

GENERAL INFORMATION

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build inclusive communities through supported employment.

“Supported employment is a key part of how SaskAbilities works to build inclusive communities for people of all abilities. The City of Saskatoon has been such a wonderful partner for many years, and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to solidify our working relationship further and signify their commitment and dedication to being an inclusive employer in our community.”

– Emily Hurd, Regional Director, SaskAbilities Saskatoon Branch.

The event also highlighted and celebrated the many successes of Partners in Employment program participants currently working in various roles for the City of Saskatoon. One of those individuals included Drew, who accessed Partners in Employment services in 2019 and was hired to work in the custodial department at Saskatoon Police Service in 2020. Drew’s supervisor shared with those in attendance his remarkable growth and how he is an excellent example of what good can

happen when the community invests in diversity. “It was hard at first, but it got easier over time. I really like my job as a custodian; the people I work with sometimes go watch hockey games and go bowling. It’s nice to feel included in those things outside of work,” explains Drew of the meaningful relationships he’s built with his colleagues over the past three years.

While the freshly signed partnership agreement is new, the collaboration between SaskAbilities and the City of Saskatoon is not. Since 2019, Partners in Employment and the City of Saskatoon have worked closely to provide meaningful employment for over 13 program participants. The partnership agreement aims to “identify and explore opportunities to increase the employment of individuals experiencing disability in Saskatoon and area through cooperative initiatives. It will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen and develop business opportunities between the City of Saskatoon and the SaskAbilities’ Saskatoon Branch.”

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.



ConnectAbilities



NOTICE OF 74TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SASKATCHEWAN ABILITIES COUNCIL INC. (SaskAbilities)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2022 and the Bylaw of SaskAbilities, that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of SaskAbilities will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024 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 73rd Annual General Meeting held on April 14, 2023
- Electing directors
- To consider and, if thought advisable, to pass, with or without variation, a special resolution to approve an amendment and restatement of SaskAbilities’ Articles. The text of the proposed special resolution is as follows:
That the Articles of SaskAbilities be amended and restated pursuant to the draft Articles of Amendment presented to the Members in the materials filed on SaskAbilities’ website in support of this meeting, and that the Executive Director of SaskAbilities be authorized to execute and deliver all necessary documentation in order to give effect to such amendment and restatement.
- To consider and, if thought advisable, to pass, with or without variation, a special resolution to approve an amendment and restatement of SaskAbilities’ Bylaw. The text of the proposed special resolution is as follows:
That the existing Bylaw of SaskAbilities be amended and restated pursuant to the draft

Amended and Restated Bylaw presented to the Members in the materials filed on SaskAbilities’ website in support of this meeting, and that the Executive Director of SaskAbilities be authorized to execute and deliver all necessary documentation in order to give effect to such amendment and restatement.

- Receiving the President’s Report
- Receiving the Executive Director’s Report
- Presentation of audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023
- Appointment of auditors
- To transact such other business as may be properly brought before the meeting.

If you plan to attend, please register before April 5, 2024 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 2024 membership in SaskAbilities on or prior to March 12, 2024.

Copies of the audited financial statements will be available at www.saskabilities.ca on or about March 11, 2024. Charitable Business Number: 10795 5221 RR0001.

Inclusivity and Accessibility at the Forefront of Rebrand for Stinger Sports

Stinger Sports is a leading manufacturer of ringette equipment. Trusted by over 80 retailers nationwide, the brand has some notable partners in the sport, including Ringette Canada. Owned and operated by SaskAbilities since its purchase in the 1990s, the non-profit organization has grown Stinger Sports into a full-service ringette equipment manufacturer, with proceeds going towards programs and services that enrich the lives of people experiencing disability across Saskatchewan. While the brand has grown over the past three decades, not much has changed with Stinger's branding and image until now.

Recently, discussions around inclusivity and accessibility have been at the forefront when considering a brand refresh for Stinger Sports.



Anthony Thompson, Senior Supervisor at the Regina Business Centre, is managing the changes and shares an update, saying, "This year, we decided to move forward with a full relaunch of the Stinger Sports website and rebrand with a new logo, something that depicts inclusivity and aligns with SaskAbilities. Customers visiting the website will enjoy a new and improved experience. The motivation for the changes is to ensure the brand's image matches the products' quality and is representative of Stinger Sports today. We want the products to be more accessible and our customers' experience to be positive always, whether they are ordering ringette gear online or talking to us directly."

With "business as usual" on the production side, things haven't slowed down a bit for Stinger Sports, which means the sewing department is in full swing making ringette stick bags, Mosspro pants, Pro pants, and Padda girdles. Kyra, an employee with SaskAbilities, has worked in the sewing department for nearly ten years and is excited to challenge herself with more Stinger Sports gear. "I mostly focus on the pants, but I'm hoping to be able to move on to the girdles, which are a lot more difficult to make." With a supportive team in the sewing department, Kyra is confident that she'll be making high-quality girdles for ringette athletes a year from now.

With the anticipated changes in customer support and the brand refresh, Anthony is hopeful companies and individuals will be interested in learning more about Stinger Sports. "I think our customers are interested to know we are an organization that hires people experiencing disability and barriers to employment. Customers want to know where their money is going, beyond purchasing high-quality items. I'm confident our customers will continue to support the Stinger Sports brand, knowing their dollars are returning to the community to support people and enrich their lives in different ways."

Specialized Seating Program Recognized by CAOT in Saskatchewan

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and CAOT-Saskatchewan recognized the Specialized Seating Program at Rehabilitation Services in May of 2023 for the team's "contribution and support to the profession of occupational therapy" in Saskatchewan. The team of four specialized technicians at SaskAbilities boasts over 36 years of combined experience and are all very knowledgeable and passionate about what they do and who they support. While the nomination pleasantly surprised the whole team, they were all "extremely excited and quite encouraged" to have their contributions recognized and highlighted by the CAOT and CAOT-Saskatchewan.

"This recognition is an accumulation of many years working with and alongside therapists. We have a unique perspective on the field and extensive experience with adaptations and customizations. We also have a breadth of knowledge of what products are available that therapists have been able to draw on, and we're quite happy to work with them. Another part is that we have a great working relationship as a team of seating technicians in the department and with therapists across the province. They trust us and call upon us – we try to make ourselves very approachable because, ultimately, it's to the benefit of the individuals we all serve."

– Ken Ainsworth, Seating Technician, Specialized Seating Program.

In their nomination, Amy Spiers and Shawna Ryan, both staff members in the Occupational Therapy Department at Saskatoon City Hospital, shared an in-depth and heartfelt message about the importance and level of impact the Specialized Seating team has as healthcare providers.



"They have a client-centred focus and strive to meet the needs of the individual with kindness and patience. Their work is extremely efficient, working in the context of tight system demands throughout the pandemic. The dedication of the Specialized Seating team helps with patient flow and shorter hospital stays. It contributes to a smoother continuity of care for patients." – Shawna Ryan and Amy Spiers, Saskatoon City Hospital Rehabilitation Centre.

Recently recognized at a small reception in early October during Occupational Therapy Month, the team was celebrated for their creativity, ingenuity, and ability to collaborate with occupational therapists and other members of the healthcare sector for the overall benefit of clients.

"I am so proud of this team; their dedication and commitment to helping clients is unwavering!" – Carrie McComber, Director of Rehabilitation Services.

Yorkton Branch Launches 2024 Inclusion Calendars

It is the second year the SaskAbilities Yorkton Branch has worked its creative magic! The teamwork was evident when bringing to life the 2024 Inclusion Calendar, a fundraising initiative in support of the second annual Together We Shine conference. The calendar launched with pre-orders on December 3, 2023, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, with a distinct theme of community and inclusion.

"The idea came forward from an International Day of Persons with Disabilities staff committee. We had many great ideas, so we combined a few to launch the first calendar and the inaugural Together We Shine participant conference in 2023. The funds raised through the calendar sales went towards our conference. The conference was created for individuals experiencing disability and had never been offered in Yorkton. This is the second year for the calendar. With the inclusion theme, we wanted to highlight and focus on the businesses within our community that provide support in so many ways, whether it is through fundraising or providing experiences for individuals we support in all of our programs," explains Sheila Reynolds, Day Program Senior Supervisor at the Yorkton Branch, who is very proud of the finished product, alongside the rest of the Yorkton team.

With all funds raised going towards the second annual Together We Shine participant conference set for April 2024, the Yorkton Branch is excited to share the calendar with communities across the province. "Calendars will be available if people want to stop by the Branch to purchase them, and they can also be ordered online. In addition, some of the featured businesses and organizations will sell calendars at their establishments. For people outside of Yorkton, shipping is available too!" shares Reynolds about how people can get their very own copy of the 2024 Inclusion Calendar.

A special mention and thank you to the community organizations and businesses that took part in this year's calendar fundraiser: Yorkton Superstore, RCMP and Fire Departments, Yorkton Business Improvement District, City of Yorkton, Good Spirit School Division, Tea Pro, Leading Edge Aviation, Yorkton Bowl Arena, Serendipity Thrift Store, Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours, Legacy Co-op, the Easter Seals™ Snowarama Committee as well as the talented Simple Shots by Jackie who took all the photos for the calendar.

To order online or learn more, visit the Inclusion Calendar page on the SaskAbilities website at www.saskabilities.ca. You can also visit the Yorkton Branch at 162 Ball Road or call 1.833.444.4126.



SaskAbilities Partnership Signing with City of Saskatoon Honours Disability Employment Awareness Month



On Monday, October 30, 2023, Partners in Employment, located in downtown Saskatoon, hosted the signing of the partnership agreement between SaskAbilities and the City of Saskatoon. With zero seats left unfilled, guests in attendance included many stakeholders as the event welcomed both SaskAbilities and City of Saskatoon management and staff, including team members hired through Partners in Employment.

This was a significant event for both SaskAbilities and the City of Saskatoon as the two organizations entered into a formal partnership agreement to increase employment opportunities for individuals experiencing disability in Saskatoon. The event was also an opportunity to honour the closing of October's Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is dedicated to building awareness of the many benefits of creating a more diversified workforce through hiring individuals experiencing disability in the community.

The event opened with a short program, including remarks by Emily Hurd, Regional Director, Saskatoon Branch and Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager, who spoke about the importance of working together to

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