

GENERAL INFORMATION

Board of Directors

Bruce Acton	Saskatoon
Brenda Bancescu	Regina
Bonnie Cherewyk	Saskatoon
Kyle Christ	Saskatoon
Henri de La Garde	Saskatoon
Michelle Hunter	Regina
Lyndsey Kane	Regina
Wanda Kozloski	Meadow Lake
Stan Lautsch	Swift Current
Andy Livingston	Saskatoon
Nicole Onufreychuk	Saskatoon
Sandra Ruff	Yorkton
William Schwarz	Regina
Jonathan Tremblay	Regina

President: Paul Blackstock
Executive Director: Ian Wilkinson

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

Regina	(306) 569-9048
Swift Current	(833) 526-5299
Yorkton	(833) 444-4126
Prince Albert	(306) 922-0225
Moose Jaw	(306) 693-3020
Saskatoon	(306) 653-1694
Provincial Services	(306) 374-4448

We welcome your comments.

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NOTICE OF 76TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SASKATCHEWAN ABILITIES COUNCIL INC. (SaskAbilities)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2022 and the Bylaw of SaskAbilities, that the 2026 Annual General Meeting of SaskAbilities will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at 2310 Louise Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The Annual General Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- Receiving the minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting held on April 4, 2025
- Electing directors
- Receiving the President's Report
- Receiving the Executive Director's Report
- Presentation of audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025
- Appointment of auditors

- To transact such other business as may be properly brought before the meeting.

If you plan to attend, please register before April 1, 2026 by contacting Janet Dzik by telephone at (306) 374-4448 or by email at jdzik@saskabilities.ca.

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

To be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting, individuals must have purchased a 2026 membership in SaskAbilities on or prior to March 10, 2026.

Copies of the audited financial statements will be available at www.saskabilities.ca on or about March 13, 2026.

Charitable Business Number: 10795 5221 RR0001.

JOIN SASKABILITIES TODAY!

I know my donation will help improve the quality of life for thousands of people experiencing disability in Saskatchewan.

General Donation Membership Donation

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$25 \$75 \$150 Surprise us! \$ _____

BY CHEQUE:

Please Make Cheque Payable To:

SaskAbilities
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7



BY CREDIT CARD:



CARD #: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Or to donate online visit our website: www.saskabilities.ca



VISION

Working together to build inclusive communities for people of all abilities.

MISSION

SaskAbilities supports people experiencing disability with programs and services to enhance their lives.

VALUES

We treat people with respect, honesty and compassion.

Our programs and services are client-centred, goal-oriented and accountable.

We value teamwork, excellence and innovation.

Working together to build inclusive communities for people of all abilities.

ConnectAbilities

Message from the President



As we progress through the early months of 2026 and build momentum for the year ahead, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for sharing in SaskAbilities' milestone of 75 years of service.

Celebrating "75 Years Together" allowed us to reflect on the vision and courage of the founding families and to celebrate the countless clients, staff members, donors, supporters, and community partners who have contributed to our growth and evolution. Exploring SaskAbilities' rich history through photos, storytelling, videos, and memorabilia has highlighted the significant impact the organization has made in the lives of those served, as well as its contributions to the disability sector in Saskatchewan.

With great pride we look ahead, bringing with us the cherished memories from this past year as a significant highlight in the history of

SaskAbilities. We are grateful to everyone who helped bring this milestone to life and all those who continue to support SaskAbilities, carrying our vision and mission forward into the next 75 years.

Sincerely,

Paul Blackstock

DREAM BIG

It's the conference people can't stop talking about!

Hosted by SaskAbilities, the *Shaping Inclusive Communities Conference* was a major highlight of 2025. The sold-out, two-day conference kicked off September 5 with keynote speaker, distinguished professor and New York Times bestselling author, Dr. Temple Grandin, followed by a keynote address on September 6 by actress, advocate, and talk show host, Madison Tevlin.

With many familiar faces from SaskAbilities across the province, including clients and their family members, staff members, and board members,



Keynote speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin

"In brainstorming activities that would reflect SaskAbilities and celebrate 75 years together, we wanted to create an event that was engaging and aligned with our organization's vision of working together to build inclusive communities. With executive director, Ian Wilkinson, inspiring us to dream big, we did just that - securing outstanding keynote speakers who have lived experience and incredible stories to share. We were also really inspired by the many panelists who spoke on themes that fostered meaningful discussions and conversations."

– Jessica MacPherson,
regional director, Regina Branch

the atmosphere was supportive, vibrant, and engaging with every panel discussion and speaker. The conference was such a big hit, fostering meaningful connections and conversations that inspired SaskAbilities to keep the dialogue going with the launch of a spin-off, *Shaping Inclusive Communities* podcast.

THE BUZZ ABOUT BLACK TIE BINGO



Make sure to mark your calendars for the 2026 Black Tie Bingo Gala! The year's event will once again be hosted at the Living Sky Casino in Swift Current and is scheduled for Saturday, November 7.

To learn more about event sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets, please visit saskabilities.ca or contact events@saskabilities.ca.

On November 1, the Swift Current Branch hosted its inaugural Black Tie Bingo Gala at the Casino Event Centre. Attendees enjoyed a fine dining experience, silent auction, and, of course, a lively game of bingo. For those in attendance, it was a night to remember while those who missed out were left with a twinge of regret for not joining in on the fun!

"The event was a huge success," shares Community Relations Coordinator at the Swift Current Branch, Jenny Dyck. "We haven't done this type of event in the past and we were looking to do something different. The event drew in new people who may not be as familiar with SaskAbilities and also familiar faces who are supporters of the Swift Current Branch. Following the event there was a considerable buzz in the city. People were calling either to tell us what a great time they had or that they were sorry they missed the event, and if we'd be hosting it again. It doesn't get much better than that!"

The sophisticated event raised approximately \$65,000 in support of SaskAbilities' children and youth recreational programming, including Summer Fun and Social Leisure Youth Program (SLYP-Out).



SASKATOON DAY PROGRAM IS SHARING THE WARMTH

In November, the Saskatoon Branch received confirmation that their grant application to SaskEnergy's Share the Warmth program had been accepted, providing the day program with \$750 to give back to the community. With volunteering a central part of the day program activities at the branch, participants jumped at the opportunity to once again provide care packages to student parents through the Jacoby Centre at Nutana Collegiate.

"This is our third year participating and second year supporting the Jacoby Centre. We just really appreciate the opportunity from SaskEnergy to offer support in this way. The winter months can be a tough time for student parents, so it's the perfect time to spread some joy through these care packages. Day program participants love getting involved with these initiatives. The feedback we received when asking participants why they like putting these care packages together was so positive: 'to make people feel good,' 'I want to help people out and make them feel good,' and 'to make people smile.' Volunteering in these ways is really a win-win for everyone, the day program benefits and so does the community."

– Vanessa Lizotte, mentor, SaskAbilities Saskatoon Branch



The personalized care packages were dropped off at the Jacoby Centre in January, and included something for both parent and child, including toys, blankets, and more.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

SaskAbilities SHAPING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES PODCAST

In December, SaskAbilities expanded its media presence by launching its first podcast, *Shaping Inclusive Communities*. The name may sound familiar because it was inspired by the Shaping Inclusive Communities conference hosted by SaskAbilities in September, 2025.

"We're not just sharing stories. We're continuing the work of building connection, trust, and understanding, one conversation at a time."
– Ian Wilkinson, executive director, SaskAbilities

The podcast aims to foster real and meaningful conversations with individuals who bring diverse perspectives, reflecting the voices of those experiencing disability in the community. Additionally, it seeks to highlight the efforts of individuals within the disability sector who are dedicated to building more inclusive communities across the province.

The first episode, hosted by Aleks Hoeber, regional director of the Yorkton Branch, includes special guests Ian Wilkinson, executive director; Emily Hurd, regional director, Saskatoon Branch and Chair of the 75th Anniversary Committee; and Jessica MacPherson, regional director, Regina Branch and Co-Chair of the 75th Anniversary Committee. Together, they reflect on the organization's origins, its evolution, and the many community-based celebrations that marked the 75th year.

With more episodes slated for 2026, episode one is now available for listening at saskabilities.ca.

75TH VIDEO SERIES

In 2024, production began on a series of seven videos designed to showcase SaskAbilities' impact across Saskatchewan ahead of its milestone 75th year. The production team, which included director and editor, Neil Greening from Kettlestone Productions; director of photography, Matt Holland from Fire Lily Films; and staff members from SaskAbilities' Communications team, traveled over 3,000 kilometers to capture the essence of SaskAbilities through meaningful storytelling and historical insights.



"I have been creating videos for SaskAbilities for over a year now. The stories and personalities I have experienced are thrilling and inspiring. After close to a hundred interviews, my eyes have been opened to how amazing this organization is."
– Neil Greening

SaskAbilities would like to thank everyone who contributed, both large and small, to supporting the 75th video series project. Without the support from across the province, we would not have been able to capture the diverse stories and experiences that truly showcase the impact of SaskAbilities.

Each of the videos in the series launched throughout 2025 and will remain accessible for viewing on the website at saskabilities.ca.

EASTER SEALS™ SNOWARAMA 49 HITS THE TRAILS MARCH 7

Yorkton Branch is just a few weeks away from its signature event, Easter Seals™ Snowarama. Now in its 49th year, Snowarama remains one of the largest outdoor winter events in eastern Saskatchewan, with long-time participants bringing their children and even their grandchildren to enjoy the family-friendly festivities.

While the Snowarama Committee, in partnership with the Yorkton Sno-Riders, is closely monitoring the trails and hoping for plenty of snow, the Snowarama "desert chapter" of Snowbirds is anticipating quite the opposite - clear roads and plenty of sunshine.

Event festivities kicked off in November, celebrating the snowmobile season with a pancake breakfast alongside event sponsors, Yorkton Sno-Riders, Schrader's Motors, and FFUN Motor Sports Yorkton. Event registration for Snowarama opened on December 5 and will remain open until the day of the event. The Bowlarama for Snowarama fundraiser is once again being hosted at the Yorkton Bowl Arena on Friday, February 20.

It's not too late to join the fun! Registration, along with the full schedule of events, can be found at snowarama.ca.

