

GENERAL INFORMATION

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President: Michelle Hunter
Executive Director: Ian Wilkinson

ConnectAbilities is published three times a year, including the summer edition titled SPLASH, 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.

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**NOTICE OF 73RD 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 2023 Annual General Meeting of SaskAbilities will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at 2310 Louise Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Annual General Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- Receiving the minutes of the 72nd Annual General Meeting held on April 8, 2022
- Electing directors
- Receiving the President's Report
- Receiving the Executive Director's Report
- Presentation of audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022
- Appointment of auditors
- To transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

If you plan to attend, please register before April 6, 2023 by contacting Janet Dzik by telephone at (306) 374-4448 or by email at jdzik@saskabilities.ca

Individuals may attend in person at 2310 Louise Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan or join the meeting virtually. For instructions on how to join virtually, please visit: saskabilities.ca/AGM.

To be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting, individuals must have purchased a 2023 membership in SaskAbilities on or prior to March 14, 2023.

Copies of the audited financial statements will be available at saskabilities.ca on or about March 8, 2023. 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



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

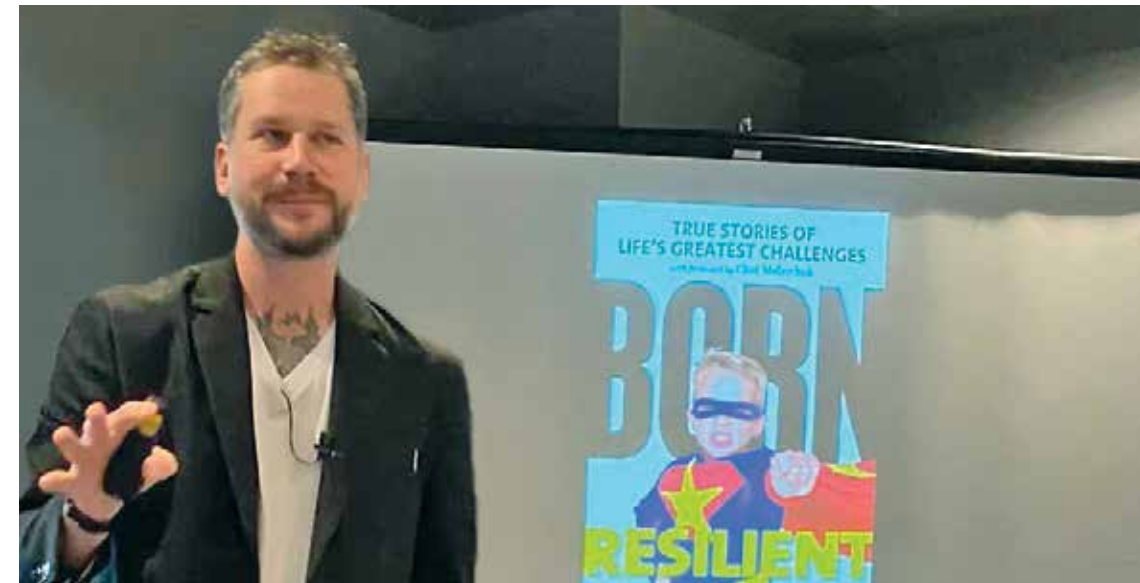
We treat people with respect, honesty and compassion.

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.

A Vision Come to Life with Big Support



SaskAbilities Partners in Mental Health and Well-being hosts its first Mental Health Conference in 2022 and celebrates a new partnership with Dollar a Day Foundation.

2022 was the year for the SaskAbilities' Partners in Mental Health and Well-being services in Yorkton to shine a light on mental health in a big way! The Mental Health Conference had been a vision of Regional Director, Aleks Hoeber, and the team in Yorkton for many years. With the COVID-19 pandemic exasperating stress and mental health, 2022 seemed like an appropriate year to have important discussions on a topic that, unfortunately, is still stigmatized.

Hosted on October 5th, 2022 at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton, the conference sold out in just six weeks with a waitlist of individuals hoping to take in the full-day event. "We gathered as a team in June and just made the decision that, yes, we are going to do this. There was definitely some talk and consideration to COVID-19 mandates, you can't predict what the future will hold but it was evident to us that this conference needed to happen. It was something that was needed in our community and we are already looking ahead. I'm confident in saying there will be another one in the future," exclaims Jamie Neal, Mental Health Senior Supervisor.

Following the World Health Organization's theme of Make Mental Health for All A Priority, the conference lineup boasted impactful

guest speakers including author and mental health advocate, Allan Kehler; inspirational speaker, Corlis Rassyle; and Executive Director of Canadian Mental Health Association Saskatchewan Division, Phyliss O'Connor. The day also included activities focused on wellness and self-care including laughing yoga led by Tim Barlow, a British Canadian songwriter and musician, with Kundalini yoga and meditation later in the afternoon led by local yoga instructor, Melissa Krochak.

"This was the first major conference to be hosted in Yorkton since the pandemic and feedback has been very positive. The community as a whole really came together to support us, including the Mayor of Yorkton, Mitch Hippsley who brought greetings on behalf of the City. MLA, Greg Ottenbreit, was there on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, and Cathay Wagantall, MP for Yorkton-Melville sent greetings. We had individuals and agencies from outside Yorkton travel to attend and lots of interest, a lot of people reaching out which was great to see for our first year," mentions Jamie who is quick to acknowledge the enormous team effort it took to plan and pull off a successful mental

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A Word from our Executive Director



Moving into 2023 with a continued focus on SaskAbilities' vision, mission, and values, this new year has already brought with it renewed energy and refreshing opportunities for collaborations and partnerships, all meant to enhance how we support individuals experiencing disability.

Of course, each year around this time we are eagerly anticipating the Annual General Meeting (AGM) as we finalize details before the big day. This year's AGM will be hosted on April 14th at Provincial Services in Saskatoon with Members given the option to join in person or virtually. Further information can be found on the official notice of the 73rd AGM within this *ConnectAbilities* newsletter or on the SaskAbilities website – saskabilities.ca.

A highlight at each AGM is the opportunity to share with Members, supporters, and the public the newly completed Annual Report. This year will be no exception as the 2022 client success stories and many activities shared are all quite remarkable. The published document will be available to view on the SaskAbilities website following the AGM.

Though we are still getting acquainted with 2023, I am happy to share that SaskAbilities is now the Cognitive Disability Strategy agency in Moose Jaw. I would also like to highlight the financial support and recognition of Dollar A Day Foundation's contribution to SaskAbilities' Partners in Mental Health and Well-being services in Yorkton. The commitment and ongoing support of all SaskAbilities' partners, donors, and supporters - existing and new - make a profound impact on the programs and services we provide to individuals experiencing disability across the province.

I want to thank you for your continued support and invite you to share in our enthusiasm as we highlight stories in this March *ConnectAbilities* that reflect our commitment to building partnerships that serve clients and the community.

Sincerely,

Ian Wilkonson,
Executive Director

CONFERENCE

Continued from previous page

health conference in a mere 4 months. Congratulations, team, on a job well done!

The celebrations did not end post conference for the Mental Health and Well-being team as they were awarded a national grand prize of \$50,000 from Dollar A Day Foundation through their 'Partners for Change' donors. As part of its family of charities, Mental Health and Well-being will also receive continual support from the foundation that has a clear focus on mental health initiatives and programs. We sincerely thank the foundation for their support and look forward to making more change together into the future. 🧡



25 Years of Quality, Care & Collaboration

It might not seem like an obvious partnership - Ag Growth International (AGI), a global agricultural business dedicated to "supplying the world's food infrastructure" - and SaskAbilities, a Saskatchewan-based non-profit organization with a mission to "support people experiencing disability with programs and services to enhance their lives." But sometimes, those unsuspecting duos can develop a meaningful collaboration that, in this case, has strengthened the southwest community by creating employment opportunities for those experiencing disability or barriers to employment.

Established in 1996 by Batco, AGI provides custom-designed farm and commercial systems to customers across six continents. The company has over thirty-five brands across five platforms - Seeds, Fertilizer, Grain, Feed, and Food. After one year in operation, the company contacted SaskAbilities Swift Current Branch to help create the first variation of the hopper cloth, an important component of AGI's line of grain conveyors. Today, Caridad Gonzales and her team of sewers are responsible for the manufacturing of sixty-two different designs that ultimately find their way across North America, Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa, and South America.

"Quality product; that's always first. Then being ahead of schedule - I always want to be more than a few days ahead of the scheduled delivery date. After that, fun! We are always smiling and laughing and having a good time because I want the team to enjoy their work and look forward to coming in each day. We even do some dancing and stretching to get our energy up," explains Caridad of the priorities and work environment in the sewing department that employs six part-time staff members including Marilyn Janzen who herself is celebrating 28 years in the



sewing department. Starting out as a client of SaskAbilities' Training Centre and making the shift in 2018 to part-time employee, Marilyn has worked on AGI's products since the beginning.

The relationship that has grown and evolved between SaskAbilities and AGI and is one that is very much rooted in mutual interest, inclusivity, and trust. "To have a partnership that is able to not only withstand but prosper in the shifting global demand of business in agriculture is something to be celebrated. AGI Swift Current (Batco Manufacturing) has worked closely with SaskAbilities for these 25 years, and the success of our relationship is embedded in the mutual interest in each other's work, facility and business model," explains Renee Rude who is proud to reaffirm AGI's commitment to initiatives that promote inclusion and employment of individuals experiencing disability or barriers to employment. 🧡



With a relationship spanning 20 years, the Saskatchewan Automobile Dealer's Association (SADA) made its first contribution to Camp Easter Seal in 2003, and their generosity and support have continued ever since, contributing over \$571,000 to SaskAbilities since then! In 2022, SADA members went above and beyond as individual dealers came together to raise an astounding \$68,000 in support of the return to in-person camping for children, youth, and adults. Although it costs approximately \$1,955 to send an individual to Camp Easter Seal, camps are fully subsidized for campers because of generous donations from supporters like SADA.

A not-for-profit, membership-based, industry trade association, SADA has been the voice of new care franchise dealers across Saskatchewan since 1942. SADA, its Board of Directors, and members are not only committed to growing the automobile industry in Saskatchewan but also contributing to building inclusive communities in the cities they do business in and call home.

Century 21® Teams With Hearts of Gold

Collectively since 1979, Century 21® Canada has generously raised more than \$12 million dollars in support of Easter Seals™ programming. Right here in Saskatchewan, Century 21® Fusion in Saskatoon and Century 21® Dome Realty in Regina have done much more than donate funds to Camp Easter Seal. The two leading real estate sales agencies in their respective regions have made it a priority to infuse their support and generosity through initiatives like Camp Easter Seal clean-up days where agents and staff are on the ground at Camp, doing a thorough spring clean before campers arrive in June.

With both agencies feeling renewed in their commitment to support Camp Easter Seal, owners of Fusion and Dome Realty, along with their teams, continue to go above and beyond in the planning and execution of a number of fundraising initiatives, most notably their annual golf tournaments. "I think this year we saw a real pent-up demand by agents and staff to get back at it and host another golf tournament after pausing because of COVID-19. Initially, we weren't really sure what the reception was going to be but it exploded! It was the best golf tournament we've ever had and we've had to make changes to next year just to accommodate the level of demand we are seeing," explains Century 21® Fusion owner, Gary Busch who, along with agent Roger Schmid, visited Camp this past summer, lunching with campers and checking out the facility upgrades and new additions to the grounds.

It isn't just their golf tournaments that are showing impressive numbers. Both agencies participate in the Century 21® Kids to Camp program that awards individual agents who personally raise \$2,100 or more for Easter Seals™ with a special golden pin, recognizing them as a Golden Heart recipient. "Our objectives when fundraising are to bring a positive attitude and do the best we can, and that message has been all we've needed to find success in fundraising for Camp Easter Seal. Century 21 Dome Realty feels a responsibility to give

SADA's 'Revved-Up' Support for Camp Easter Seal

"The occasion to work with such a fantastic organization and help people right here in Saskatchewan is truly heart-warming," explains Larry Heggs, Executive Director, SADA. "In the nearly 20 years of working together with SaskAbilities, SADA has cherished the opportunity to fill an important need. New car dealers across Saskatchewan give tirelessly and are committed to supporting much needed programs like Camp Easter Seal as a way to give back to this great province."

SADA's contributions over the years go even further and include an accessible bus at Camp Easter Seal - used, among other reasons, to transport campers on important missions to Little Manitou Beach for ice cream - and the beloved pontoon boat used for the aquatics program on Little Manitou Lake!

Thank you, SADA, for 20 years of supporting SaskAbilities and Camp Easter Seal! 🧡



back to our community. We are blessed to be able to work with such an amazing organization and relish each chance we get to help them achieve their goals," explains Judge Eilers, Sales Representative for Century 21® Dome Realty and recent Golden Heart recipient.

Brent Ackerman	CENTURY 21 Dome Realty	8th -Time
Judge Eilers	CENTURY 21 Dome Realty	1st-Time
Gary Busch	CENTURY 21 Fusion	2nd-Time
Lisa Mueller	CENTURY 21 Fusion	4th-Time
Roger Schmid	CENTURY 21 Fusion	8th-Time