines

Kate Hamilton

Kathleen Hamilton
Nevin Hanning
Julie Harder
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Higgins
Stan Holcomb
Susan Hone
Nora Horan
Joyce Huber
Kathy James
Mick and Bev Jutras
Derek Kelln
Rea Kleim
Donna Kolenowski
David and Carla Lammers
Tavia Langenkamp

Mary Lee
Lucie Lemcke
Wanda M. Leveille
Leonard Lewko
Verona MacDonald
Nicole MacLaren
Marie Mahan
Deborah M. Marriott
Dave and Glenda Mcgillivray
Meredith McKague
James and Karen Moore
Wayne and Brenda Moss
Susan Moyer
Kenneth and Helen Murray

Kenneth and Helen Murra Gloria Nichol Jonathan D. Page Mary Parchewsky Eva Paton

Harry and Elaine Peart
Dean and Verna Pederson
Harvey and Ellen Penner
Joyce Phillips

Joyce Phillips Hugh Polkinghorne Helen Pranke
John Prietchuk
Linda Redekop
A. James Reid
Janice Robson
Jeannette Rogers
Albert Running
Janice Rutherford
Diane Ryalls
Anne Ryan
Rhett D. Sangster
Cora Schindel

Pauline and William Semenuik Peggy Simenson Bill and Gail Sinnett Mr. Mathew Slater Dr. James N. Smart

Cobus and Lize-Marie Smith

Karen Smith
Alice Syroteuk
Nu Tu-Mach
Tanika Transport
Janice Thomas
Gary Tompkins
Alphonse Ulriksen
Kristine Urmson
Ms. Eleanor Vesey
Jean Wagner
Dr. Mark and Mrs. Tracy
Wahba
Susanne Welechenko

Susanne Welechenko
Denver and Lavina Wiebe
lan and Kirsten Wilkinson

Islay Wiskar Rob Woods

Debora Wotherspoon Catherine M. Zeilner





Top: Rappelling 220 feet off the Carlton Tower in Saskatoon was no problem for Sabastian Van Esch, Batman with Justice League Saskatoon.

Bottom: Brittany Korol said she loved being part of such an inspirational cause at Drop Zone Regina on August 20. She conquered knee-quivering heights to help send kids with disabilities to Camp Easter Seal.



#### **Bequests**

It is with deep gratitude that we honour and recognize the following individuals who remembered the Council in their wills.

Estate of Edith Chisholm
Estate of Hazel Glasrud
Estate of Harold Bernard Hanson
Estate of Govert Marinus Klemkerk
Estate of Floyd McNabb
Estate of Robert Wassill

#### **Endowments**

The Saskatchewan Abilities Council's endowments are held in perpetuity. The principal remains intact and only the income earned is used to support the programs and services of the Council.

The Arthur, Ella, Connie Tillman Endowment for the Parkland Ability Centre was established to support ongoing programs and special projects at the Centre. The 2016 year-end balance is \$124,593.81.

#### The Feingertz Research Fund

fosters research at the Council and supports special projects including equipment purchases, facility construction costs and research personnel. The 2016 year-end balance is \$189,804.35.

The Spirit of Independence Endowment was created to provide future funds to support the Council's ongoing work. The 2016 year-end balance is \$227,345.90.

#### **Partners**

#### Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres

The Council is a member of SARC and operates three recycling depots under franchise from SARC, a non-profit association representing community-based organizations that provide residential, developmental and employment supports and services to thousands of individuals with disabilities.

#### Easter Seals™ Canada

The Council is a member of Easter Seals™ Canada and owns the rights to Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan. In alignment with Easter Seals™, the national organization is dedicated to fully enhancing the quality of life, self-esteem and self-determination of individuals in Canada living with disabilities.

#### **Saskatchewan Prevention Institute**

The Council is a key funding partner of the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, a non-profit organization whose focus is to reduce the occurrence of disabling conditions in children using primary prevention methods.





saskatchewan
preventioninstitute
our goal is healthy children

#### **Funders**



















#### **Major Gifts**

Our thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their generous cash donations of \$5,000 or more.

Orme Asher and Shirley Asher

Dr. Ulla Nielsen







































#### **Kids to Camp Club and Century 21 Golden Heart Award**

Easter Seals™ Canada and its member organizations across the country are proud to be the charity of choice for Century 21 Canada and the Century 21 offices throughout Canada. Congratulations to the agents recognized in the Kids to Camp Club who generously donated a minimum of \$2,100 in 2016. These individuals are also recognized with a Century 21 Golden Heart Award for their contribution and dedication in sending kids to Camp Easter Seal. It is with the warmest thank you that we recognize our 2016 Kids to Camp Club members from Saskatchewan:

Brent Ackerman – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Francis Bast – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Jenni Bast – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Carla Browne – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Jacqueline Chilliak – Century 21 Fusion
Jonah Franklin – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Roger Schmid – Century 21 Fusion
Rod Spence – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Nolan Tabashniuk – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Irvin Tremblay – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.
Bernard Weinbender – Century 21 Dome Realty Inc.

#### **Long Service Awards**

The Saskatchewan Abilities Council's 2016 long service awards recognize the contribution of dedicated staff members who are committed to the achievement of its vision and mission.

#### **40 YEARS**

Joyce Phillips

#### **35 YEARS**

Bev Anweiler Colleen Keyser Linda Marshall Shirley Whiteside

#### **25 YEARS**

John Denysek Melissa Smart Ian Wilkinson

#### **20 YEARS**

Nu Tu-Mach

#### **15 YEARS**

Susan Bartlett Terry Graham
Phuong Ho Ian Izzard
Nicole MacDonald Joan Nelson
Raymond Pierce Eva Wiebe

#### 10 YEARS

Debra Brunet Christine Campbell
Aurel Danciu Rosemary Kun
Erin Lindsay Wendy Miller
Belen Reyes Katherine Scutchings
Le Tran

# Financials Statement of Operations year ended December 31, 2016

2016	2015
\$ 6,146,470	\$ 5,714,982
8,690,254	7,960,075
2,778,025	2,772,272
5,644,716	5,450,847
833,817	937,862
12,084,632	12,250,331
2,246,321	2,500,926
38,424,235	37,587,295
6,597,668	6,090,762
9,099,347	8,437,897
2,993,425	3,113,095
5,787,299	5,763,846
1,235,911	1,312,891
11,935,366	12,171,078
667,983	602,367
38,316,999	37,491,936
\$ 107,236	\$ 95,359
	\$ 6,146,470 8,690,254 2,778,025 5,644,716 833,817 12,084,632 2,246,321 38,424,235 6,597,668 9,099,347 2,993,425 5,787,299 1,235,911 11,935,366 667,983 38,316,999

## **Financials** Statement of Financial Position

as at December 31, 2016

	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 2,825,043	\$ 1,463,849
Accounts receivable	1,219,479	1,767,597
Inventories	1,242,286	1,363,972
Prepaid expenses	160,436	260,188
	5,447,244	4,855,606
DESIGNATED INVESTMENTS	993,087	1,040,051
CAPITAL ASSETS	8,816,326	8,485,288
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	6,000	18,000
	\$ 15,262,657	\$ 14,398,945
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3.235.378	\$ 3,267,071
Deferred grants	\$ 3,235,378 2,096,716	\$ 3,267,071 1,541,047
Scheduled repayments	2,090,710	1,041,041
of callable debt	30,212	-
Current portion of capital leases	4,665	5,985
	5,366,971	4,814,103
Callable debt	336,515	-
	5,703,486	4,814,103
CAPITAL LEASES	-	4,665
DEFERRED DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS	201,343	252,607
UNAMORTIZED CAPITAL ASSET FUNDING	2,408,740	2,560,947
	8,313,569	7,632,322
NET ASSETS		
Net assets restricted for endowment purposes	541,744	537,444
Internally restricted net assets invested in capital and intangible assets	6,102,441	5,967,819
Internally restricted net assets - other	250,000	250,000
Unrestricted net assets	250,000 54,903	250,000 11,360
	6,949,088	6,766,623
	\$ 15,262,657	\$ 14,398,945

## Financials Statement of Changes In Net Assets year ended December 31, 2016



	Internally Invested in Capital &	Res	tricted		Externally Restricted			
	Intangible Assets		Other	Е	ndowment Purposes	Unrestricted	2016 Total	2015 Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 5,967,819	\$	250,000	\$	537,444	\$ 11,360	\$ 6,766,623	\$ 6,595,164
Excess of revenue over expenses	-		-		-	107,236	107,236	95,359
Employee future benefits remeasurements and other items	-		-		-	70,929	70,929	76,100
Amortization of capital assets intangible asset	(704,795) (12,000)		- -		- -	704,795 12,000		
Capital asset funding recognized	238,144		-		-	(238,144	-	-
Capital asset funding deferred	(85,937)		-		-	85,937	-	-
Purchase of capital assets	1,052,622		-		-	(1,052,622	-	-
Gain on disposal of capital assets	7,330		-		-	(7,330	-	-
Receipt of callable debt	(393,790)		-		-	393,790	-	-
Repayment of callable debt capital leases	27,063 5,985		-		-	(27,063 (5,985		-
Interest income earned on endowment funds	-		-		4,300	-	4,300	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 6,102,441	\$	250,000	\$	541,744	\$ 54,903	\$ 6,949,088	\$ 6,766,623

## **Financials**

Statement of Cash Flows year ended December 31, 2016

	2016	2015
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 107,236	\$ 95,359
Interest income earned on endowment funds	4,300	-
Employee future benefits remeasurements and other items	70,929	76,100
Adjustments for  Amortization of capital assets	704,795	739,909
Amortization of intangible asset	12,000	12,000
Capital asset funding recognized	(238,144)	(252,520)
Deferred donor designated funds recognized	(107,924)	
(Gain) loss on disposal of capital assets	(7,330)	(98,095) 17,874
Changes in non-cash working capital items	(1,000)	17,074
Accounts receivable	548,118	567,154
Inventories	121,686	(108,372)
Prepaid expenses	99,752	(124,259)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(31,693)	4,572
Deferred grants	555,669	(280,806)
	1,839,394	648,916
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Capital asset additions	(1,052,622)	(1,110,360)
Proceeds on disposal of capital assets	24,119	36,126
Designated investments, net	46,964	7,095
	(981,539)	(1,067,139)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from callable debt	393,790	-
Repayment of callable debt	(27,063)	(353,143)
Repayment of capital leases	(5,985)	(12,905)
Receipt of donor designated funds	142,597	130,986
	503,339	(235,062)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	1,361,194	(653,285)
CASH POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,463,849	2,117,134
CASH POSITION, END OF YEAR	\$ 2,825,043	\$ 1,463,849

#### Get in touch: www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

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