

COMMUNITY *News*

SPRING 2023



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– Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant
Funds Youth Programs, p.2-3

Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Funds Youth Programs

The Saskatchewan Orienteering Association received a \$3,897 Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant to provide orienteering programs for children and youth between five and 16 years of age. These programs were held in parks and naturalized areas throughout Saskatoon in spring and fall of 2022 with 130 participants overall.

Participants learned that orienteering is the sport of navigation using a compass and detailed map to travel to multiple locations, known as control points, in a specific order before crossing the finish line.

Programs were offered in beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. All levels focused on the importance of learning to read and orient a map correctly. Beginner

sessions involved games to help children to learn map symbols, cardinal directions and navigate simple terrain. Treasure hunts were also used to help participants learn to read a map and navigate between locations. Intermediate and advanced programs taught older children and youth how to use a compass and navigate more complex terrain.

Families were encouraged to take part regardless of ability, skill and income. The Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant along with other funding ensured registration fees were minimal, and discounts were provided for siblings and for families with financial constraints.

Feedback about the programs was overwhelmingly positive with 95% of participating families saying they exceeded their expectations. Many participants noted that the programs allowed them to experience new parks and trails in and around Saskatoon and increased their confidence in exploring the outdoors. Parents expressed that their children were engaged, that they loved running in the forest with other children, and that they felt that the program was well planned and organized.



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The following is feedback from program participants in the spring and fall of 2022:

"I really appreciated that all my kids could participate together. The instructors were kind, informative, and fun! We loved getting to explore different areas of the city."

"We liked the variety of different activities and compass work!"

"We loved the orienteering courses; they were challenging, but fun."

"My kids were running around and having fun while learning new skills."

"Immediate action and lots of independence for the kids! We loved that each location offered its own unique experience and challenge."

"This program allowed us to experience new parks and trails in and around the city."

"Everything was well planned and organized. The interests and engagement of the kids was always the main focus."

"We loved being outside and learning to feel comfortable with the outdoors."

"We loved exploring trails in a new way."

"My daughter loved running around with other kids, searching for clues and finding treasures."

– Kathy Allen, Arts & Grants Consultant

Employment Resource Guide Launches

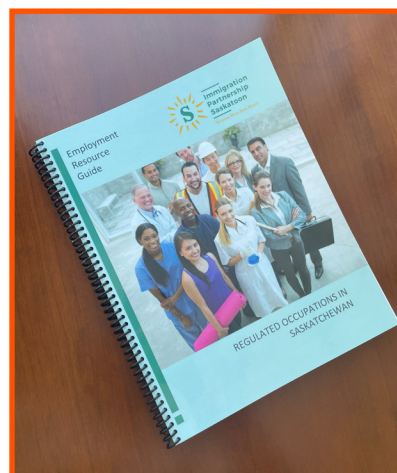
On February 28th, Immigration Partnership Saskatoon (IPSK) was excited to launch an Employment Resource Guide. The guide lays out the steps required to obtain professional employment in Saskatchewan's 73 regulated professions. An event was held at TCU Place for the launch of the Guide and there were several speakers.

The audience heard from government and industry leaders about initiatives and solutions to support internationally trained and experienced immigrants find employment in their fields. The speakers were: IPSK Coordinator Jasmine J. Calix; City of Saskatoon Human Resources representatives Thiago Prado and Eugene Grosh; Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce CEO Jason Aebig; Deputy Minister of Immigration and Career Training Clint Repski; and Brad Redekopp MP. Also, thank you to Sheri Benson for her excellent emceeing.

The guide is primarily geared towards immigrants, employers and settlement workers. If you would like a copy of the Employment Resource Guide, please contact IPSK at ipsk.ca/contact.

– Jasmine Calix, Social Development Consultant

What's New?



Above (l to r): Jason Aebig, Clint Repski, Thiago Prado, Eugene Grosh, Sheri Benson, Jasmine Calix, Asit Sarkar, Brad Redekopp.
Left: Employment Resource Guide.

8th Annual Wîcihitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference

Eight years ago, the Wîcihitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference committee came together with the goal of responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action by helping mobilize the community and provide resources that individuals, organizations and institutions could implement to advance their reconciliation

efforts. Partner organizations, including the City of Saskatoon, along with Elders and Indigenous advisors, saw an invaluable opportunity to offer Residential School and Sixties Scoop Survivors a platform to share their experiences and knowledge, and to educate individuals on the intergenerational impacts of the residential school system.



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The Wicahitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference (pronounced wee-chee-Hee' - toe-win) was intended to share knowledge and build understanding, to nurture a resolve that will change things for the better—for everyone.

This conference has welcomed audiences from around the world. We have invested in education by bringing together First Nations and Métis people with professional, academic, and lived-experience expertise, and have showcased Indigenous culture through dance, song, and art. We have also supported the economy and have provided Indigenous vendors with a venue to share their goods and services with new audiences. Thanks to the investors, partner organizations, Survivors and conference attendees, we have been able to re-invest over \$1.3 million dollars into the community and reconciliation efforts.

This conference has been a great platform to learn and connect, share experiences and challenges, and engage in open and constructive dialogue in a safe space. By attending this conference over the years or by watching the recordings on our website at wicihitowin.ca, communities across Canada have made an invaluable investment that will have a lasting impact on individual's and organization's efforts to build respectful and mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous communities.

On behalf of the 2022 Wicahitowin Conference Planning Committee, the City of Saskatoon would like to thank all of you for your bravery, commitment, and resolution to reconciliation. Looking to the future, we see so much potential for what our communities can do and what our communities can achieve when we continue to work together in a good way.

– Roy Lavallee, Social Development Consultant



Kids in Action – Future Knowledge Keepers

Kids in Action - Future Knowledge Keepers is a new program that started in October 2022. The program focuses on promoting an active and healthy lifestyle through various physical activities, enhancing self-confidence through leadership development, and connection to traditional teachings from Elders and facilitators. The program supports the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Call to Action #90:

We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:

i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.

Thirty youth attended this program and participated in the different themes including Tech Tuesday, Moon Teaching, Traditional Protocols and an Art Night.

– Kathleen Stone, Indigenous Recreation Programmer



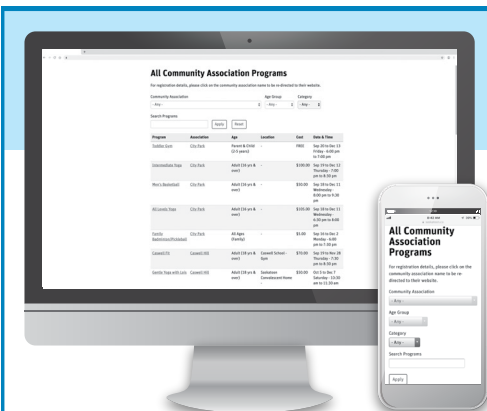
Hockey Day in Rosewood

After many years of fundraising and construction, the Rosewood Community Association (RCA) community rink enjoyed its first full season of operations.

On Sunday, January 15 the RCA hosted a U9 hockey event with the A, B and C teams from the Flyers Zone. Player announcements were provided by Rob Suski from C95, and the Saskatoon Blades along with their mascot Poke Check, and the Huskies were all part of the day's activities.

Local supporting organizations including All Things LED, Pitchfork MARKET & Kitchen, Remple Engineering and RCA volunteers all contributed to the event's success.

– Mark Planchot, Community Consultant



New! Search Online for Community Association Programs Across Saskatoon

Check out the City of Saskatoon's new search tool at saskatoon.ca/communityassociations to find the best neighbourhood programs for your interests, age and location.



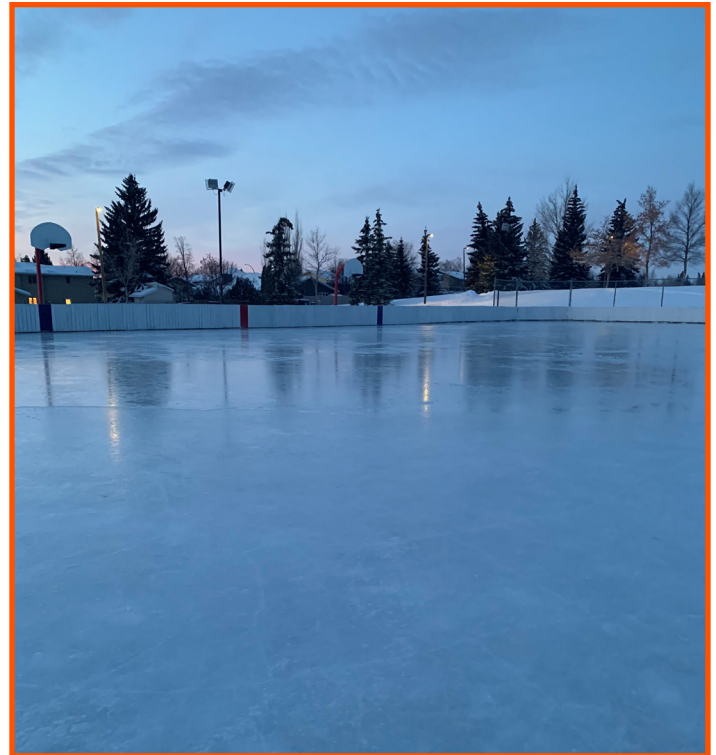
Rink Coordinator Networking Event

Community Association volunteers operate and maintain over 50 outdoor rinks throughout the City of Saskatoon.

In October 2022, the Neighbourhood Services Section held a Rink Coordinator Networking event for Community Association rink volunteers. The purpose of this event was to provide opportunity for rink volunteers to connect, ask questions and share their experiences in operating and maintaining a community rink. Discussion topics included rink flooding, equipment, troubleshooting and recruiting and maintaining volunteers. Overall, it was a great way to connect communities and we want to thank all volunteers for dedicating countless hours to ensure the rinks are in tip-top shape.

The 2022-2023 outdoor rink season was very successful. Despite two large snowfalls the rinks were heavily used this season, especially during the warmer temperatures we experienced in December & January. Cooler temperatures throughout March allowed for the rinks to remain frozen and they were well used throughout the month. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work this season in maintaining the rinks to be enjoyed by all!

– Lindsay Cockrum and Kevin Ariss, Community Consultants



For more information on upcoming training, or if you have ideas for possible training opportunities, please contact your Community Consultant.

Embracing Diversity Beyond the Surface

In January, twelve Community Association volunteers were joined virtually by Christine with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) for the session “Embracing Diversity Beyond the Surface”. Christine explained that we all have a backpack of tools along this journey to help us and all the learnings we participate in add more tools to our backpack.

In this session the following topics were covered:

1. Reflecting on Reconciliation and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
2. Deepening the Understanding of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
3. Cultural Awareness and Levels of Action.
4. What Can We Do? – Putting the learning into action.

Through discussion, slides and videos the volunteers were taught the 10 Principles of Reconciliation, the concept of equity and how it relates to inclusion and diversity, and how they could build more welcoming, inclusive communities. MCoS provided volunteers with a free download which can be found at: mcos.ca/resources/welcoming-communities-toolkit.

The session was enjoyed by all participants and is the first one in a four-part series. The next installment will be in fall of 2023. We look forward to our continued partnership with MCoS and providing volunteers with the opportunity to add more tools to their backpack.

– Heidi Estrada, Community Consultant

To contact Community Development Staff, call 306-975-3378.

Kevin Kitchen – Manager, Community Development

Administration Support Staff

Sherry DeBray

Grants Administration Clerk

Brian Ekine

Clerk Steno

Becky Ward

Clerk Steno

Art and Culture Team

The Arts and Culture Team administers grant funding, initiates, and implements public art around Saskatoon and works with the Artist in Residency program through the Bunkhouse at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo.

Kathy Allen

Arts and Grants Consultant

Alejandro Romero

Arts & Culture Consultant

Social Development

Social Development serves as a convenor, facilitator, enabler, and funder to agencies and organizations to address issues concerning community well-being and manages programs and services that support Indigenous, newcomers, and lower-income populations.

Tenille Thompson

Social Development Manager

Jasmin Calix

Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator

April Sora

Immigration and Inclusion Consultant

Roy Lavallee

Social Development Consultant

Angela Daigneault

Indigenous Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

Kathleen Stone

Indigenous Recreation Programmer

Neighbourhood Services

Neighbourhood Services is comprised of a team of Community Consultants who provide an important liaison role between 47 Community Associations and City Departments, support their recreation programs, provide advice and updates on City initiatives, and respond to community concerns.

Lisa Thibodeau

Neighbourhood Services Manager

Kevin Ariss

Community Consultant

Lindsay Cockrum

Community Consultant

Jan Cunningham

Community Consultant

Heidi Estrada

Community Consultant

Shelly Panko-Schultz

Community Consultant

Mark Planchot

Community Consultant

Alicia Worm

Community Consultant



Above: Community Development staff helped at the Fall 2022 White Buffalo Youth Lodge Backpack Carnival sponsored by Nutrien.