



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Sask**Abilities**

## 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.





Sask**Abilities**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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As we close the chapter on another remarkable year, we reflect on the great impact, unwavering dedication, and extraordinary collaborations that brought to life SaskAbilities' vision of working together to build inclusive communities for people of all abilities in 2024.

We are filled with pride and excitement as we highlight the meaningful activities that have taken place across the province over the past 12 months, all of which contribute to SaskAbilities' mission of supporting people experiencing disability with programs and services to enhance their lives. As you explore the pages of this year's Annual Report, we invite you to share in our immense gratitude to the clients who have welcomed us into their lives, allowing us to witness their joy, growth, and achievements.

A common thread woven into each of the client success stories is a nod to SaskAbilities' origin, one that is rooted in family and growing into the community.

This past year, our 74th year of service, has marked a significant period of reflection as *SaskAbilities* nears an upcoming milestone. We have experienced firsthand how change is inevitable, but what has remained constant is SaskAbilities' commitment to upholding our values of treating people with respect, honesty and compassion. Our programs and services are client-centred, goal-oriented and accountable. We value teamwork, excellence and innovation. These principles are most vividly illustrated in the highlights from 2024 across the province:

- Rehabilitation Services' Orthopaedics department signed its first contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, enhancing access to prosthetic and orthotic services in the province

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE



*ALivingston*

Andy Livingston  
President



*Ian Wilkinson*

Ian Wilkinson  
Executive Director

## CELEBRATE SASKABILITIES' IMPORTANT MILESTONE!



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS TOGETHER

Visit [www.saskabilities.ca](http://www.saskabilities.ca)  
and click the 75th anniversary link.

- The introduction of supported independent living services across the regions marks a pivotal step in supporting individuals experiencing disability to live their lives in the community as they choose.
- Partners in Employment celebrated the successful completion and launch of the free Job Skill for Success video series, a collaborative initiative amongst the regions.
- Camp Easter Seal relaunched its fully accessible boating program after a short hiatus, inviting campers to experience Little Manitou Lake on the water on Camp's pontoon boat.

The success of any organization is measured by its impact on the people and community it serves. For 74 years, SaskAbilities has had the privilege of supporting children, youth, and adults experiencing disability and their families in communities across the province. We are deeply grateful for your continued trust and confidence. This achievement is made possible by our dedicated staff members, the leadership of our senior

management team, and the steadfast support and oversight from our Board of Directors.

To the many donors, supporters, and partners of SaskAbilities, we extend our sincerest gratitude for your unwavering belief in our work. Each year we are deeply humbled by the generosity we receive from individuals, businesses, service clubs, organizations, and communities throughout the province. Our impact is truly a reflection of your support.

As we move forward into 2025, let's continue to build inclusive communities for people experiencing disability, together.



Missing  
**Brenda Bancescu**  
 Regina

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

left to right

**Bruce Acton**  
 Saskatoon  
**William Schwarz**  
 Regina

**Nicole Onufreychuk**  
 Saskatoon  
**Paul Blackstock**  
 Saskatoon

**Ian Wilkinson**  
 Executive Director  
 Saskatoon  
**Michelle Hunter**  
 Regina

**Andy Livingston**  
 President  
 Saskatoon  
**Henri de La Garde**  
 Saskatoon

**Bonnie Cherewyk**  
 Saskatoon  
**Jonathan Tremblay**  
 Regina

**Sandra Ruff**  
 Yorkton  
**Kyle Chriest**  
 Saskatoon

**Lawren Trotchie**  
 North Battleford  
**Stan Lautsch**  
 Swift Current

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

left to right

**Aleks Hoeber**  
 Yorkton Branch  
**Jayda Watson**  
 Swift Current Branch  
**Jessica MacPherson**  
 Regina Branch  
**Emily Hurd**  
 Saskatoon Branch  
**Ian Wilkinson**  
 Executive Director

**Carrie McComber**  
 Rehabilitation  
 Services  
**Karen Moore**  
 Provincial Services





This year, the primary focus for Rehabilitation Services was enhancing client experience and staff process through quality improvements that considered safety, accessibility, and efficiency.

# REHABILITATION SERVICES

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



While the services provided in Rehabilitation Services have remained relatively the same over the past few years, management and staff members continue to work to meet clients' new and emerging needs across the province.

Training was a focus throughout the year in Rehabilitation Services to equip staff members with the tools and resources needed to do their jobs well, including Transfer Lift Repositioning (TLR®) Program© training and Professional Assault Response Training (PART®). Staff members from the Orthopaedics team attended a national conference hosted by a regulatory body, Orthotics Prosthetics Canada, providing an opportunity to learn alongside peers in their industry across the country. Staff members participated in numerous learning webinars, product information sessions, and job-specific training courses to enhance client service and employee safety. In 2024, Rehabilitation Services also celebrated four retirements of long-term employees with a combined 120 years of service.

A highlight in 2024 was the relocation of the Special Needs Equipment depot in Prince Albert, moving from its original downtown location to a more spacious commercial building on Marquis Road West. This new facility enhances service delivery and safety with a more accessible ground-level main entrance for clients. It features an overhead door, improving staff member safety when loading/unloading deliveries.

This year saw the expansion of the portfolio of special needs equipment products, made possible by the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living program. The addition of the items on the benefit list was a direct response to valuable feedback and requests from clients and healthcare professionals who identified the need for clients to have access to such items. The new products include pediatric mobility items like specialized strollers, and toileting and bathing items. Also, the Paediatric Wooden Equipment program, previously under the Orthopaedics umbrella of services, moved to Special Needs Equipment on April 1st. While there are no changes to equipment manufacturing, Special Needs Equipment will now manage the loan and recycling process.

It was an exciting year for Orthopaedics as SaskAbilities signed the first contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to provide prosthetic and orthotic services. This contract was previously negotiated with Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living. This new relationship has opened the door to greater opportunities to collaborate with the province's southern provider, Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, on aligning services. This ongoing relationship will enhance client experience across the province with increased service access and reduced wait times.

The Orthopaedics department transitioned to a new electronic records system in 2024. While transitioning from paper files to electronic files was daunting, the change brought improved

client documentation, increased confidentiality, efficiencies in invoicing and inventory management, and enhanced file management for clinicians. This has been a positive change for staff members, providing significant client benefits.

The Adaptive Technology Services program continued to leverage new technologies to serve clients better, including using artificial intelligence for voice processing and recognition. Through a grant received by Easter Seals™ Canada, the ScotiaRISE Program, funded by Scotiabank, provided an opportunity to support students in Grades 11 and 12 through its Graduation Ready with Assisted Devices - GRAD program. GRAD breaks down barriers to education by providing technology tools to assist and enhance students with their projects and studies.

The Accessible Parking Program underwent a significant change, utilizing technology to transition from a partial to a fully online application system. In collaboration with the Provincial Services technology team, this shift aims to create a more efficient and accessible process, enabling individuals across the province to apply for new permits or renew their existing ones online.

Reflecting on the many activities and changes in 2024, Rehabilitation Services extends much gratitude to the staff members, healthcare partners, funders, and all those who contributed to another successful year improving clients' lives throughout the province.

# [ A PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE ]

Cindy Leggott has been utilizing Rehabilitation Services at SaskAbilities ever since receiving her first power wheelchair at the tender age of six years old. Now 52, Cindy relies on the power wheelchair technicians in Special Needs Equipment and the team in Specialized Seating to make the necessary tweaks and adjustments to her chair each year. Reflecting on those earlier years living in rural Saskatchewan, Cindy recalls with a laugh the process of sending her chair away for maintenance. "I remember we had to ship it to SaskAbilities in Saskatoon via Kindersley Transport, and then a week later, it came back. But that was just normal back then; everything took time."



Moving to Saskatoon in 1990 for post-secondary education at the University of Saskatchewan and then to Regina for the past 16 years to start her family with her husband, Kelly. Cindy is very rarely without her power wheelchair. "It's much easier for me now to coordinate with Rehabilitation Services at SaskAbilities and Wascana Rehabilitation Centre. Like any motorized vehicle, my chair needs maintenance. I take it in about twice a year. I feel very grateful to have access to equipment that I don't have to pay out of pocket for. The cost of fixing and upkeep of a motorized wheelchair is price-prohibitive for someone like me who is supporting a family of four solely on my income," shares Cindy of the financial burden offset by the Special Needs Equipment program at SaskAbilities.

Living with cerebral palsy, Cindy has dedicated her career to empowering underserved and marginalized populations, including individuals experiencing disability, to help them achieve their fullest potential. "I don't think able-bodied people can truly understand what this chair means to me

and what it does for me. It's my pathway to independence. It allows me to go to work, engage in my community, move around at home, and take care of my children," shares Cindy, who works full-time while juggling her job and family responsibilities, including two teenagers. Thinking about what life would be like without her power wheelchair, the words that come to mind for Cindy include "difficult, dependent, and very isolating."

While Cindy believes society has come a long way in accepting and respecting people of all abilities, she believes there's still room for growth. "My chair is not just a piece of equipment, it's an extension of me and should be treated as such. I once had an experience with an airline where my chair was damaged, and they didn't want to take responsibility for it. People think you can just get a new chair; well it's not that easy. This chair is set up for me, especially the seating," explains Cindy, who relies on SaskAbilities' technicians to find and fix the problem. "The chair ended up needing a completely new motherboard. I don't know how much one of those costs, but it sounds expensive, and luckily, I didn't have to pay for that because it was covered." It was an eye-opening experience for Cindy, who has since become more outspoken and proactive about her chair's care and handling while travelling by air.

Cindy's power wheelchair affects not only her mobility and independence but also the lives of her two able-bodied children. Raised by an active and hands-on mother, her kids experienced a nurturing environment where Cindy carried them, strapped them into her chair, and playfully chased them around the house as toddlers. Now that they are teenagers, things haven't slowed down between Tim Hortons visits, recreational activities, shopping mall excursions, school events, and even the occasional chase around the house.

"Without my chair, I wouldn't have been able to raise my children the way I have and I wouldn't have been able to show them that you can succeed despite your disability," Cindy explains. "Thanks to this equipment, my disability hasn't defined what I can or can't accomplish. One thing I always make clear to my kids and the people I support is that my disability is part of who I am; it's not all of me."





Rehabilitation Services supports clients through four programs: **Special Needs Equipment, Orthopaedics, Accessible Parking, and Adaptive Technology Services.** Each day, these programs make a significant impact on the lives of individuals experiencing disability across Saskatchewan.

# REHABILITATION SERVICES

## THE THINGS WE DO!



### SPECIAL NEEDS EQUIPMENT

Special Needs Equipment operates a loan program funded by Saskatchewan Health that is free for residents of the province with a valid health card. Whether the equipment is needed for short-term recovery or a longer-term loan in the case of chronic or permanent conditions, it must be requisitioned by a healthcare professional, primarily an occupational or physical therapist or physiatrist.

The loan program provides two different types of equipment, mobility items including walkers and (power/manual/tilt) wheelchairs, and environmental items including commodes, transfer benches, and hospital beds. Staff members at Special Needs Equipment depots in Saskatoon, Regina, Yorkton, Swift Current, and Prince Albert manage the repair and maintenance of loan equipment which is also free of charge for the client as needed.

### THE NUMBERS

**11,379**

clients served in Orthopaedics

**44,077**

pieces of equipment issued by Special Needs Equipment

**24,968**

Accessible Parking Program permits issued

The program recycles equipment, providing a cost-effective way for the government to offer these resources to residents of the province. Equipment returned to the program after use is cleaned, refurbished, and checked for safety before being provided to another client.

Special Needs Equipment also has a small retail equipment program that includes low-cost items such as canes, crutches, wall bars, and raised toilet seats.

### ORTHOPAEDICS

Orthopaedics has several highly specialized clinicians, including certified orthotists and prosthetists, who provide services for clients residing in the Saskatoon area and north. Under the Orthopaedics umbrella, clients can access three areas of service: orthotics, prosthetics, and specialized seating.

In the Orthotics department, certified orthotists help clients with correcting or supporting weak or ineffective





joints or muscles using custom-fabricated or pre-manufactured braces designed to meet the individual needs of each client. These braces are used in areas such as the legs, back, arms, and neck - essentially everything except for teeth. This team of clinicians and technicians also manufactures and modifies various supports related specifically to the foot including arch supports, shoe raises, shoe modifications, toe fillers, and custom-made footwear to fit any foot shape.

Certified prosthetists in the Prosthetics department manufacture and repair artificial devices to replace missing limbs. This includes both upper and lower limb prostheses, custom fabricated and fit to the individual clients.

The Specialized Seating department provides wheelchair supports designed to improve positioning and comfort for individuals who have difficulty with upright seating or trunk balance. The benefits of this service are many with clients finding daily living activities easier, improved skin health, and experiencing less pain.

## ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Adaptive Technology Services offers assessment, training, and equipment purchase and repair services to support individuals experiencing disability in using technology. The program searches for unique solutions and provides various assistive devices, including voice-activated technology, eye-gaze software, custom gaming consoles, and communication devices. Each service is tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals, with the overarching goal of utilizing technology to enhance quality of life and promote independence.

In 2024, thanks to a very special donor, Adaptive Technology Services obtained two eye-gaze systems to be used as loaner devices for clients. These systems will ensure that clients have access to this essential technology for years to come.

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING PROGRAM

The Accessible Parking Program provides permits to clients with mobility impairments, allowing them to park in designated spaces reserved for those with mobility challenges. These permits are issued to individuals who cannot walk unassisted for more than 50 metres without significant difficulty. Each client receives one permit that can be used in any vehicle in which they are riding or driving.

A highlight this year was transitioning from a partial to a fully online application system, making for a more efficient and accessible process for those applying for new permits or renewing existing ones.



The Yorkton Branch had a dynamic year, rich with events, activities, and community engagement, reinforcing its role as a vital hub for individuals experiencing disability and their families, caregivers, and supporters. In 2024, the branch met 90 percent of its operational plan goals.

# YORKTON BRANCH

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



The year 2024 marked the 47th annual Easter Seals™ Snowarama event, celebrated on Saturday, March 2nd. Thanks to registrations, the wing night hosted the Friday before, the return of Bowlarama on February 23rd, and the support of a local chapter of snowbirds, Snowarama raised an impressive \$214,798 in support of Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan programs and services.

The day program celebrated its 2nd annual Together We Shine conference in May. Attendees, including many from neighbouring rural communities, the Yorkton Regional High School and Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton, were treated to a presentation by Bella Brave as the keynote speaker. A beautiful group mural was created to commemorate the conference and is now on display at the Yorkton Public Library.

Quality of life children's programming supported 18 children who participated in after-school, Summer Fun, or individual programming. The newly developed ExploreAbilities sensory room was completed at the end of 2024. On December 3rd, the community, including Yorkton's new Mayor-elect, were invited to experience the space during its grand opening celebration.

Participants from the day program, the Partners in Mental Health & Well-being's Mental Health Drop-In Centre, as well as staff members and volunteers, enjoyed a day trip to Regina on June 23rd to watch the Saskatchewan Roughriders' home opener. This unforgettable experience was made possible thanks to funds raised by Yorkton Minor Football.

The Partners in Mental Health and Well-being's Youth Outreach Respite program continued to thrive, receiving referrals from various external agencies and establishing a partnership with the Mental Health Capacity Program in the Good Spirit Public School Division. This year, the drop-in centre saw a significant increase in participation, with many enjoying in-house activities and community outings. In addition, the 3rd Annual Mental Health Conference, held on October 10th, attracted over 220 attendees and featured notable speakers, including Canadian Football League veteran JR LaRose, former Humboldt Broncos players Tyler Smith and Ryan Straschnitzki, in addition to mental health advocate Michelle J.E. Temple.

Partners in Employment exceeded targets across the board in 2024. The Yorkton Branch was happy to celebrate alongside Partners in Employment Saskatoon, Regina, and Swift Current with the launch of the Job Skills for Success training videos. In March, the team hosted a video premier at the Painted Hand Casino to showcase the interactive training videos available for free to the public.

Funding from the University of Regina for the Dementia Friendly program ended in June, creating opportunities for new grants and program enhancements. A partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan's First Link Coordinator was established to provide educational programming for support group attendees. The program expanded to include supportive living services, increased

group activities, and training for care providers as peer support.

The Crisis Support Program provided essential assistance to 15 communities across the province. The team trained Camp Easter Seal staff members and supported families, including children, youth, and adults, in maintaining placements in group homes, after-school programs, and day programming during challenging situations, achieving an impressive 96 percent success rate.

Yorkton's RecycAbility program's educational initiative, aimed at the business community, received a positive response as the team shared crucial information about commercial recycling and the essential dos and don'ts. Additionally, the program achieved a 25 percent increase in the metric tons of composted material compared to the previous year.

Access Transit increased its kilometre count in 2024, providing accessible transportation throughout the City of Yorkton, making more than 9,000 trips in the year - a 16 percent increase from the previous year. Meanwhile, City Transit had a strong year with 17,000 rides provided to residents utilizing its services.

With deep gratitude and appreciation, the Yorkton Branch extends a heartfelt thank you to the many clients, staff members, supporters, and volunteers who contributed to making 2024 another memorable year.

# [ TRUST TAKES TIME ]

Every client who walks through the doors at SaskAbilities' Yorkton Branch is a cherished member of the community. Wayne, a familiar face in the quality of life day program, is no exception. The 24 year old is deeply connected to his family; he is adored by his two siblings and his mother, Linda. Wayne's family is also fiercely protective of him, doing their best to balance opportunities for growth and shielding him from unnecessary pain and hardship.



"Since Wayne has been going to SaskAbilities, it's challenged me to work on trusting people with the care of my boy. My biggest fear is that he'll be mistreated because he is so sweet and impressionable. I want to guard him from the heaviness of the world," admits Linda, getting emotional, "It took me about a year to let down my guard, and I did because I could see how much Wayne loved going to SaskAbilities and how much he was benefiting from it." Understanding that trust takes time, the day program staff members worked with Wayne and Linda to build the relationship at a comfortable pace. "That's what we are here for, to work together with families as a team. Yes, it was a gradual process for Linda, and that's okay. She's a protective mother, and I know how much she loves Wayne and how much Wayne loves her," shares Sheila Reynolds, day program senior supervisor at the Yorkton Branch.

During the time spent building trust with Linda, Wayne experienced significant growth in the day program. "His skills and abilities have continued to develop, particularly in his capacity to express himself independently without relying on traditional communication methods. Wayne effectively communicates his preferences and interests in his unique way. Equally important, Wayne can communicate when he dislikes something or feels uncomfortable in his environment. He has also formed meaningful friendships and enjoys engaging in community activities," explains Sheila of Wayne's journey in growing his skills and independence.

These changes have certainly been noticed at home, too. Linda has seen her son gain more confidence in himself, selecting his favourite clothes, getting dressed, and brushing his teeth without needing reminders. He has also become more deeply connected to his cultural roots, attending cultural days with SaskAbilities. Wayne is always drawn to Indigenous drumming. "Wayne loves drumming, moving to the rhythm of the drums and dancing," expresses Linda. Perhaps the most significant change Linda has seen is in her son's physical wellness, as Wayne has lost nearly 100 pounds and found a passion for walking. "With the support of SaskAbilities staff, Wayne is always walking – so much so that some staff members struggle to keep up with him," adds Sheila with a laugh.



With Wayne entering his sixth year of attending the day program at Yorkton, Sheila is grateful for the relationship built between SaskAbilities and Wayne's family. "Maintaining that relationship with the family is important. Linda is a great mom and always has Wayne's best interest at heart, advocating for her son when needed. Building this relationship with Linda and the family has been crucial and imperative for Wayne's success. I truly believe it is because Linda was willing to put that trust in SaskAbilities that we have been able to support Wayne in the ways we are and see his growth."

For Linda, the chance she took to trust SaskAbilities has been worth it for both her and Wayne. "I'm very grateful for SaskAbilities and all they have done for my boy. I'll never forget it. I can't thank them enough," she shares with happy tears filling her eyes.



# YORKTON BRANCH

## THE THINGS WE DO!



### QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life programs include the Acquired Brain Injury Program, Summer Fun, and FunAbilities. The newest addition to the roster is ExploreAbilities, which opened in December.

ExploreAbilities is a carefully developed space that provides a unique and enriching experience by exploring multi-sensory activities. Individuals of all ages at SaskAbilities are welcome to enjoy and benefit from this inviting and relaxing environment. ExploreAbilities is filled with pleasant, soothing, and engaging activities, allowing for individual exploration. This space has quickly become a favourite at the Yorkton Branch and is affectionately called the "adventure room."

The Abilities Gym is another favourite room at the branch, designed to help burn energy through various engaging and safe physical activities. Weights, crash mats, swings, and blocks all encourage movement and physical activity, improving balance and coordination while enhancing motor skills and strength – all with the added element of fun!

### THE NUMBERS

450

job seekers served by  
Partners In Employment

17,000

trips made by Yorkton City Transit

\$19,000

raised by the 2nd annual Bowlarama  
in support of Snowarama

### DAY PROGRAM

The day program supports over 55 individuals at the Yorkton Branch. Each participant has their own goals and interests that they explore and achieve with the support of staff members.

The 2nd annual Together We Shine conference was held in May, with over 100 individuals experiencing disability in attendance from SaskAbilities, along with new and old friends from other local agencies. It was a memorable day filled with engaging presenters and entertainment.

A highlight of the conference was the new Together We Shine Mosaic Mural, a collaborative team project designed to capture the essence of an inclusive community, with each participant contributing their mosaic piece to create something beautiful because "TOGETHER WE SHINE!"

### PARTNERS IN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Partners in Mental Health and Well-being provides support, personal and professional growth opportunities, and facilitates community integration for individuals with mental health barriers or diagnoses.



The Youth Outreach and Respite (YOR) Wellness program offers individualized outreach support to youth ages 12 to 22 experiencing mental health challenges. Supports are customized, goal-orientated, person-centred, and solution-focused. YOR supports parents and caregivers by providing respite and relief to reduce burnout and improve overall family functioning.

LEGO®-based therapy combines fun and learning to create opportunities for friendship. This collaborative play therapy allows children to work together to build models, play games, or design their own projects. While engaging in enjoyable activities, participants also develop valuable skills such as collaboration, sharing, turn-taking, communication, problem-solving, and compromise.

The Brick-by-Brick® program is another dynamic initiative that invites participants to interact with each other while engaging in a fun activity suitable for all ages and abilities.

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY LIFE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The objective of the Dementia Friendly Life Enrichment Program is to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with dementia and their care partners. It is the only program



in the Yorkton area that provides this type of in-person programming.

The supported living activities initiative, a vital component of this program, offers essential services to individuals living with dementia who are independent but may need assistance with daily living activities. Helpful staff members are available to assist with running errands, meal preparation, grocery shopping, baking, light laundry, and cleaning.

Many friendships have naturally developed through the group programming available. The value of this support is priceless and essential, which has led to further expansion of the Dementia Friendly Life Enrichment Program. Present at each of the group outings is a peer support person. These individuals are care partners of those living with dementia who have shared their journey. Additionally, monthly support groups have been added to the available services.

## ACCESS TRANSIT

Access Transit provides safe and reliable transportation to individuals with mobility challenges. In 2024, Access Transit experienced significant growth with more than 9,000 rides scheduled in the year. The accommodating and friendly drivers contribute to the enjoyment of this valuable service



in Yorkton. The buses are often decorated for different holidays and Saskatchewan Roughrider games, creating a festive atmosphere with fun music playing during rides.

## EASTER SEALS™ SNOWARAMA

Easter Seals™ Snowarama combines the excitement of snowmobiling with fundraising activities to support Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan's programs, including sending children and youth experiencing disability to Camp Easter Seal. After 47 years, the dedication and commitment to this event is unwavering. Despite minimal snow in 2024, the support was overwhelming, with local riders and our friends south of the border in the "Desert Chapter" riding snowmobiles and motorcycles for a record-breaking success, raising \$214,798.

Bowlarama for Snowarama saw a return with its second year of hosting bowlers in support of Easter Seals™ Snowarama. Together, 55 bowlers raised over \$19,000 while enjoying a day of bowling followed by the official Bowlarama after-party for a hearty meal, music, dancing, and lots of smiles captured at the photo booth.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this event each year - donors, sponsors, riders, volunteers, staff members, clients, and the community.



In 2024, the Regina Branch enjoyed steady growth and increased community connections.

# REGINA BRANCH

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



The year saw the 10th anniversary of the quality of life program in Regina, bringing with it new extension programs, including ceramics at a local art studio, Music with Morgan music therapy, and badminton with lessons provided by skilled players within the community. Thanks to the incredible support from the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose – Regina Pond, Farm Credit Canada, and Affinity Credit Union, the day program was also able to purchase a new, state-of-the-art van this year, improving mobility access for all participants.

Client studio spaces were upgraded at the Regina Branch, bringing a fresh new wave of energy and engagement from participants. Enhancements included new exercise equipment, a new keyboard for the musically inclined, and the addition of an interactive Obie video system to engage both minds and bodies.

This year, the Partners in Employment program hosted open houses to packed rooms in both Regina and Moose Jaw. These events successfully contributed to an increase in new clients, leading to Partners in Employment successfully connecting job seekers to employers with 198 new jobs recorded for 2024. In October, the Regina Branch celebrated Disability Employment Awareness Month and hosted more than 200 people at its employer thank

you luncheons, highlighting the transformative impact of supportive employment.

The Regina Branch celebrated a successful first year as the provincial hub for the national MentorAbility program in Saskatchewan, facilitating an impressive 96 mentorships in 2024. Coordinators in Saskatoon and Regina achieved outstanding results, leading all 13 program hubs across Canada in total mentorships completed by June.

The Assessment Services team had a busy year conducting 2,641 assessments across the province for Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability, Cognitive Disability Strategy, and Community Living Service Delivery day programs.

In 2024, the Moose Jaw-based Cognitive Disability Strategy consultant provided comprehensive support to 144 individuals, along with their families and caregivers. This included assisting with access to respite services, connecting individuals to essential community supports, and helping young people engage in meaningful summer programs. Additionally, the consultant facilitated mentorship opportunities, empowering individuals to build social skills, enhance independence, and achieve personal growth.

In April, Residential Services in Moose Jaw welcomed a new resident who quickly connected with staff members and her housemates. Engaging activities and outings fostered partnerships with local organizations, including Hunger in Moose Jaw and the Edie Montgrand Centre for fitness training. The team also coordinated monthly house calls with a local doctor to support residents' health.

The Regina Business Centre's Wood Products team produced shipping crates, pallets, dolly pads, stakes and lath, fire extinguisher boxes, and other sellable goods. The Sewing team saw solid growth with its vinyl hospital curtains that have an easy-care design, making them a favourite for Saskatchewan Health Authority facilities, including the province's first-ever urgent care centre in Regina.

It was a big year for Stinger Sports with the rebranding of the ringette line with a new logo and website. Stinger MossPro pants, made in Regina by the Sewing division, are the top choice for many ringette programs in the country and remain the official pant of Canada's national teams.

A huge thank you to everyone in Regina and Moose Jaw who have supported the branch over the past 12 months, contributing to its growth and expansion in both communities.

# [ WELCOME HOME, RACHELLE ]

Stepping into Rachelle's room provides an immediate glimpse into her vibrant and fun-loving personality. Her walls are adorned with displays of the people she cherishes most—friends, family, and Elvis! The newest resident of SaskAbilities' Residential Services in Moose Jaw brings with her not only her Elvis memorabilia and costume, but a happy-go-lucky attitude, an infectious laugh, and a cheeky sense of humour.



It is clear watching Rachelle interact and engage with her housemates and support staff that she fits right in and is very comfortable in the space - this is home. "I love it here," Rachelle admits with a big smile. "Rachelle leads a very active life. She's very social and her activity calendar is full. She's also very comfortable letting us know if she's happy or sad. She knows, if there's something that's being missed or something she needs she can reach out to staff members and we'll talk through it. It's not unlike her to send me a text message during the day and I welcome that communication," shares Kimberly Lewis, senior supervisor of Residential Services in Moose Jaw.

Reflecting on her previous living situation, Rachelle acknowledges that life was very different than it is now. "I was not happy where I was. I talked to my mom and

told her something needed to change." This message resonated strongly with Marie Wright, Rachelle's mom, who had already sensed her daughter's unhappiness. "There was no hesitation in moving Rachelle. I knew she wasn't happy but we didn't know what options were available. That's when we heard about SaskAbilities Residential Services. I got Rachelle on the list and, within three months, she was in," shares Marie. "My only wish is that we would have known sooner because this place has been amazing for her. She tells me every day how happy she is and how much it feels like home - that's a big deal for her. This is her home."

Arriving in April, Rachelle quickly settled into a routine of regular outings and activities. "It took her all of four hours to settle in," jokes Kimberly, as she and Rachelle share a laugh together. "I have more freedom here and I get to go out more," discloses the 37 year old, self-professed social butterfly who is also known to help staff members in the kitchen, especially when it comes to baking cookies. "We are happy to be able to provide Rachelle with experiences and opportunities that fit for her," adds Kimberly. "Rachelle is soon to be one of Moose Jaw's first wheelchair fitness participants and given her mobility assessment, she's soon going to be starting water physiotherapy. We are working with her to get some of her mobility back. Since being here she has taken various classes in Moose Jaw, attended sports events and movies, gone on trips with friends, gone shopping, and even seen Rory Allen. She's got a lot going on."

When Rachelle isn't busy keeping up with her activity schedule, socializing, or spending time with her boyfriend, she enjoys a cozy life at home, relaxing in her new recliner chair, a first for her. "I've never sat in a recliner chair before. It feels like AHHHHH," she declares, giggling and leaning back with a peaceful expression. "This is home."





# REGINA BRANCH

## THE THINGS WE DO!



### QUALITY OF LIFE

The Regina quality of life program proudly serves more than 150 participants across Social Leisure Youth Program (SLYP-Out), Summer Fun, ABI drop-in, and day programs.

Quality of life programming extends far beyond traditional staff member-led activities and initiatives. The branch has achieved remarkable success in recent years by inviting community experts to lead specialized sessions. This collaborative approach has nurtured long-lasting relationships with talented individuals who offer enrichment in fields such as technology, yoga, music therapy, arts, and movement.

With a main centre that boasts spacious multi-purpose rooms, a vibrant outdoor green space, a dedicated studio, and tranquil quiet areas, the quality of life program can accommodate a diverse range of activities. Even with these resources, the branch prioritizes community engagement for day program participants, striving to ensure they spend at least 50 percent of their time immersed in the community. The branch is proud to report that in 2024, it exceeded

### THE NUMBERS

96

mentorships facilitated by MentorAbility

198

individuals Partners in Employment Regina and Moose Jaw aided in securing jobs

2,641

assessments conducted by Assessment Services across the province

this goal, with participants actively engaging in community-based activities 88 percent of the time.

By fostering these connections, the Regina Branch's quality of life program continues to empower individuals, enhance personal growth, and strengthen community ties.

### PARTNERS IN EMPLOYMENT

The Regina Branch of Partners in Employment serves individuals in Regina and Moose Jaw, with dedicated staff members and programming in both cities. Each location offers Building and Assessing Skills for Employment (BASE), vocational evaluations, career planning, job development, and job maintenance services. Regina also provides New Opportunities for Work Program (NOW) and Youth Employment Skills and Strategy (YESS), while Moose Jaw offers the In Demand program. These initiatives help participants build on existing skills to prepare for employment.

Each year, the branch supports approximately 500 individuals in both cities in developing the skills and confidence needed for meaningful, long-term employment.





In 2024, nearly 200 participants secured jobs that matched their abilities, interests, and career aspirations, paving the way for greater independence and success.

New to Partners in Employment in Regina is the MentorAbility program, a Canadian Association for Supported Employment initiative. Serving as the hub for Saskatchewan, the Regina Branch has staff members in Regina and Saskatoon, collaborating with individuals and employers across the province. MentorAbility is unique in that it facilitates short-term mentorships for individuals experiencing disability, allowing them to gain firsthand insight into careers that align with their interests.

## COGNITIVE DISABILITY STRATEGY

The Moose Jaw-based Cognitive Disability Strategy consultant provides specialized support for individuals with cognitive disabilities, their families, and service providers. Their work includes individualized support planning, and connecting individuals to essential community resources like respite and mentors. Additionally, they support families in navigating services, accessing funding, and advocating for inclusive opportunities. Through collaboration with

various agencies, the consultant ensures individuals receive the necessary supports to enhance their quality of life and independence.

## ASSESSMENT SERVICES

The Regina Branch is home to SaskAbilities' Assessment Services team, which conducts assessments across the province. These assessments facilitate access to essential programs such as the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability, the Cognitive Disability Strategy, and Community Living Service Delivery day programs.

With assessors throughout Saskatchewan, staff members travel to some of the most remote communities to perform in-person assessments.

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The Regina Branch operates two group-living homes in Moose Jaw, supporting seven residents with staff members on-site 24 hours a day. The program fosters independence and community engagement, offering personalized activities tailored to residents' interests. Residents enjoy a wide range

of community events, fitness activities, movies, sports, and cultural experiences, enhancing their quality of life and social connections.

## BUSINESS CENTRE

The Regina Business Centre champions inclusion by employing individuals experiencing disability. The Business Centre encompasses Wood Products, Sewing, and Assembly divisions as well as Stinger Sports ringette equipment and Vetlinens medical garments. The Wood Products division manufactures shipping crates, pallets, dolly pads, stakes, lath, and more. Customers include some of the largest manufacturers and crown corporations in the province. The Sewing division primarily focuses on producing Stinger Sports MossPro ringette pants, the pant that is both the choice of players and the official pant of Canada's national teams. The Sewing division is proud of its newest successful product, vinyl curtains, for medical facilities. The Assembly division handles many diverse projects, from large mailouts to energy efficiency kits, and has ongoing collaborations with Rebellion Brewing and the Saskatchewan Health Authority.



**In 2024, the Swift Current Branch experienced another fulfilling year of community engagement, forging connections with new and returning clients and making meaningful adjustments to enhance existing programs and services.**

# SWIFT CURRENT BRANCH

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



Day programming continues to enjoy strong participation, offering numerous opportunities for volunteerism, exploration of Swift Current, and social engagement. The branch's Social Leisure Youth Program (SLYP-Out) was invited to join the day program during school breaks this year. This initiative provided respite services for parents and caregivers and introduced SLYP-Out participants to a new experience and opportunities to socialize.

Summer Fun recreational programming saw a significant boost in participation, doubling the number of children and youth from the previous year. Forty participants attended day camps, with volunteers and staff members creating a full schedule of activities, including field trips to the Saskatchewan Landing and Wakamow Valley, music and movement classes, and many events across the city.

It was a busy year for the branch as they hosted the 35th annual AbilityBowl and the 2nd annual Fun Olympics supporting Walk, Wheel, Run event. In 2024, SaskAbilities'

50/50 for Change initiative received generous support from Golden West Radio. This opportunity provided valuable airtime on local radio to promote the Swift Current Branch's programs and services and raised over \$8,000.

As interest and demand for SaskAbilities' programs and services grow in Swift Current and its rural communities, the branch continues to expand its outreach. Supported independent living services began in 2024 to assist individuals in maintaining their independence at home with the help of support workers. This program is available to residents of Swift Current and surrounding rural areas.

Families and caregivers who receive funding through the provincially funded Cognitive Disability Strategy program identified gaps in mentorship and respite supports available. SaskAbilities stepped up to connect them with support workers from the day program to offer one-on-one assistance. This initiative has positively impacted families in Swift Current, including one who was able to send their

loved one to Camp Easter Seal for the first time with a support worker from the branch.

Partners in Employment staff members celebrated their achievements at the Swift Current & District Chamber of Commerce's SCBEX awards as recipient of the "Not-for-Profit of the Year" award. Employers across the city were invited to Partners in Employment's first lunch and learn to share the positive impact of a diverse workforce and inclusive hiring.

The branch also launched monthly information nights for families and caregivers, providing valuable opportunities for connection and education while featuring speakers who discussed the various programs and services available in the community.

As another eventful year closes, the Swift Current Branch extends gratitude to clients, staff members, donors, and the community for their invaluable contributions and unwavering support.

# [ KAYDENCE'S PATH TO ACCEPTANCE ]

The Mielke's are an inspiring family of five living in a rural community just east of Swift Current. When parents Colleen and Wacey welcomed their second child, Kaydence, into the world, they were unaware of the challenges they would soon face.

Born with congestive heart failure, Kaydence spent the first months of her life in and out of the hospital in Saskatoon while her parents anxiously awaited the call for her surgery in Edmonton. At three months old, Kaydence underwent open-heart surgery to repair a ventricular septal defect. Afterward, concerns about her development prompted extensive genetic testing, leading to a diagnosis of Smith-Magenis Syndrome at just 18 months old.



Colleen and Wacey have become strong advocates for their daughter, navigating through complex systems and situations. Understanding Kaydence's rare chromosomal condition and how it impacts her life can be challenging. As Kaydence's parents share, one of these challenges is the social impact on their daughter and family. "Growing up, Kaydence's school peers quickly outgrew her, leaving her segregated socially. As she grows older, the social impact is more apparent. At 17, she doesn't lead a typical teenage life; she doesn't have a best friend and isn't invited to parties, sleepovers, or outings. As parents, we have felt it is up to us to create a social life that accepts her at her level. We have always looked for opportunities where Kaydence is accepted and our family is as well."

With very little knowledge of SaskAbilities, Colleen and Wacey decided to try the Summer Fun program at the Swift Current Branch when Kaydence was 12. "I am sure most families like ours can relate to the struggles we face

in supporting Kaydence with the emotions of your child not being included. Luckily, we found the Summer Fun program where she is accepted, included, praised for her abilities, and rewarded for her accomplishments," share her parents, who are glad they discovered recreational programming for children and youth at SaskAbilities.

Over the years, Colleen and Wacey have witnessed the profound impact the Summer Fun program has had on their daughter. "Each year, Kaydence makes new friends, learns valuable skills, engages in exciting activities, and has the opportunity to explore various places in the community. This program challenges her to try new things, empowering her to build confidence and independence beyond the comforts of home."

Kaydence attended Camp Easter Seal during the summer of 2024, a milestone her family wasn't sure was possible. Being able to participate in Camp provided her with a summer experience similar to her brothers and gave her parents much-needed respite. A support person accompanied Kaydence during her first camping adventure away from home. "She had a blast, and we were updated on all her activities. She tried archery and even performed her favourite song, 'Let It Go,' in front of a crowd, which amazed us," her parents shared. Colleen and Wacey also emphasized that this experience was not only successful for Kaydence but also allowed their two other children to enjoy quality time with their parents. "Time like this is hard to come by when you have a child with higher needs. While they love and accept their sister, having Kaydence attend SaskAbilities' programs, including Camp Easter Seal, has given them a little bit of their parents back," they added.

Looking ahead, Colleen and Wacey are hopeful about what the future holds for their daughter. "Programs offered by SaskAbilities in Swift Current have helped Kaydence and our family find acceptance in a supportive, judgement-free community. As Kaydence approaches her 18th birthday, we are excited about the growth opportunities that await her in this next chapter. We know that at SaskAbilities, she will be embraced by a community that truly appreciates and understands her as she is."





# SWIFT CURRENT BRANCH

## THE THINGS WE DO!



### DAY PROGRAM

The Swift Current Branch day program offers inclusive opportunities for individuals experiencing disability to engage in employment opportunities, recreational activities, and volunteer initiatives, all through a participant-centred approach that aligns with the participant’s personal goals. The day program provides flexible participation options including during the day, evening, and weekends. In 2024, over 15 day program participants secured meaningful employment within the community.

### SUMMER FUN & SLYP-OUT

Summer Fun and Social Leisure Youth Program (SLYP-Out) provide recreational opportunities for youth aged six to 22 years experiencing disability. SLYP-Out provides opportunities for youth to engage in activities after school and during school breaks, while Summer Fun takes place during the months of July and August.

In 2024, the Summer Fun program saw an increase in youth participation. The program created lasting memories with

### THE NUMBERS

40

clients participated in Summer Fun



364

hours of mentorship provided



1,001

Hours of supported independent living provided

exciting trips, including visits to Saskatchewan Landing and other popular tourist destinations across southwest Saskatchewan.

### SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Supported independent living assists individuals to achieve their personal goals by offering the support necessary for them to thrive in their own homes. The Swift Current Branch started offering supported independent living in 2024.

### COGNITIVE DISABILITY STRATEGY

The Cognitive Disability Strategy provides flexible funding to address unmet needs, including mentorship, respite, medical travel, equipment, and more. It also offers consultation services for integrated case management, behaviour assessment, and support. Established to fill gaps where mainstream services are not able to respond, the Swift Current Branch consultant covers southwest Saskatchewan supporting over 130 individuals each year.



## PARTNERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Partners in Employment offers supported employment services to individuals experiencing disability and other barriers to employment. Each year, over 1,200 job seekers benefit from a range of support services. In 2024, the introduction of virtual reality equipment enabled job seekers to explore different career paths.

A highlight in 2024 was securing CareerLabsVR, virtual reality technology that supports job seekers through immersive and interactive experiences. This innovative tool provides a glimpse into various jobs, roles, and tasks, enhancing the job search experience.

## SEWING

The Commercial Sewing department in Swift Current offers employment opportunities for individuals experiencing disability. For over 25 years, the branch has partnered with Ag Growth International (AGI) to produce hoppers for augers. Each year, over 2,000 pieces are sewn and shipped worldwide alongside the augers.

## RESIDENTIAL RECYCLE DEPOT

In partnership with the City of Swift Current, the Swift Current Branch operates the Residential Recycle Depot, where residents drop off recyclable items. This initiative creates employment opportunities for individuals experiencing disability. From April to November, the depot also serves as a collection site for residential yard waste.

## TRANSIT

Another important partnership between the City of Swift Current and the branch is transit services. The branch operates both Swift and Access Transit. These services include a bus route that runs an hourly loop around the city, a stop-to-stop bus route, and an accessible service. Swift and Access Transit operate seven days a week, providing thousands of rides each year.

## ABILITYBOWL & WALK, WHEEL, RUN

Annual fundraisers and community events hosted by the Swift Current Branch include AbilityBowl and Walk, Wheel, Run. Both events had an incredibly successful year in 2024, raising a record-breaking amount of over \$159,000 with increased participation from the community. The funds raised between both events are used to enhance the lives of individuals in the community experiencing disability through supporting Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan programming which includes Summer Fun, SLYP-Out, Adaptive Technology Services, and Camp Easter Seal.

A highlight this year was seeing so many new and returning donors, sponsors, participants, volunteers, and community members take part in AbilityBowl and Walk, Wheel, Run. Without the support from the community these events would not happen year after year. Thank you!



Guided by SaskAbilities' vision, mission, and values, the Saskatoon Branch celebrated the success of clients and staff members throughout 2024.

# SASKATOON BRANCH

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



Saskatoon Branch had a great year continuing its commitment to supporting individuals experiencing disability in Saskatoon and the surrounding area. A key highlight was the launch of the Job Skills for Success video series, a free and interactive employment training resource for clients and businesses. The supported independent living program was expanded, providing a variety of ongoing supports to individuals who live on their own in the community. Additionally, the branch introduced the Recipe for Success program, inviting participants to enhance their cooking skills, prepare healthy, budget-friendly meals, and gain hands-on experience with cooking techniques and safe work in the kitchen. Partners in Employment expanded into the adjacent space, enhancing its ability to support individuals accessing services.

The Saskatoon Branch enjoyed many new partnerships in 2024, including a collaboration with Lacrossing Barriers to offer inclusive sports opportunities in SaskAbilities' spaces. To kick off the summer, the branch teamed up with the United Way's Day of Caring and staff members from BHP Group to host a vibrant Hawaiian-themed summer party. In August, participants seeking physical activity and

adventure benefited from a partnership with the Saskatoon Rowing Club, gaining the opportunity to learn from professional rowers.

The branch's engagement with the Saskatoon Industry Education Council created an opportunity to teach essential digital literacy skills through its DigIT Program. In the fall, Elections Saskatchewan was invited to educate new voters about the voting process and connect job seekers with election-related job opportunities through SaskAbilities' Partners in Employment program. In October, the Saskatoon Branch proudly celebrated Disability Employment Awareness Month with a series of successful events, further promoting awareness and inclusion. The winter saw the launch of the branch's Warm Winter Project campaign, supported by funding from SaskEnergy. Staff members collected warm clothing which was provided to a local community school and clients. Additionally, the branch collaborated with Foundations Literacy to enhance clients' financial literacy skills.

Building improvements were made in 2024 to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Key enhancements included establishing a new business

centre office serving as a centralized hub for all transactions as well as demolition of four existing office spaces, creating a much-used games room and lounge area for clients.

The branch upgraded all automatic door openers in the Business Centre to meet updated building code requirements and installed accessible door handles. Automatic paper dispensers were added in all washrooms to enhance accessibility and minimize contact with surfaces. The branch also saw a refresh with new paint, the creation of a garden bed area for clients to grow flowers, vegetables, and fruits, and added fences, parking rails, and additional outdoor electrical outlets. Additionally, extensive roof repairs were carried out, along with the installation of new gutters, downspouts, and heat tape on the back warehouse to improve drainage and mitigate ice buildup. The branch updated and enhanced the multi-purpose meeting room with new wall graphics, an 80-inch TV, and a sound bar.

The Saskatoon Branch wishes to thank the clients, staff members, community members, funders, and donors who all contributed to making 2024 another magical year.

# [ A RECIPE FOR CONNECTION ]

Spending time with Terran cooking breakfast in the morning, it's clear he knows his way around the kitchen. Confidently dicing up a potato for hashbrowns, he declares, "I love to cook!" With his support worker and 'sous chef,' Jaseem Vadakepurath, by his side, the duo joins forces, perfecting some sunny-side-up eggs, a tricky task even for a seasoned chef. After some clever maneuvering with a spatula, the eggs are freed from the frying pan, landing on the plate, yolks intact. Voila, breakfast is served!



As a client in the supported independent living program, Partners in Employment, and Recipe for Success, Terran has greatly benefited from the programs and services offered by SaskAbilities' Saskatoon Branch. Terran, who lives in a small town outside of Saskatoon, receives support from Jaseem every Tuesday and Wednesday morning. For four hours each morning, the two focus on meal prepping, wellness activities, organizing his calendar, and finding opportunities to get out into the community. "It's been good for me having Jaseem here. He helps me with motivation. In the kitchen, he helps me figure out what to do with ingredients," says Terran, adding, "I don't have a lot of friends because I've been so isolated living on a farm for so long that I found more comfort in online friends. So, there is that companionship, too. Before Jaseem, all I really had was my mom and people at work."

Outgoing and exuberant, Terran excels as a customer service experience lead at Canadian Tire in Martensville. He began his journey there through a work experience initiative while still in high school and is now approaching 10 years of employment, thanks to the support of Partners in Employment. "The thing I love most at Canadian Tire is helping customers, but second to that, it's mixing paint. If there's a parent with their kids, I get them involved and show them step-by-step how it's done. I just love that," explains Terran with a smile. The 26 year old is a big hit with customers, many of whom ask for him by name when they visit the store – something he takes great pride in.

Terran's innate drive to help others expands far beyond his work at Canadian Tire. "Terran is such a kind and genuinely positive person. Without being asked and without any expectation, he is always so helpful to those in his Recipe for Success group who may be less experienced in the kitchen. He naturally takes on a leadership role in a very encouraging and supportive way, which truly resonates with his peers," expresses Amanda Reiman, the Recipe for Success program coordinator.

A new program in Saskatoon, Recipe for Success focuses on building skills in the kitchen through hands-on learning, with participants tackling a new recipe together every second



week. It also incorporates an equally crucial social element, making it a significant draw for Terran. "Yes, I'm a client, and I'm there to learn, but I also feel I can contribute by helping those with less experience than me. The program combines two things I really enjoy: I get to cook, but it also gets me out of the house and allows me to socialize and make friends," he explains, expressing his hope to continue participating in the program for as long as it's available.

"Programs like these provide individuals like Terran with the opportunity to make genuine connections and get to know each other through a shared activity that brings people together," says Amanda. "Seeing Terran connect with his peers in this way is so special for him, and it's evident that he is deeply invested in both the cooking and the relationships he's developed in the group."



# SASKATOON BRANCH

## THE THINGS WE DO!



### PARTNERS IN EMPLOYMENT

Partners in Employment offers employment-related programs and services to over 1,100 job seekers experiencing disability or barriers to employment with the support of approximately 500 employers. A variety of employment programs and services meet the unique needs of individual job seekers, including Choices, a program for individuals involved in the provincial justice system. Partners in Employment also operates a program designed to support adults with moderate to severe acquired brain injury. The Pathways to Youth employment program serves youth ages 15 to 30 and offers specialized support to encourage long-term success in achieving their employment goals. The Bridges to Success and WorkNOW programs provide eight weeks of pre-employment training and offer wage subsidies to employers, allowing clients to ease their way into the workforce while building their employment skills. In Demand program serves individuals who self-report a disability and offers supports towards employment success. EmploymentWorks program is designed to support participants experiencing barriers to employment to prepare for, obtain, and keep jobs.

### THE NUMBERS

24

current employees began as clients

8,168

coveralls manufactured by the  
Sewing department

200

new employer connections made by  
Partners in Employment each year

### QUALITY OF LIFE

The Saskatoon Branch provides quality of life day programming at its main location on Kilburn Avenue and at four satellite locations, which include Wellman Lane day program in the Stonebridge neighbourhood, Jessop Avenue day program in Sutherland neighbourhood, Fletcher Road day program in the Holiday Park neighbourhood, and Warman day program located approximately 20 minutes outside of Saskatoon.

Participants in day programs across Saskatoon and Warman are invited to engage in diverse activities and initiatives tailored to their individual goals and needs. These include wellness activities, socializing, community-based outings, volunteer work, and skill-building opportunities.

Through the quality of life day program offerings, the Saskatoon Branch also provides supported independent living programming in which individuals experiencing disability receive one-on-one support for their goal of living independently in the community.





## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Recipe for Success is a new program offered at the Saskatoon Branch, focusing on fundamental cooking skills shared in a fun and interactive environment. Currently, the program has 25 individuals divided into four groups who meet every other week, preparing dishes of food together from selected recipes.

Participants put their cooking skills into practice while also learning about cleaning, food handling, and shopping for ingredients at the grocery store. Additionally, the program provides an important opportunity for social interaction and connection. After the meals are prepared, participants gather to eat and discuss their experiences.

## VOCATIONAL EVALUATION

The Vocational Evaluation department administers individualized assessments for clients to discover their strengths, skills, and abilities. These evaluations are helpful for individuals requiring assistance with job placement, career counselling, education, and work training.

## SUMMER FUN & SLYP-OUT

Recreational programming for children and youth is provided at the Saskatoon Branch through Summer Fun for children and youth and the Social-Leisure Youth Program (SLYP-Out) for youth. These programs are designed to provide fun, engaging, and social activities in the community for children and youth all year long.

## BUSINESS CENTRE

The Business Centre at the Saskatoon Branch comprises five distinct units for clients who wish to grow their work skills, including the Maintenance department which ensures that all facilities operate safely and smoothly.

The Assembly department handles small sorting, labelling, and packaging jobs, prints newsletters, and prepares bulk mailing campaigns for numerous customers. Much of the department's work involves assembling fibre optic splice packs for a multinational technology company based in Keller, Texas. This process is labour-intensive, requires attention to detail, and can be divided into

multiple steps, allowing many individuals to contribute to the completion of the task. The Sewing department manufactures coveralls, overalls, shop coats, work shirts, and work pants. All garments are custom-made to meet customers' specifications using North American fabrics and supplies. Metalwork department produces Sask-A-Poles, grout plugs, real estate signs, and custom metal fabrication. Sask-A-Pole transfer aids are manufactured and sold to private customers, health regions, nursing homes, and care homes across the province. The Wood Products department manufactures custom-built shipping crates, pallets, shipping blocking, survey stakes, and lath. This department is certified to produce wood packaging suitable for export to overseas countries.



In 2024, Camp Easter Seal emphasized the theme “Keeping the camp in Camp,” centring on fun, camaraderie, and embracing the unique experiences that only a sleep-away camp offers in its rustic setting.

# CAMP EASTER SEAL

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



Camp Easter Seal proudly welcomed 614 campers this year along with 71 seasonal staff members, more than a dozen attendants, and even more volunteers, all dedicated to providing campers an experience unlike anything they would typically experience at home. Highlighting the ‘outdoorsy’ aspects of Camp, this year saw the continued evolution of the rustics program with the much-anticipated return of archery. In another nod to the outdoorsy nature of Camp, the waterfront program resumed with a newly built dock featuring a fully accessible ramp system allowing campers to walk or roll onto the pontoon boat.

In the summer and fall of 2024, a 28-foot yurt was erected just past the recreational shed, including a special entrance representative of Narnia and The Secret Garden themes. Through the purchase of two special mats designed to support wheelchairs and vehicles over sand and marshy areas, Camp was able to provide campers with better access to the campfire area, Manitou Beach, and the lake.

In 2024, Camp continued to nurture and grow community partnerships. Camp entered its second year of working with the Shine Foundation, a charitable organization turning dreams into reality for young people experiencing physical disability. Camp proudly supported Manitou Beach’s annual Salt Shaker Music Festival, actively patronizing local businesses that contribute to the vibrant communities of Manitou Beach and Watrous. This year also provided opportunities for Camp staff members to lead several

sessions at the Saskatchewan Camping Association winter conference and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association in the spring.

SaskAbilities’ locations received a dose of Camp Easter Seal during the off-season. Camp staff members travelled to Swift Current, Yorkton, Regina, and Saskatoon in the



spring and winter to host a camp carnival for day program participants. This provided an opportunity to see familiar faces and meet new clients who had never attended Camp.

There was a significant emphasis on health and safety at Camp in 2024. This included introducing a Leader-in-Training program for high school students, offering six weeks of focused leadership and skill development in kitchen operations, maintenance, and program areas. Additionally, Camp hosted a preceptorship for Registered Nursing students and welcomed two participants from Saskatchewan Polytechnic in the Therapeutic Recreation program.

Camp’s manager pursued HIGH FIVE® training, a nationally recognized certification focused on an exceptional person-first approach in recreation and sports programming and the International Camp Director’s Course offered through the International Camping Association. In addition, the Camp office administrator became a qualified trainer for the Transferring Lifting Repositioning (TLR®) Program® at SaskAbilities, providing instruction to both Camp and other staff members across the province.

Each year, Camp Easter Seal is made possible thanks to campers, staff members, donors, supporters, and Resort Village of Manitou Beach and Watrous communities. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed and made the 2024 camp season a success.

# [ A CAMP JUST FOR ALEX ]

Alex Currie is a real social butterfly. Upon meeting him for the first time, you are immediately taken in by his self-confidence, warm smile, and curious twinkle in his eyes. At 12 years old, Alex is wired for connection. He's interested in meeting new people and the potential of meaningful bonds with prospective friends. Above all, Alex's foundation is rooted in the strong bond he shares with his family.

When Charlene Currie, Alex's mother and a SaskAbilities staff member, began to explore Camp Easter Seal as an option for her son, she recognized that he wasn't quite ready for a solo adventure. "Working for SaskAbilities, Camp Easter Seal is often at the forefront. I had always wanted Alex to attend Camp. When I heard about the idea of family camp, I felt that this would be a smoother transition for him—and honestly, for me as well," admits Charlene.

After enrolling their family for the first summer of family camp in 2023, the anticipation built - along with a few



nerves. Both Charlene and big brother Aiden joined Alex for the adventure. "It was a new experience for all of us. When we arrived, the entire team was incredibly welcoming. We received a grounds map and set off to find our cabin. Alex was thrilled that the three of us were sharing such a big cabin; it was a significant moment for him. It was exciting hearing him recount each day with his dad, Kevin, during their video chats before bed," reflects Charlene of that memorable first summer. The impact of Camp was undeniable. Even before they left the grounds, Charlene heard Alex confidently declare, "I'm going to Camp next year."

A major conversation starter throughout the year, Alex's first summer at Camp created endless opportunities to share his experience with family, friends, students, and teachers at school. He was a walking Camp Easter Seal billboard. "Alex is the kind of kid who keeps a wall calendar in his room. Every month, when we flip the page, he wants to know what that month will look like so it was a big deal to mark the dates for our return to Camp," shares Charlene, saying the hardest part for Alex was waiting.

Finally, summer arrived and Alex returned to family camp with his mom, excited to jump back into familiar activities, establish a routine, and have his personal videographer, Charlene, capture every moment! "Having attended Camp once before, Alex knew what to expect. He was able to articulate the accommodations he needed to fully participate in activities, allowing him to enjoy them longer and engage more deeply due to fewer barriers. He displayed greater confidence in communicating his needs and even anticipating them," explains Charlene, noting the significant differences she observed in her son from the first to the second year.

One of the biggest surprises for Charlene came when her son decided to participate in the dunk tank. As Alex watched both campers and staff members take their chances at getting soaked, he first remarked, "I want to do that," and then confidently declared, "I'm going to do it," followed by, "Then I want to go back to the cabin." A bit taken aback, Charlene asked her son if he was sure;



this was an unpredictable moment for him, as getting soaked in clothes rather than swim trunks was usually a big no-no.

Like any mom wanting to protect their child, Charlene observed Alex take his turn with a mix of fear, disbelief, and pride. "I was blown away. He was absolutely over the moon - he even wanted a video to show everyone," she recalls. "Everyone was cheering for him, and both staff and parents recognized that it was a special moment for him," Charlene adds, getting emotional and reflecting on the significance of that experience for her son.

With year two exceeding all expectations, Alex is excited and anticipating his next return to Camp Easter Seal.



# CAMP EASTER SEAL

## THE THINGS WE DO!



### SUMMER CAMP

Since 1954, Camp Easter Seal has been providing children, youth, and adults experiencing disability with a summer experience unlike any other. Supported by two full-time staff members and over 70 seasonal staff members, Camp Easter Seal is privileged to welcome over 600 campers each year between June and August.

Located on the shores of Little Manitou Lake in the Resort Village of Manitou Beach, hundreds of campers flock to Camp Easter Seal, the only fully accessible camping program in Saskatchewan where individuals can enjoy the activity and togetherness of camp without barriers.

### INDIVIDUAL & GROUP CAMPING

Camp Easter Seal offers individual and group camping weeks; its programming is person-centred and flexible. Individual camp sessions are open to campers ages 10 and up. Campers attend on their own or with an attendant depending on their comfort level, preference, and needs.

### THE NUMBERS

614

campers registered in 2024

71

seasonal staff members hired in 2024

4,800

individual hours of intensive staff training over three weeks

Camp Easter Seal also hosts camps in a group-based format, including family camps where campers join for a week with the support of their choosing - often parents, guardians, or siblings. This format offers an introduction to Camp and an opportunity to explore and participate in various activities with familiar family and friends, making it a preferred option for many campers.

Group home weeks allow individuals to attend Camp with their housemates and established supports at Camp Easter Seal. This setting provides an opportunity for campers to engage with familiar people in a different environment and meet new people with the hope of forging new friendships - all while the food and fun are taken care of.

### ARTS & CRAFTS

A favourite of many campers, the arts and crafts program is appropriately housed in the most artistically decorated building on the property, with a bright mural on the outside along with painted glass windows. The building invites creativity and play as participants can explore a range of activities each year, including creating their own



***“Camp Easter Seal is all about being independent, exploring new experiences, learning new skills, cherishing friendships, reaching for goals, celebrating success and, perhaps most importantly, living and enjoying life to its fullest.”***

Steve Grove,  
Camp Easter Seal manager



tie-dye t-shirts, friendship bracelets, and personalized paintings and drawings they can take with them to commemorate their week at Camp Easter Seal.

## **SPORTS & GAMES**

There is something for everyone in the ‘rec shed.’ Campers can participate in high-energy group activities such as floor hockey, basketball, and badminton or watch the action unfold from the sidelines. For those who want more solitude and quiet time, the raised sandbox might be an appealing option, as well as spending time in the chalet, where campers can play board games and work on puzzles.

## **MUSIC & DRAMA**

Whether it’s karaoke, sing-alongs, puppet shows, or drumming, the music and drama program provides a space for expressive arts, fun, and togetherness. The talent show is a highlight for campers each summer and an important aspect of the program. Hosted at the amphitheatre, campers are invited to showcase their talents and abilities in a supportive environment with lots of cheering and applause.

## **RUSTICS**

With the goal of “keeping the camp in Camp,” the rustics program has progressively grown over the last few summers. In 2024, archery was introduced to Camp with great success. Additionally, the purchase of a 28-foot yurt and a 19-foot bell tent further expanded the rustics program to include accessible overnight tenting.

## **AQUATICS**

The aquatics program is another popular program at Camp Easter Seal. The indoor heated pool is fully accessible and enjoyed all summer long by campers and staff members alike.

## **WATERFRONT & BOATING**

The waterfront and boating programs provide opportunities for campers to interact and engage with their surroundings at Little Manitou Lake, either on the beach, in the water, or on the water.

A highlight of 2024 was the relaunch of the boating program after a brief absence. With a new, fully accessible floating dock, campers can once again enjoy tours around the lake on the pontoon boat. The boating program also features a boat lift which protects watercraft from storms and heavy waves while allowing staff members to launch the boats on Camp property, providing for greater flexibility in usage.

“What a joy to see Barry in his motorized wheelchair drive himself right onto the pontoon boat for a ride around the lake. Being fully accessible is who we are,” says Steve Grove, Camp Easter Seal manager.

## **MEMORY COIN**

A memory coin goes home with every camper as a memento of their time spent at Camp. It has also become a symbol of support and allyship. One side of the coin displays three of SaskAbilities’ nine values – Teamwork, Excellence, Innovation – along with a lyric from the camp song “Friends.” The flip side features the Camp logo which highlights the heritage buildings and the waters of Little Manitou Lake.



The Fund Development team had an exceptionally busy year planning, hosting, and managing its line-up of exciting fundraising activities in 2024.

# FUND DEVELOPMENT

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



Thanks to the dedication of communities throughout the province, Fund Development experienced an increase in participation, funds raised, and the establishment of new partnerships and sponsorships.

### FLAGSHIP EVENTS

#### Easter Seals™ Snowarama

SaskAbilities' Yorkton Branch started the events year off with its signature Easter Seals™ Snowarama event on Saturday, March 2nd. The weekend festivities commenced the evening before as participants registered for the event and enjoyed the popular annual wing night. Participants gathered early Saturday morning for breakfast before setting out on the well-groomed trails maintained by the Yorkton Sno-Riders Club. The event also welcomed back its "desert chapter" of snowbirds from south of the border that raised over \$77,000. Additionally, the 2nd annual Bowlarama for Snowarama returned, welcoming 55 bowlers and 14 teams that collectively raised over \$19,000 for Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan programming. In its 47th year, Easter Seals™ Snowarama achieved an impressive fundraising total of \$214,798.

#### AbilityBowl

Swift Current Branch hosted the 35th AbilityBowl on April 20th. Continuing with the beloved AgriBowl theme, teams were encouraged to dress in their finest western attire - plaid shirts, denim jeans, and shiny belt buckles. With the support of both new and returning sponsors, community support for AbilityBowl was once again a highlight of the event, welcoming 200 bowlers across 34 teams. AgriBowl AbilityBowl raised an impressive \$79,974 in support of SaskAbilities' recreational programming.

#### Easter Seals™ Drop Zone

Superheroes from across Saskatchewan gathered at the top of Hill Centre Tower II for an exhilarating opportunity to rappel 260 feet in support of the Easter Seals™ Drop Zone event. Originally scheduled for Saturday, August 31st, the event was postponed by one day due to high winds, with festivities safely and successfully taking place on Sunday, September 1st. This year set new records, with the top fundraiser raising nearly \$20,000. In total, 57 rappellers participated in Drop Zone 2024, collectively raising over \$120,000 for Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan's programs and services.

#### Superhero Walk, Wheel, Run

SaskAbilities' 2024 flagship events concluded with Swift Current Branch's 5th Annual Superhero Walk, Wheel, Run, which took place from September 13th to 23rd. This inclusive event invited participants from across Saskatchewan to get active by joining individually or as a team. The ten-day event included the highly anticipated outdoor Fun Olympics where community leaders, first responders, supporters, and clients gathered for a day filled with activities and games. This year's Superhero Walk, Wheel, Run event raised \$79,694, thanks to the participation of 30 individuals, 7 teams, and many generous sponsors.

### THIRD-PARTY EVENTS

#### Saskatchewan Automobile Dealer's Association (SADA)

For nearly 20 years, SADA has been a significant supporter of Camp Easter Seal, with donations over the years that include the purchase of an accessible bus, a beloved pontoon boat, and funds to send individuals to Camp.

On May 22nd, the membership-based trade association hosted its Annual General Meeting where they raised over

\$100,000 in support of Camp Easter Seal, an amazing achievement. SaskAbilities extends gratitude to SADA and the many dealers whose generosity made this contribution possible.



### 62nd Draggins Rod & Custom Car Show

This annual event unites car lovers and motorcycle enthusiasts for one of the largest automobile shows in Saskatchewan – all for a good cause. Dating back to 1961, the Draggins Rod & Custom Car Show is the longest-running club-operated car show in Canada. In 2024, the event took place March 29th and 30th at Prairieland Park, with proceeds once again donated to Camp Easter Seal. With over 230 vehicles, vendors, and displays, 2024 was one of the most successful shows in Draggins’ history. Since 1968, the Draggins Rod & Custom Car Club has been supporting SaskAbilities and Camp Easter Seal through the annual show, fundraising initiatives, donations, and volunteer efforts. SaskAbilities is very grateful for this incredible, long-standing relationship.

### Century 21® Kids to Camp

Century 21® Dome and Century 21® Fusion have, for many years, been major contributors and supporters of Camp Easter Seal through the Century 21® Kids to Camp initiative launched between Easter Seals™ Canada and Century 21® Canada.

In 2024, Century 21® Dome continued to support Easter Seals™ with agents coming together and contributing funds through their real estate sales. The team also enjoyed participating in Regina Drop Zone by raising pledges in their community. Century 21® Dome’s combined efforts raised a total of \$31,394.



Century 21® Fusion held its 19th annual golf tournament in support of Camp Easter Seal on September 7th at the Greenbryre Golf and Country Club in Saskatoon. Century 21® Fusion’s fundraising efforts in 2024 also included agent contributions through real estate sales, bringing their combined total to \$66,810.

As part of the Century 21® Kids to Camp program, individual agents who raise \$2,100 or more in support of Camp Easter Seal receive the distinguished Golden Heart award. We extend heartfelt gratitude to this year’s Saskatchewan Golden Heart recipients:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Christa Allingham  | Lisa Mueller      |
| Austin Arvay       | Roger Schmid      |
| Laura Balyski      | Jenna Schmid      |
| Gary Busch         | Tarry Unterschute |
| Barry Chilliak     | Scott Urbanoski   |
| Judge Eilers       | Cristin Wald      |
| Danielle Macdonald | Mary Ann Walker   |
| Kerri Mossing      |                   |

In addition to financial contributions, staff members from Century 21® Dome and Century 21® Fusion came together at Camp Easter Seal on May 23rd to prepare Camp for the 2024 season with camp clean-up day, ensuring the grounds were once again ready to welcome hundreds of campers.

### Easter Seals™ Charity Golf Tournament

For more than a decade, the Easter Seals™ Charity Golf Tournament has been one of the most popular golf events in Saskatoon. This year, enthusiastic golfers came together at Moon Lake Golf and Country Club on June 6th for an eventful day of golf, prizes, and an evening banquet. With a full slate of 144 of golfers in attendance and generous sponsors, the event raised an amazing \$110,830 in support of Camp Easter Seal!

### The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International - Regina Pond

The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International - Regina Pond has a long-standing relationship with SaskAbilities dating back many decades. On April 5th, Regina Pond hosted its 45th Annual Ross & Russ Barlow Memorial Curling Bonspiel, bringing together past and present insurance professionals for a day of curling and camaraderie. The dedicated group of insurance professionals continued their fundraising efforts by hosting a golf tournament on August 29th at Tor Hill Golf Course, bringing their 2024 contribution to SaskAbilities to \$20,000.

### The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International - Saskatchewan Pond

Once again, The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International - Saskatchewan Pond invited insurance-related businesses, brokers, and agents from across the province to Saskatoon for its annual golf tournament. Come rain or shine, teams gather for this annual event to raise funds for children, youth, and adults experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. This year’s event, held on June 8th, raised \$13,000 for SaskAbilities programs and services.



# FUND DEVELOPMENT

## THE THINGS WE DO!

Through direct appeal campaigns, the support of dedicated donors, signature flagship and special events, third-party sponsors, and planned giving, Fund Development raises funds in support of SaskAbilities' programs and services. The Fund Development team extends gratitude to the countless individuals who contribute to SaskAbilities each year by participating in or attending special events, purchasing tickets, donating to direct appeal campaigns, volunteering their time, and giving from the heart. Your generosity plays a crucial role in enhancing the lives of individuals experiencing disability in Saskatchewan.





# TRUSTS

Estate of Peter J. Dyck

Estate of William Wallace McDonald

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# ENDOWMENTS

*SaskAbilities' endowments are held in perpetuity. The principal remains intact and only the income earned is used to support the programs and services of SaskAbilities.*

Arthur, Ella, and Connie  
Tillman Endowment Fund  
\$150,524.63

Spirit of Independence Fund  
\$274,661.78

Feingertz Research Fund  
\$192,169.97

# PARTNERS

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## EASTER SEALS™ CANADA

SaskAbilities is a member of Easter Seals™ Canada and owns the rights to Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan. The national organization is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of individuals with disabilities in Canada.

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saskatchewan  
**preventioninstitute**  
our goal is **healthy** children

## SASKATCHEWAN PREVENTION INSTITUTE

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

# FUND DEVELOPMENT

*Every year we are grateful and humbled by the generous support of individuals, businesses, and organizations who donate to SaskAbilities. We thank all of our donors for their contributions in 2024 – your support plays a pivotal role in helping children and adults experiencing disability reach their goals and achieve success!*

## 2024 MEMBER LEADERS

SaskAbilities is a member-based organization. Those who make an annual minimum gift of \$150 during the membership year are recognized as Member Leaders.

Don Abrahamson  
Rino Bacchetto  
Russ Bainbridge  
Phyllis Baker  
Rex Beaton  
Mark Beck  
Patrick and Loretta Benning  
Robert Berg  
Paul Blackstock  
Jeff Braid  
Garry D. Bratt  
Richard T. and Annabelle Burton  
Randall and Doreen Chapman  
Keith Chaytor and Jamie Untereiner  
Kyle L. Christ  
Glen Condie  
Mr. Pat and Mrs. Pat Cooper  
Vicki Corbin  
Sharon A. Cowley  
Barb Creary  
Daughters Of Penelope #131  
Brian and Linda Davis  
John R. Denysek

Diana E. Dolack  
George and Jean Dragan  
Kimi M. Duzan  
Paul and Kathie Dyck  
Dwayne and Karen Fettes  
Kimberly Furey  
Phil Greer  
Dr. Jeremy and Dr. Joanne Haigh  
Victor Hamilton  
Helen Harradence  
Tracy Lynn Hodgson  
Aleksandra Hoeber  
Hornoi Leasing Ltd.  
Al and Anne Hrytsak  
Dr. J. C. Hubbard  
Michelle Hunter  
Hutterian Brethren  
of Kyle/Kyle Charitable Trust  
A.J. Jacek  
Bruno and Marjorie Konecsni  
Stanley Lautsch  
and Marilyn Mudry-Lautsch  
Les Filles De La Providence

Ewen MacLeod  
Sarah Maskell  
Ken and Rhoda McCallen  
Carrie McComber  
Karen M. Moore  
Linda Murphy  
N.B. Senior's Citizens Action Now Inc  
Dr. Ulla Nielsen  
Sylvia Pasma  
Alma Perras  
Brian Petruic  
Lyle Phillips  
Barbara Rackham  
Heather and Gerald Rasmussen  
Kim Rempel  
Reg and Gwenn Ronyk  
Marty and Claire Schneider  
William and Laurie Shaw  
Charles and Marjorie Smith  
Jennifer Smith  
Peter and Corinne Smith  
Kelly Solberg  
Tom and Darlene Spence

Jim Stadnyk  
Lorraine Stewart and Edward Blouin  
Deana Stroshein  
Gordon and Philomena Suchan  
Clarence Sushelnicki  
David J. Thornton  
Terry E. Toews  
Trawin Farms Ltd.  
Aydan van Eeden  
Jaclynn Washenfelder  
Jayda Watson  
Denver and Lavina Wiebe  
Ian and Kirsten Wilkinson  
Dwayne and Anita Wolfe  
Ron Woodvine  
Mark and Barb Wouters  
Don and Dorothy Zopf

# 2024 MONTHLY DONORS

We wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to the individuals listed below that contribute regular monthly gifts, making a world of difference throughout the year in support of SaskAbilities and Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan.

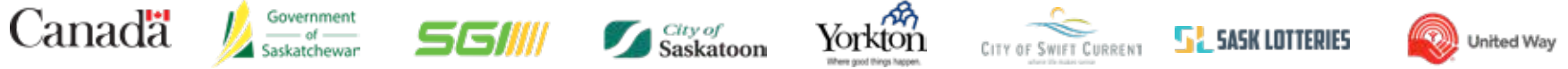
Jim Achtymichuk  
Erika O. Altwasser  
Cameron Anton  
Phyllis Baker  
Mary Ann Beavis  
Edwin E. Beland  
Ronald and Sandra Bland  
Randy Boyko  
Sandy Braun  
Joylene Campbell  
Sylvia Chorney  
Rita Coghill  
Donald and Myra Coomber  
Vicki Corbin  
Brian and Linda Davis  
Steven and Stella Devenney  
Richard Keith Downey  
Marilyn Drever  
Bonnie Dunn  
Bev Engstrom  
Lyanne Engstrom  
Gerald and Gwen Erickson  
Sonja Erickson  
Keith and Jennifer Fillinger  
Linda Forzley

Candace M. Fox  
Kimberly Furey  
Marcel and Janice Gallays  
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Helen Gress  
Lawrence and Elaine Gusta  
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Julie Harder  
Katherine Hayduk  
Gail Hetherington  
Doug and Rose Higgins  
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Nora Horan  
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Marcus Koeberlin  
Donna Kolenowski  
David and Carla Lammers

Lyle and Kim Larsen  
Mary Lee  
Leonard Lewko  
Marie Mahan  
Gladys McCarthy  
Carrie McComber  
Meredith McKague  
Karen M. Moore  
Susan Moyer  
Therese Nasr  
Gloria Nichol  
Bernadette Niemegeers  
Mary Parchewsky  
Elaine R. Peart  
Dean and Verna Pederson  
Lyle Phillips  
Kelly Pihach  
Jim Pratt  
John Prietchuk  
A. James Reid  
Dr. and Mrs. James Rice  
Janice Robson  
Reg and Gwenn Ronyk  
Albert Running  
Diane Ryalls

Blaine Scott  
Dr. Cobus Smith  
Karen Smith  
Kelly Solberg  
Lorraine Stewart and Edward Blouin  
Deana Stroshein  
Tanika Transport  
Alphonse Ulriksen  
Kristine Urmson  
Ms. Jodi Utke  
Eleanor Vesey  
Mark and Tracy Wahba  
Jaclynn Washenfelder  
Milaura L. Whitta  
Denver and Lavina Wiebe  
Rosa Wilger  
Ian and Kirsten Wilkinson  
Debora Wotherspoon

# FUNDERS



# MAJOR GIFTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support!

\$100,000+



\$50,000+



\$25,000+ Mr. Kevin Knight | Propp Family Charity | Helen Harradence



\$10,000+ Frank J. Flaman Foundation | Rudy and Margaret Gross | Dr. Ulla Nielsen | Ms. Evelyn Stein | David Dodds



\$5,000+ Mary Lynn Baughman Trust | Evan and Brenda Ortynsky | Happy Valley Farm



# LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION

*In 2024, SaskAbilities recognized the following staff members for their dedicated service.*

## 35 YEARS

Nestor Lemus

## 30 YEARS

Hanh Ho  
Carrie McComber

## 25 YEARS

Keith Fillinger

## 20 YEARS

Sandra Bilan  
Jessica DeBack  
Corbin Loeppky  
Myrna Schick

## 15 YEARS

Ken Ainsworth  
Dale Brunet  
Marife Clarion  
Chad Ekren  
Scott Friesen  
Brenda Heshka  
Kelly Solberg  
Deana Stroshein

## 10 YEARS

Imelda Anastacio  
Mike Corman  
Rhonda Cruthers  
Les Diakow  
Carmen Donald  
Denelda English  
Brittany Garbutt  
Nola Haidl  
Isabelle Henault  
Kristen Kosar  
Derek Neudorf  
Glenn Reif  
Ryan Semeschuk  
Bruce Terry  
Jackie Washenfelder  
Miranda Wood-Sparrow  
Michael Yaehne

## 5 YEARS

Braden Balabuck  
Linda Davis  
Shantell Dolman  
Tim Frowen  
Mike Fulop  
Dawn Gelowitz  
Curtis Goods  
James Grummett  
Rick Hydeman  
Jenna Jelinski  
Lenin Konthoujam  
Marcia Korbo  
Kent Larwood  
Hayden Linsley  
Dave McCormac  
Brandi McManus  
Aster Paton  
Joseph Sander  
Lucas Selinger  
Shannon Snidanko  
Kara Spur  
Candace Sutherland  
Chuc Tran  
Cindy Wright







# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Regina Branch	\$ 9,212,258	\$ 8,265,408
Saskatoon Branch	10,457,190	11,711,248
Swift Current Branch	3,170,105	3,483,680
Yorkton Branch	6,687,522	6,512,558
Camp Easter Seal	885,065	929,937
Rehabilitation Services	16,837,999	16,099,096
Provincial Administration	2,945,631	2,760,710
	<b>50,195,770</b>	<b>49,762,637</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Regina Branch	9,149,580	8,142,786
Saskatoon Branch	10,795,157	11,652,517
Swift Current Branch	3,367,170	3,825,534
Yorkton Branch	7,013,125	6,819,317
Camp Easter Seal	2,022,135	1,836,514
Rehabilitation Services	16,637,435	15,827,662
Provincial Administration	707,657	666,645
	<b>49,692,259</b>	<b>48,770,975</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 503,511</b>	<b>\$ 991,662</b>

Please see  
our website  
[www.saskabilities.ca](http://www.saskabilities.ca)  
for the complete  
audited financial  
statements and  
notes.



**STATEMENT OF  
FINANCIAL POSITION**

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 4,863,858	\$ 6,421,950
Investments	4,190,000	2,850,238
Accounts receivable	3,465,815	2,724,874
Inventories	1,201,769	1,226,366
Prepaid expenses	332,408	332,306
	<b>14,053,850</b>	13,555,734
<b>DESIGNATED INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>1,671,163</b>	1,841,914
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<b>11,591,593</b>	11,357,404
	<b>\$ 27,316,606</b>	\$ 26,755,052
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,412,493	\$ 4,256,850
Deferred grants	2,377,031	2,459,523
Scheduled repayments of callable debt	30,212	30,212
Current portion of long term debt	24,153	22,661
	<b>6,843,889</b>	6,769,246
Callable debt	94,817	125,029
	<b>6,938,706</b>	6,894,275
<b>LONG TERM DEBT</b>	<b>160,982</b>	185,133
<b>DEFERRED DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>150,295</b>	87,287
<b>UNAMORTIZED CAPITAL ASSET FUNDING</b>	<b>4,089,908</b>	4,216,067
	<b>11,339,891</b>	11,382,762
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Net assets restricted for endowment purposes	617,356	588,823
Internally restricted net assets invested in capital assets	7,428,794	6,973,775
Internally restricted net assets - other	903,512	1,165,804
Unrestricted net assets	7,027,053	6,643,888
	<b>15,976,715</b>	15,372,290
	<b>\$ 27,316,606</b>	\$ 26,755,052

**STATEMENT OF  
CHANGES IN  
NET ASSETS**

YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Internally Restricted			Externally Restricted for Endowment Purposes	Unrestricted	2024	2023 Total
	Invested in Capital Assets	Other	Total				
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 6,973,775	\$ 1,165,804	\$ 8,139,579	\$ 588,823	\$ 6,643,888	<b>\$ 15,372,290</b>	\$ 14,267,920
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	-	-	-	503,511	<b>503,511</b>	991,662
Employee future benefits remeasurements and other items	-	-	-	-	72,381	<b>72,381</b>	84,442
Transfers	-	(262,292)	(262,292)	-	262,292	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	(864,464)	-	(864,464)	-	864,464	-	-
Capital asset funding recognized	294,547	-	294,547	-	(294,547)	-	-
Capital asset funding deferred	(168,387)	-	(168,387)	-	168,387	-	-
Purchase of capital assets	1,098,653	-	1,098,653	-	(1,098,653)	-	-
Gain on disposal of capital assets	41,800	-	41,800	-	(41,800)	-	-
Repayment of callable debt	30,212	-	30,212	-	(30,212)	-	-
long term debt	22,658	-	22,658	-	(22,658)	-	-
Interest income earned on endowment funds	-	-	-	28,533	-	<b>28,533</b>	28,266
Balance, end of year	\$ 7,428,794	\$ 903,512	\$ 8,332,306	\$ 617,356	\$ 7,027,053	<b>\$ 15,976,715</b>	\$ 15,372,290

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our website  
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notes.**

**STATEMENT OF  
CASH FLOWS**

YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 503,511	\$ 991,662
Interest income earned on endowment funds	28,533	28,266
Employee future benefits remeasurements and other items	72,381	84,442
Adjustments for		
Amortization of capital assets	864,464	835,569
Capital asset funding recognized	(294,547)	(296,574)
Deferred donor designated funds recognized	(1,500)	(1,830)
(Gain) loss on disposal of capital assets	(41,800)	378
(Gain) loss on disposal of investments	(38)	3,658
In-kind donation	(37,625)	(20,034)
Changes in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(740,941)	241,012
Inventories	24,597	(121,500)
Prepaid expenses	(102)	(41,169)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	155,642	336,680
Deferred grants	(82,492)	342,690
	<b>450,083</b>	<b>2,383,250</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Capital asset additions	(1,098,653)	(572,022)
Proceeds on disposal of capital assets	41,800	700
Purchase of investments	(5,190,000)	(2,840,000)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	3,887,901	3,211,409
Designated investments, net	170,751	12,662
	<b>(2,188,201)</b>	<b>(187,251)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Repayment of callable debt	(30,212)	(30,212)
Repayment of long term debt	(22,658)	(22,068)
Receipt of donor designated funds	232,896	227,862
Defined benefit pension plan liability, net	-	(13,857)
	<b>180,026</b>	<b>161,725</b>
<b>NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH</b>	<b>(1,558,092)</b>	<b>2,357,724</b>
<b>CASH POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>6,421,950</b>	<b>4,064,226</b>
<b>CASH POSITION, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 4,863,858</b>	<b>\$ 6,421,950</b>

### REGINA BRANCH

Jessica MacPherson, Regional Director  
825 McDonald Street  
Regina, SK S4N 2X5  
T 306.569.9048  
E [regina@saskabilities.ca](mailto:regina@saskabilities.ca)

### SWIFT CURRENT BRANCH

Jayda Watson, Regional Director  
1551 North Railway Street West  
Swift Current, SK S9H 5G3  
T 1.833.526.5299  
E [swiftcurrent@saskabilities.ca](mailto:swiftcurrent@saskabilities.ca)

### YORKTON BRANCH

Aleks Hoeber, Regional Director  
162 Ball Road, Box 5011  
Yorkton, SK S3N 3Z4  
T 1.833.444.4126  
E [yorkton@saskabilities.ca](mailto:yorkton@saskabilities.ca)

### PROVINCIAL SERVICES

Ian Wilkinson  
Executive Director  
Karen Moore  
Director of Provincial Services  
Carrie McComber  
Director of Rehabilitation Services  
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