

**Celebrating 25 Years**



**Community  
Initiatives Fund**

— 25 YEARS —



## Community Initiatives Fund

[cifsask.org](http://cifsask.org)  
November 2021

### Mission

The Community Initiatives Fund makes knowledgeable and effective investments in community-based initiatives throughout Saskatchewan that strengthen the capacity of communities.

### Vision

The Community Initiatives Fund visualizes a future of vibrant, resilient, sustainable and proud Saskatchewan communities whose citizens are engaged and actively working to enhance quality of life.

### Values

Integrity & Respect  
Partnership & Collaboration  
Accountability & Transparency  
Innovation & Creativity  
Inclusiveness  
Volunteer Leadership

The Community Initiatives Fund's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree (Nêhiyawak; Nêhithawak; Nêhinawak), Dakota and Lakota (Sioux), Dene (Chipewyan), Nakota (Assiniboine), and Saulteaux (Nahkawiniwak) peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis.



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# Our Story

The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF), originally known as the Associated Entities Fund (AEF), was established by the Government of Saskatchewan as a Special Purpose Fund through Section IV of *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* that came into effect August 23, 1996. The AEF was created specifically to distribute a portion of the net profits generated by the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, through the operation of Casinos Regina and Moose Jaw, for the benefit of Saskatchewan people and communities.



### CIF Board Chairs

1996-2007	Lance Brown
2007-2008	Cheryl Bauer-Hyde
2008-2014	Darlene Bessey
2014-2017	Alan Tanchak
2017	Dwight Lemon
2017-2021+	Ian Rea

The original Board of Trustees, comprised of six individuals with extensive community experience, were appointed in 1996 to govern and manage the Fund. The Minister of Municipal Government was designated responsibility for the AEF, and the Board and Ministry officials worked together to define administrative policies, procedures, and program guidelines. In 1997 the Board contracted Sask Sport Inc. to provide financial and grant administration services on behalf of the AEF.

The first payments issued by the Fund in its inaugural year were to six Exhibition Associations. These payments, directed by the Government of Saskatchewan, were made to offset the loss of gaming-generated revenues the associations experienced with the opening of casinos in the province.

In 1997 the AEF Board established partnerships with the ten Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICS) for the Saskatchewan Action Plan for Children, coordinated through the Government of Saskatchewan's Human Integrated Services Forum, for the delivery of the AEF's Community Grant Program. The RICS received, reviewed and put forward funding recommendations to the AEF Board for applications from their respective regions. In 1997/1998 the AEF approved almost \$1.6 million to support 292 projects through the Community Grant Program in its first year. Through the partnership with the RICS, support for vulnerable children, youth and their families emerged as a priority for AEF's funding.





The Associated Entities Fund was renamed the Community Initiatives Fund in 2000 to better reflect its purpose and beneficiaries, and in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing, the Community Grant Program was reviewed. The review resulted in streamlining the grant application and adjudication process, simplifying the application form and eligibility criteria, and introducing an appeal mechanism for declined applications. The following year, the Minister of the new Ministry of Culture, Youth and Recreation (now Parks, Culture and Sport) was designated responsibility for CIF.

In addition to its core program, the Community Grant Program, CIF has offered a number of additional grant programs since 2000. Most commonly introduced on a short-term basis to address specific community needs, these grant programs supported a number of different types of projects and initiatives, and were often delivered in partnership with other organizations. Examples of these programs include supporting Saskatchewan's Centennial celebrations, facility enhancements, Indigenous leadership development, arts and cultural programs, heritage commemoration projects, and promoting active lifestyles.

Based on input from a community consultation process, a purpose statement for CIF was approved by the government in March 2006 stating “the purpose of CIF is to provide grants for community initiatives that enhance human development and community vitality, focusing on development opportunities for children, youth, and families; increased positive activities for young people at the local level, including physical activity and community arts and culture activity; increased community leadership capacity, particularly leadership opportunities for youth; and inclusion of First Nations and Métis people as leaders in the delivery of community activities.”

In 2007, the CIF Board and the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (now Parks, Culture and Sport) signed their first Memorandum of Understanding to define respective roles, responsibilities and performance expectations, as well as the reporting relationship between the Board and government. The memorandum continues to be reviewed, updated, and renewed regularly.





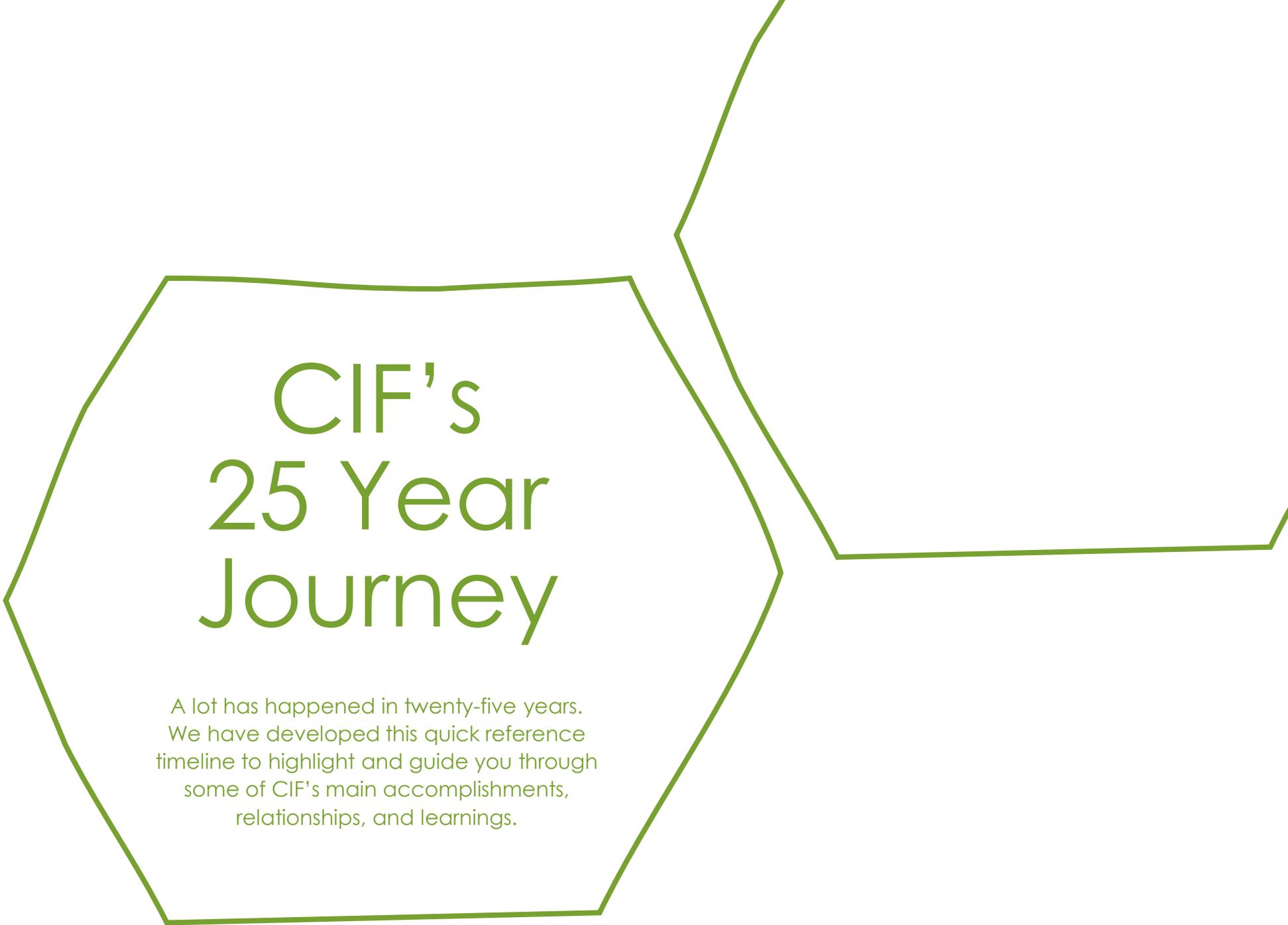
The following year, in partnership with the Ministry, the CIF Board undertook a management review which resulted in several recommendations to strengthen CIF's effectiveness and organizational capacity. The recommendations were adopted and in 2010 CIF experienced a year of growth and expansion, hiring its first Executive Director, strengthening its governance framework, implementing branding and communication strategies, and expanding on CIF's purpose statement to articulate its vision, mission, and values.

At the same time that CIF was strengthening its organizational foundation, it also undertook a comprehensive evaluation of all existing grant programs, introduced a new grant program, consulted with stakeholders, and researched good grantmaking practices. In September 2012 the CIF Board approved a phased approach to streamlining and improving accessibility to its grant programs while also enhancing accountability, with the final phase coming into effect April 1, 2014 when most programs were amalgamated into the Community Grant Program. This resulted in reducing the number of programs and application deadlines that community-based organizations had to monitor, the establishment of four regional volunteer committees to review Community Grant Program applications, the introduction of online applications, and increased accessibility for communities to a larger funding pool.

Over the past decade CIF has continued to evolve, increasing its staff capacity with the addition of a Program Manager and a Community Relations Coordinator, and identifying opportunities in addition to its grant programs to pursue its strategic priorities. This has included partnership initiatives to support the nonprofit sector such as the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership, quality of life research including the SaskWellbeing partnership with Heritage Saskatchewan, and through its Community Perspectives surveys inviting regular feedback from its stakeholders.

While this anniversary provides the opportunity to reflect on key developments in CIF's history, more importantly it celebrates the creativity, innovation, and resilience of Saskatchewan citizens and communities that CIF is grateful to have been able to support for the past twenty-five years.





# CIF's 25 Year Journey

A lot has happened in twenty-five years. We have developed this quick reference timeline to highlight and guide you through some of CIF's main accomplishments, relationships, and learnings.

1996

CIF, originally known as the Associated Entities Fund, was established through *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* to provide funding to communities from a portion of the profits from the Regina and Moose Jaw casinos.

1996

CIF's first Board of Directors was appointed, comprised of six individuals.

The Minister of Municipal Government was designated responsibility for CIF.

This marked the first year that profits were available for distribution through CIF.

1997

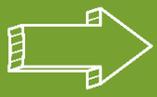
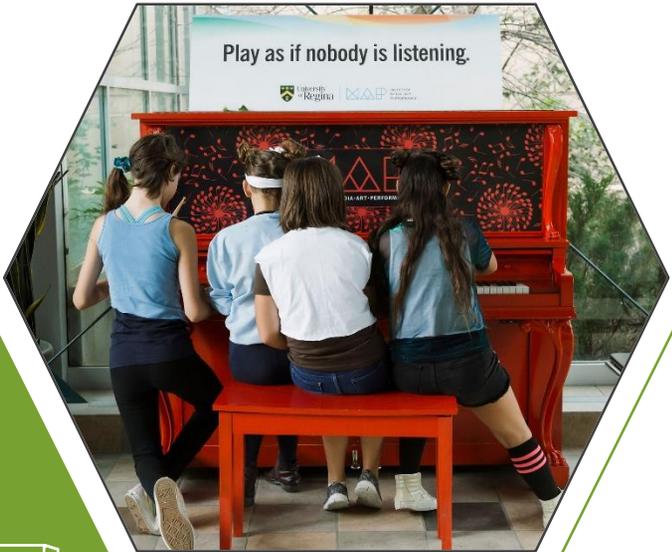
The CIF Board contracted Sask Sport to provide Financial and Grants Administration services for CIF.

2000

The Associated Entities Fund (AEF) was renamed the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF).

CIF's grant programs were reviewed, in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing.





### 2001

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation was designated responsibility for CIF.

### 2006

A purpose statement for CIF was approved by Cabinet.

### 2007

The CIF Board and the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining respective roles, responsibilities and reporting relationships.

CIF's Board worked closely with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Recreation to review CIF's programs to ensure alignment with the new purpose statement.

### 2008

In partnership with the Ministry, the CIF Board undertook a comprehensive management review in 2008-2009 leading to several significant organizational changes.

### 2010

CIF experienced a year of growth and expansion, hiring its first Executive Director, establishing the governance foundation for CIF, and expanding on CIF's purpose statement to articulate its vision, mission, and values.

## 2011

CIF convened several nonprofit sector leaders, leading to creation of the Saskatchewan Network of Nonprofit Organizations, now known as the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership (SNP).

## 2014

CIF introduced a permanent Program Manager position.

CIF embraced technology and introduced an online application system for its grant programs.

## 2015

CIF welcomed a new Community Relations Coordinator position.

Heritage Saskatchewan Alliance Inc. and CIF partnered to develop the Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing, now known as SaskWellbeing.

## 2012

Part IV Community Initiatives Fund of *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* was amended to enable the CIF Board to more effectively undertake its stewardship responsibilities on behalf of the province.



2016

CIF undertook its first Community Perspectives Survey, receiving 543 responses providing a wealth of information to inform future planning.

2018

A new and enhanced online grants management system was introduced at the April 1, 2018 grant application deadline.

2016

In partnership with several Saskatchewan-based funding entities, CIF coordinated Grantmaking School facilitated by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University.

2019

CIF undertook its second Community Perspectives Survey, hearing from 483 respondents.

The Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing report entitled "*How are Residents of Saskatchewan Really Doing?*" was released in October 2019.

2019

CIF and SNP introduced Volunteer Connector to Saskatchewan, a free platform for organizations to post volunteer positions and for volunteers to explore and apply to available opportunities.



2020

CIF's Executive Director and Program Manager supported other funding organizations with adjudication of pandemic emergency response funds.

2020

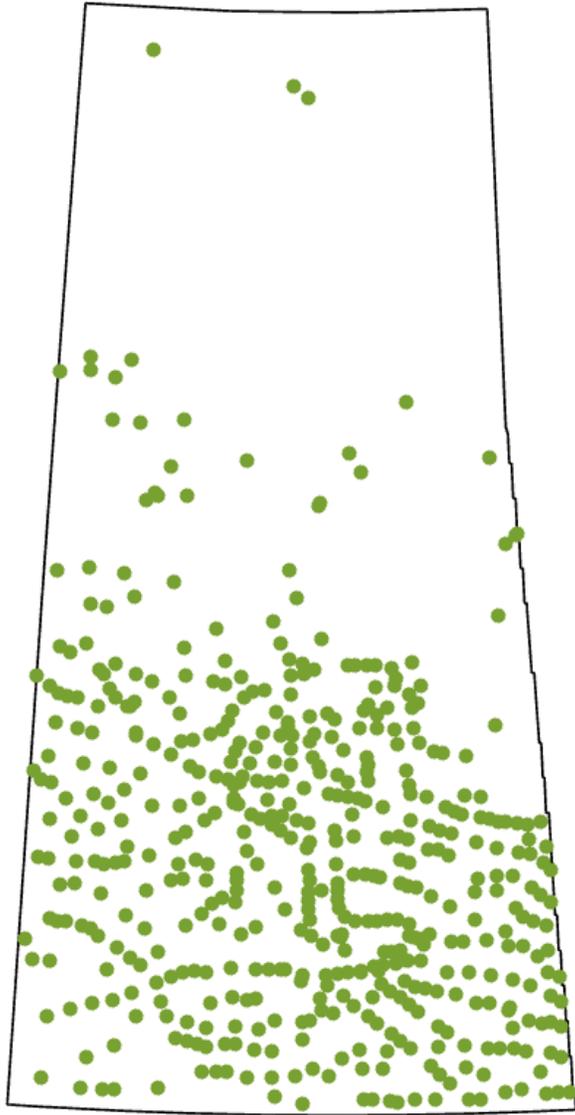
CIF supported grant recipients with modifications and extensions as they adapted programming and services in response to pandemic health orders and community needs.

2021

CIF undertook its third Community Perspectives Survey, hearing from 291 respondents.

CIF celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary.





**\$175,525,862**

Granted to Communities.

Since its first grants in 1996/97, CIF has approved more than \$175 million to support communities throughout the province.

**510**

Communities Reached.

CIF supports a wide range of organizations, programs, people, and communities in urban, rural, and remote regions of Saskatchewan.

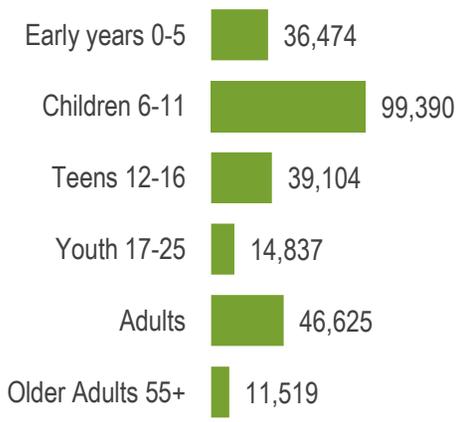
# Community Impacts

CIF's support has helped individuals and communities access services, supports, and programming designed to enhance the wellbeing and quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

Through grant applications and final reports CIF collects data that provides insight to the benefits and impacts of funded programs. As final reports are due at different times and are received on an ongoing basis, this section utilizes 2019 data, which represents the most complete data set available.

**21%** of the province's population benefit annually from CIF's support of programs.

Participants broken down by age groups were reported as follows:



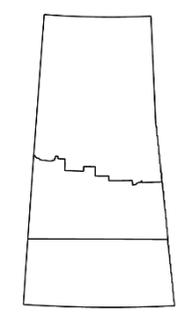
## Rural Support



66% of regional grants were awarded outside of Regina and Saskatoon.



39% of regional grants were awarded outside of Saskatchewan's 17 cities, totaling over \$1.5 million.



6% of regional grants were for programs located in Northern Saskatchewan, totaling over \$360,000.

\$380,000 was awarded to programs with a provincial scope, many of which also benefit smaller communities.

# 123,941

participants received support to participate in programming.

The number of funded programs offering supports are as follows:



Throughout its twenty-five years, CIF has supported a wide range of programs and initiatives. CIF has funded programs that support the development of children and youth – providing young children with a good start in life and preparing youth for the future. These programs help provide accessible opportunities for children and youth to gain the knowledge, skills, and supports to develop positive mental health, self-esteem, and healthy lifestyle behaviours, and ensure families have access to supports and resources to create healthy and caring environments.

# 3,976,830 minutes

of physical activity were reported.



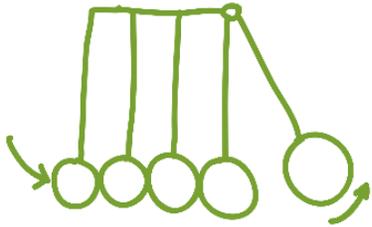
# 1,802

participants reported eating healthier.



80,044 meals provided and 150,507 snacks provided.

Along with children and youth programming, CIF has funded programs for all ages that support healthy lifestyles and inclusive communities. These programs and services increase opportunities for individuals to participate in learning, culture, recreation, physical literacy, and physical activity; as well as increase opportunities for individuals to have the knowledge, skills, and resources to prevent or address issues such as problem gambling, addictions, violence, and bullying. Funded programs also help ensure communities are engaged in activities that promote cultural understanding, respect, community pride, and social connections. Having access to these services and supports contributes to a stronger sense of belonging and provides people with opportunities to flourish.



Grantees that selected the Nonprofit and Community Leadership theme reported:

Increased knowledge of 649 participants	1,527 hours of training
-----------------------------------------	-------------------------

CIF also acknowledges the importance of community leadership. CIF has provided grants to support community leadership development, volunteerism, and training for nonprofit staff, board members, and volunteers which enhances the ability of nonprofit organizations and community groups to better serve their audiences.



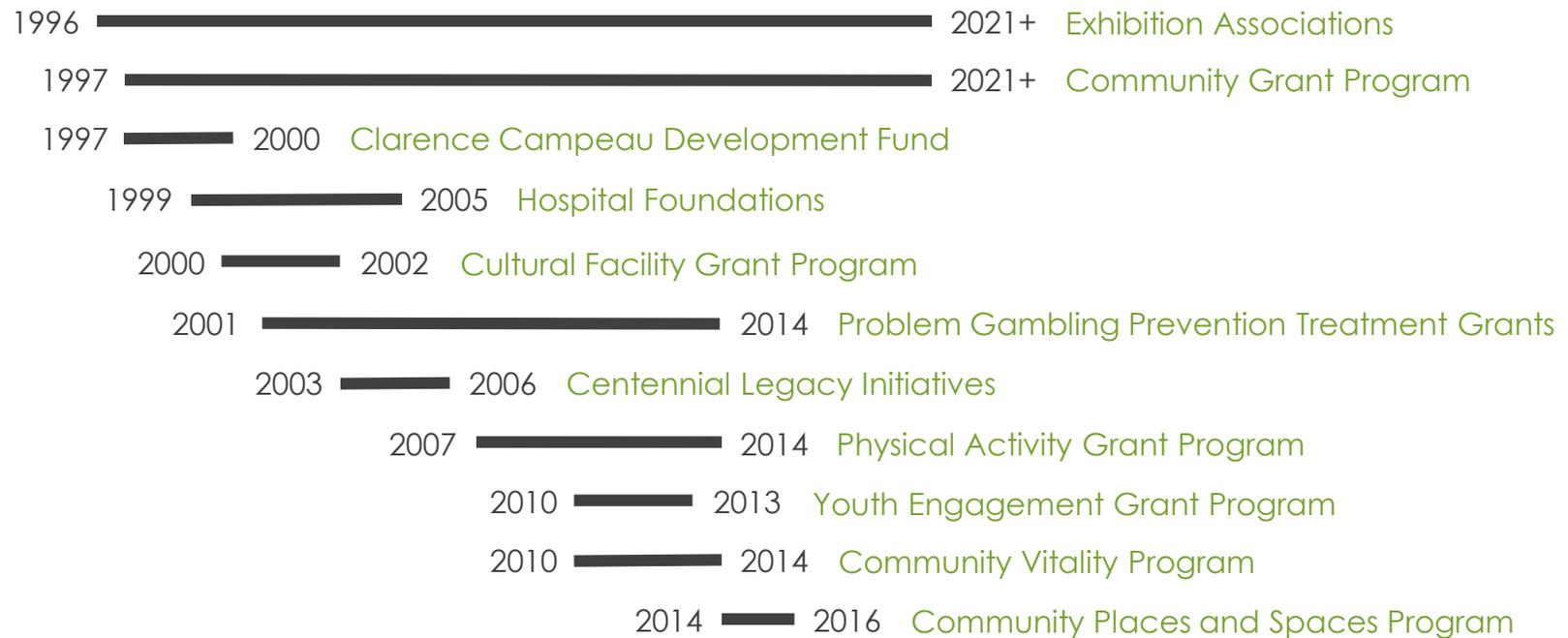
## 6,681 volunteers

were directly involved with the delivery of programs.

Volunteers contributed 163,607 hours to the delivery of CIF funded programs.

The number of grants approved as well as the range of programs, organizations, and communities supported by CIF is truly inspiring and reflects the dedication and hard work of the volunteers and community-based organizations across Saskatchewan. We extend our gratitude to the organizations and volunteers who ensure that individuals have access to services, supports, and programming designed to improve wellbeing.

# Grant Programs



# Grant Programs

Over the years, CIF funds have supported a wide variety of community-based programs; summer camps; provincial and municipal centennial celebrations; capital projects; physical activity initiatives; sport, culture and recreation opportunities; and much more.

The following pages provide a summary of the various grant programs offered by CIF during the past twenty-five years.



## Exhibition Associations 1996 - 2021+

The initial payments from CIF were directed to six of the province's Exhibition Associations that were directly affected by casino competition, including Battlefords Exhibition Association; Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition Association; Moose Jaw Exhibition Co. Ltd.; Prince Albert Exhibition Association; Swift Current Agricultural and Exhibition Association; and Yorkton Exhibition Association.

Following the opening of Casino Moose Jaw in 2002, payments to the Moose Jaw Exhibition have been distributed directly through the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation with CIF continuing to provide annual payments to the other five. These mitigation payments help offset the loss of gaming profits traditionally generated by the associations and support volunteer leadership and community development activities in their respective regions.



## Community Grant Program 1997 - 2021+

Throughout CIF's twenty-five year history the Community Grant Program has served as its core grant program. Grants through the program were first approved in May 1997.

CIF's Community Grant Program has historically supported a wide range of programs, and while specific priorities have changed over the years, the primary focus has been supporting children, youth and their families. Current priorities fall within one of three funding themes: healthy growth and development of children and youth; individual and community wellbeing; and nonprofit and community leadership. These programs provide positive opportunities for children and youth to grow and develop skills, self-esteem, and a healthy lifestyle; ensure families have access to support and resources to create healthy, caring and safe environments; and encourage and support individuals to become involved as active citizens, volunteers, and community leaders. Programs such as these allow communities to flourish through enhancing the wellbeing and quality of life of the people making up their communities.

2014/2015 marked a year of key program changes implemented by the CIF Board to provide simplified access to CIF's funding opportunities. These changes, effective April 1, 2014, saw a broadening of the Community Grant Program to include physical activity and problem gambling initiatives, support of nonprofits, youth engagement and leadership development, and community events that encourage cultural awareness. These enhancements allowed for the retirement of the Physical Activity, Problem Gambling and Community Vitality grant programs as of March 31, 2014.

The Summer Grant Program offered through CIF's Community Grant Program supports standalone summer programs for children and youth participants under 18 years of age. Types of programs typically supported include summer camps and day programs offering positive recreation, arts, culture, and learning opportunities for children and youth.



## Clarence Campeau Development Fund 1997 - 2000

As per *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act*, 25% of the net profits generated by the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation are distributed annually to CIF, and through an agreement with government, a portion of these funds are allocated to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to invest in the creation of jobs and business opportunities.

These investments are made through the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) whose mission is to improve the economic circumstances of Saskatchewan's Métis people by providing funding for business development, community economic development, development of management skills, and assistance to new and existing Métis-owned businesses. Beginning in 2001, funds to the CCDF have been distributed directly through government rather than through CIF.



## Hospital Foundations 1999 - 2005

Hospital Foundations' fundraising efforts were affected by the opening of the casinos, and in 1999 the Government authorized a one-time payment from CIF of \$1.2 million to mitigate the loss of break-open revenues incurred by the Hospital Foundations in Regina and Saskatoon, which includes the Royal University Hospital Foundation, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation, and the Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

The funding supported the purchase of capital and other special equipment by the Hospital Foundations. Additional and ongoing payments of \$300K annually to these organizations were part of a three-year distribution strategy. Payments to the Hospital Foundations were extended for an additional two-year period (to March 31, 2005) to coincide with the timeframe in place for the SLGA license for sale of the break-opens by these organizations.



## Cultural Facility Grant Program 2000 - 2002

The Cultural Facility Grant Program funded the construction or renovation of cultural facilities that were important to their communities and surrounding areas.

This program provided an opportunity to support Saskatchewan municipalities as they built or renovated cultural facilities that served a broad range of cultural and recreational purposes and provided long lasting benefits to facility users and to the communities where they were located.



## Problem Gambling Prevention Treatment Grants 2001 - 2014

Delivered in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health from 2001 - 2014, CIF contributed to programming that helped educate and prevent social harm associated with gambling addiction through two grant programs:

Problem Gambling Community Grants allowed local organizations to develop and deliver programs that included a range of education and health promotion strategies to strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities to identify and respond to gambling problems.

Problem Gambling Health District Treatment Grants were available to assist health districts in the development and delivery of treatment programs for clients assessed with problem gambling, or family members of individuals with gambling problems.

In 2014, CIF ceased its provision of treatment grants to the health districts, and amalgamated the community grants into its Community Grant Program.



## Centennial Legacy Initiatives 2003 - 2006

The Centennial Legacy Initiatives grant program was introduced to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saskatchewan in 2005.

Occurring in partnership with Sask Sport Inc., Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc., SaskCulture Inc., and other government and volunteer stakeholders, this grant program provided opportunities to mobilize and bridge the diverse people of our province, north and south, urban and rural.

Centennial grants supported homecomings, heritage commemorations, and encouraged intercultural understanding. Aboriginal participation and leadership development opportunities were created through Northern, provincial, and urban initiatives. This grant program offered a unique opportunity to introduce initiatives that made a lasting difference to future generations, supporting physical fitness, Aboriginal participation in sport, culture and recreation, and Centennial capital and programming initiatives.

The grant streams provided under the Centennial Legacy Initiatives program are included on the following pages.



### Northern Community School Coordinator Program (2003 - 2004)

This stream supported recreation coordinators working out of schools as a central hub, enabling a broad range of community activities. Sixteen community school recreation coordinators were added to Northern schools and a mentor position was developed to support and ensure the effectiveness of the program.

### Northern Leadership Initiative (2003 - 2004)

The Northern Leadership Initiative increased the capacity of Northern sport, culture, and recreation volunteers, youth, staff, and organizations to successfully develop and implement leadership initiatives which lead to the effective and efficient delivery of programs and services.

### Centennial Facilities Grant Program (2003 - 2006)

The Centennial Facilities grant supported community initiatives through funding the construction or renovation of sport, culture, recreation, and heritage facilities that significantly extended the facility's useful life while leaving a lasting legacy that built confidence and pride among Saskatchewan people.

### Celebrating Community Centennial Grant Program (2003 - 2006)

Unique programs were supported to create personal bonds and understanding among people from diverse communities. This program increased awareness and understanding of the cultural heritage of the province by encouraging people to come together and explore diversity.

### Aboriginal Provincial Initiatives Program (2003 - 2006)

Funding was provided to support the development and provision of First Nation and Métis sport, culture, and recreation initiatives that had provincial significance or that promoted Aboriginal heritage and culture.

### Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership (2003 - 2006)

This grant helped build capacity in Aboriginal communities through the development of arts and culture leaders and through creating cultural opportunities that enhanced skill development, personal growth and positive lifestyles, along with skills and training to work with and support cultural programming.

### Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program (2003 - 2014)

Delivered through 14 urban municipalities, CIF in partnership with the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, supported program development and leadership opportunities relating to culture, sport, and recreation for First Nations and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan. This grant program was continued beyond 2006 and was incorporated into the Community Grant Program in 2014.

### Urban Aboriginal Leadership Grant Program (2003 - 2014)

The cities of Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina were provided with a grant to develop and implement quality city-wide leadership and training initiatives for urban Aboriginal sport, culture, and recreation practitioners and volunteers through the assistance of a full-time person working in the sector. This grant program was continued beyond 2006 to 2014.





### *Saskatchewan in motion* (2003 - 2021)

Building on the success of the Saskatoon Health Region's *in motion* program, a group of partners introduced the provincial *in motion* program in 2003 as a three-year Centennial Project to mobilize Saskatchewan people to make physical activity an integral part of everyday life. Its aim was to foster changes in people's behavior, understanding, and participation around physical activity, its values, and benefits. Originally housed within the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, the program transferred to the newly incorporated Active Saskatchewan in 2015 and CIF continued to fund the program until March 2021.



### Centennial Heritage Commemoration Program (2004 - 2005)

This one-time grant program, administered by the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society, supported the development of walking trails, cairns, signs, monuments, plaques, murals, and heritage markers to communicate an aspect of Saskatchewan heritage through the creation of a permanent public display or project.

### Centennial Homecoming Program (2004 - 2005)

This grant, administered by the Saskatchewan Tourism Authority, provided funding to nonprofit organizations coordinating homecoming activities and events to attract people from at least 80 km outside of their community to celebrate the Saskatchewan centennial.



In 2006 - 2007, CIF's commitment to these centennial funding streams was complete. It was an honour to have been able to support the work of volunteers in communities throughout the province during this memorable occasion in our province's history.



## Physical Activity Grant Program 2007 - 2014

Beginning in 2007, the Physical Activity Grant Program supported active lifestyles and physical activity through local, regional, and provincial initiatives.

This grant program was delivered in partnership with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association until 2014, when the program was amalgamated into CIF's Community Grant Program.



## Youth Engagement Grant Program 2010 - 2013

CIF supports youth leadership as an integral part of its mandate to invest in Saskatchewan communities.

In 2010, CIF piloted the Youth Engagement Grant Program. CIF's program changes, effective April 2014, amalgamated youth engagement and leadership development within the Community Grant Program.



## Community Vitality Program 2010 - 2014

The Community Vitality Program was introduced as a three-year program in 2010 to help address community needs relating to small capital projects, and to celebrate community events and milestones. The Community Vitality Program was delivered with the assistance of volunteer adjudication committees. This program proved to be highly popular and was extended for an additional year until 2014.

With the retirement of the Community Vitality Program in March 2014, CIF introduced a new, two-year Community Places and Spaces Program to continue to provide grants to support small capital projects.



## Community Places & Spaces Program 2014 - 2016

Grants awarded through this program helped improve the quality, sustainability, and long-term use of multi-purpose facilities that were utilized as community gathering places, sites for programs and events, and spaces for outdoor activities.

Examples of projects included installing a wheelchair ramp at a local museum, new flooring in a community hall, reroofing a skating rink, or purchasing playground equipment. Through minor construction projects and upgrades, the lifespan and accessibility of multi-purpose facilities were enhanced, resulting in safe and inclusive spaces where people could learn and grow together – improving the quality of life of Saskatchewan residents.

Funded through CIF's accumulated surplus, the two-year program was extended to one additional application intake in October 2016 when the surplus was expended, marking the end of the Community Places and Spaces Program.

# Strategic Initiatives

In addition to our traditional grants, CIF will occasionally identify and support particular initiatives that involve and benefit a large number of partners, organizations, communities, or participants. Strategic Initiatives are projects that are longer-term and larger in nature than the programs funded through the regular grant application process.

These initiatives demonstrate strong alignment with CIF's mission, strategic directions, values, funding objectives, and priorities. As these projects are larger in scope, they are reviewed directly by the CIF Board and regular reporting is required to ensure the projects are meeting their objectives and demonstrating outcomes. In some cases CIF staff are also directly involved in these initiatives through participation on steering committees, etc.



## **Gambling Awareness Program**

Canadian Mental Health Association - Saskatchewan (2001 - current)

The Canadian Mental Health Association's Gambling Awareness Program (GAP) delivers community based prevention and education initiatives to strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities in Saskatchewan to gamble responsibly and to identify and respond to gambling problems. GAP helps to educate communities and groups about the facts and risks associated with gambling, and offers a closer look at how technology has begun to blur the lines between gambling and video gaming.



## **Saskatchewan *in motion***

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association / Active Saskatchewan (2003 - 2021)

Saskatchewan *in motion* was a province wide movement of decision makers, influencers, leaders, educators, organizations, and families working together toward a common goal: to get more kids, more active, more often. Their vision was that Saskatchewan children and youth will achieve the many benefits associated with participation in daily physical activity where they live, learn, and play.



**Healthy Start | Départ Santé**  
Réseau Santé en français  
de la Saskatchewan  
(2011 - 2021)

Healthy Start is a bilingual initiative developed in Saskatchewan that increases healthy eating and physical activity opportunities in early learning environments. Through a partnership of organizations led by the Réseau Santé en français de la Saskatchewan, Healthy Start offered a new approach that engaged directors, educators, cooks and parents, providing resources, training and ongoing support.



**MEND (Mind, Exercise,  
Nutrition, Do It!)**  
College of Kinesiology,  
University of Saskatchewan  
(2014 - 2016)

MEND offered free programming throughout the province focusing on the prevention and early intervention of childhood overweight and obesity among children aged 2-13 and their families. Through providing education, skills, and knowledge to children and families regarding healthy lifestyles, the program positively impacted children's overall health, self-confidence, self-esteem, and fitness levels.



**Dream Brokers**  
Give Kids a Chance Charity  
(2013 - current)

Dream Brokers facilitate the involvement and participation of children and youth in sports, culture and recreation activities and programs. The Dream Brokers program works in close partnership with select inner city schools and the community to connect children, youth and their families to eliminate barriers to participating in local programming in Saskatoon, Regina, Yorkton, North Battleford, and Prince Albert.



**Saskatchewan  
Nonprofit Partnership**  
Family Service Regina  
(2014, 2017 - 2018)

The Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership (formerly referenced as the Saskatchewan Network of Nonprofit Organizations or SNNO) is an informal partnership of organizations collaborating with one another and others toward the betterment of the nonprofit sector. Through research, networking, public awareness, sector strategy development, and thought leadership, SNP aspires to achieve a nonprofit sector that is widely recognized as a fundamental and essential contributor to Saskatchewan's success.



**Saskatchewan  
Index of Wellbeing**  
Heritage Saskatchewan  
Alliance Inc.  
(2015 - 2018)

The Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing provides insight and a better understanding of our provincial wellbeing and offers clear, effective, and regular information on the quality of life of Saskatchewan residents. The initial report has stimulated discussion about the types of policies, programs, and activities that would move Saskatchewan towards achieving wellbeing and encourages policy makers and government leaders to make decisions based on solid and compelling evidence.



**Nonprofit and Voluntary  
Sector Studies Network**  
Luther College,  
University of Regina  
(2015 - 2019)

The Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies Network (NVSSN) is an interdisciplinary, community-university collaborative, comprising students, the nonprofit sector and faculty/staff administered out of the NVSSN office at Luther College at the University of Regina. NVSSN's purpose is to develop a more direct and visible route for graduating students to enter careers in the sector through the creation of a certificate program, thus supporting the vitality of the sector and ultimately the wellbeing of Saskatchewan communities.



**Northern Community School  
& Recreation Coordinator  
Enhancement Project**  
Give Kids a Chance Charity  
(2016 - 2018)

This project increased capacity to offer more community-based sport, culture and recreation programs to children and youth across Northern Saskatchewan, including archery, canoeing, circus arts, astronomy and many other sports and activities.



**211 Saskatchewan  
Expansion Project**  
United Way Regina and United  
Way Saskatoon and Area  
(2018 - 2021)

The 211 Saskatchewan Expansion Project made 211 more accessible. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, in over 100 languages (including 17 Indigenous languages), 211 provides quick access to those requiring assistance. Calls to 211 are answered by certified information and referral specialists, who assess the needs of each caller and link them to the best available information and services by consulting a comprehensive, searchable database of over 5,000 government, and community based health and social services. Along with phone services, 211 offers text, online web chat and email services to help people find and navigate services.



**Ignite Potential  
through Mentorship**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Saskatchewan  
(2020 - current)

The Ignite Potential through Mentorship is a pilot collaboration between the 10 Big Brothers Big Sister agencies from across Saskatchewan and CIF to support local and provincial mentorship programming through one consolidated grant.

# Leadership Initiatives

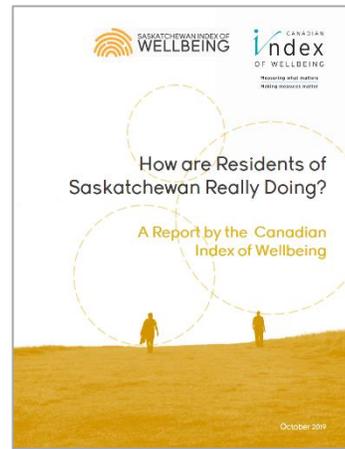
The delivery of grant programs is CIF's core purpose, however CIF has also had the opportunity to serve in a leadership or advisory role with several community-based initiatives. Involvement in these initiatives provide additional avenues for CIF to realize its mission, strategic directions, and funding priorities through the formal and informal participation of staff. Participation in these initiatives not only provides CIF an opportunity to contribute in non-financial ways; more importantly they increase our understanding of community and nonprofit sector priorities that inform our own planning and priority-setting.





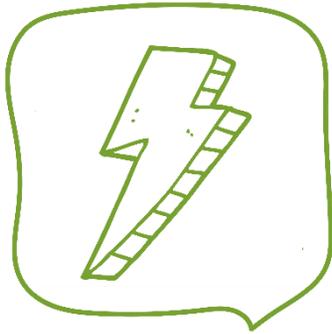
With a mandate to enhance quality of life for Saskatchewan residents, CIF has engaged in research initiatives to better understand residents' perceptions of quality of life in their communities.

Its first research report, *Living in Saskatchewan Communities: A Quality of Life Study*, was released in 2010. The report provided information about perceptions of quality of life and accessibility of programming in Saskatchewan communities.



More recently, CIF has partnered with Heritage Saskatchewan Alliance Inc. to develop SaskWellbeing, an initiative that encourages communities and decision-makers to consider all dimensions of wellbeing, and to engage in collaborative multi-sectoral approaches to improve quality of life for all citizens. As two organizations with mandates committed to enhancing quality of life for Saskatchewan residents, Heritage Saskatchewan and CIF released the first *Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing* report in October 2019. The report provides a better understanding of our provincial wellbeing and offers clear, effective, and evidenced-based information on the quality of life of Saskatchewan residents. Building upon the initial work with the Index, SaskWellbeing continues to provide resources, examples, and stories highlighting how a focus on wellbeing can be utilized to create a path forward, and support efforts to move wellbeing agendas forward locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

Other initiatives that have supported the wellbeing of children, youth, and communities more broadly include Healthy Start/Départ Santé and Saskatchewan *in motion*. In addition to its funding support, CIF served in an advisory capacity for both initiatives.



Recognizing that the nonprofit sector is a critical contributor to quality of life and wellbeing in Saskatchewan, the CIF Board has identified support of the sector as one of its three strategic directions. In addition to providing capacity building grants through the Community Grant Program's funding theme: Nonprofit and Community Leadership, CIF staff have participated in a number of sector-related initiatives during the past decade.



Since 2011, CIF has facilitated and supported the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership (SNP), an informal partnership of organizations collaborating with one another and others toward the betterment of the nonprofit sector. Through research, networking, public awareness, sector strategy development, and thought leadership, SNP aspires to achieve a nonprofit sector that is widely recognized as a fundamental and essential contributor to Saskatchewan's success.

To advance its work, SNP has hosted provincial summits that brought together sector leaders from across the province to identify and encourage collaboration on sector priorities; co-hosted learning opportunities with the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies Network; undertaken research to establish baseline data on the province's nonprofit sector as well as impacts of the pandemic; and introduced Volunteer Connector to Saskatchewan, a free platform for organizations to post volunteer positions and for volunteers to explore and apply to available opportunities. Through its role with SNP, CIF has had the opportunity to participate in pan-Canadian initiatives such as the Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks and the HR Council for the Voluntary Sector. SNP continues to promote sector-related information, resources and opportunities, and looks forward to re-convening sector leaders in the future.



Throughout its twenty-five years, CIF has collaborated with other funding organizations to share knowledge and practises, deliver grant programs, offer information and capacity building sessions for community organizations, and engage in joint initiatives such as the Grantmaking School in 2016 coordinated by CIF.

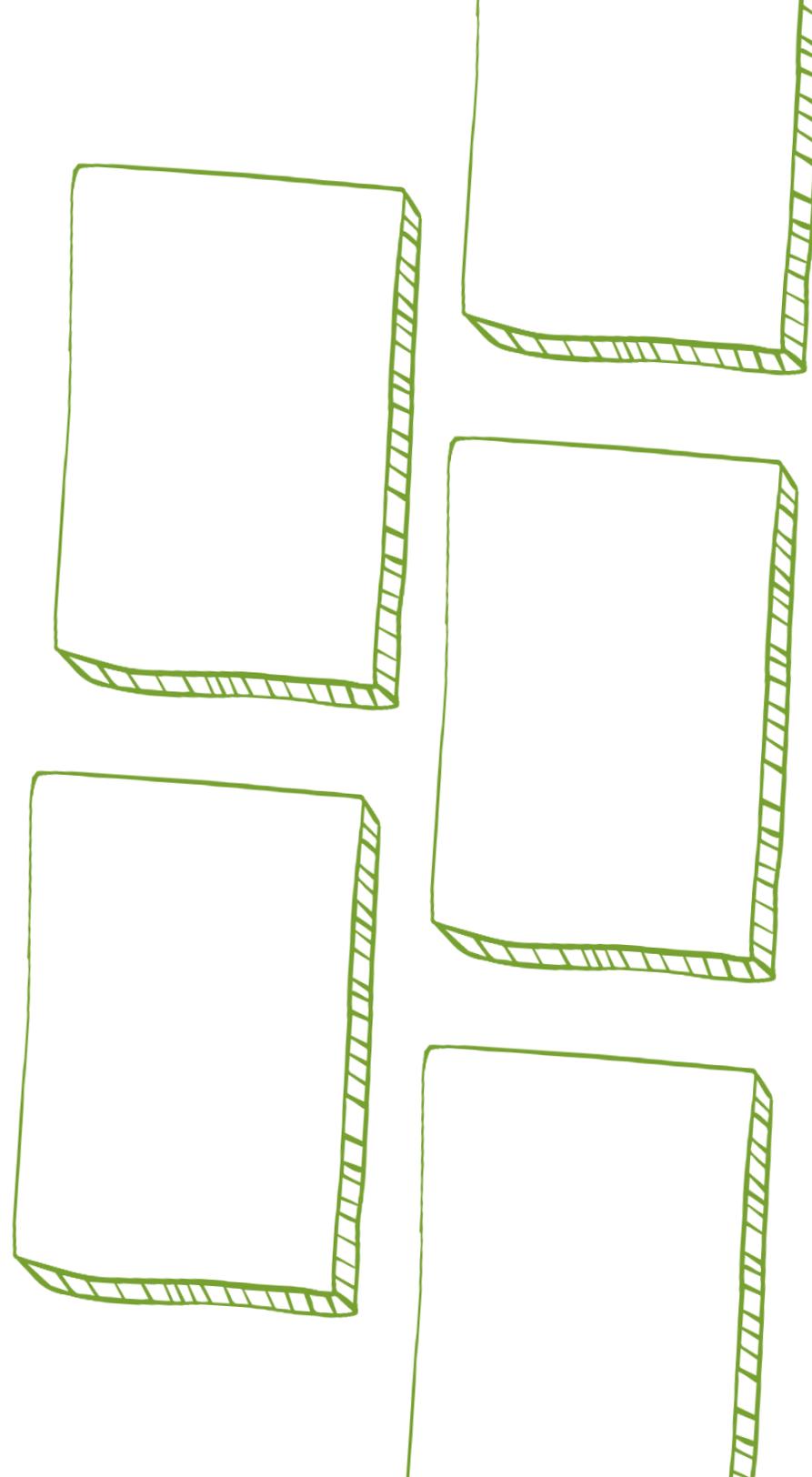


In 2014 CIF was invited to join the steering committee as a founding member for the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies Network (NVSSN) at Luther College, University of Regina. NVSSN's purpose is to develop a more direct and visible route for graduating students to enter careers in the nonprofit sector, thus supporting the vitality of the sector and ultimately the wellbeing of Saskatchewan communities. NVSSN launched its Nonprofit Sector Leadership and Innovation certificate program in September 2016 which is offered to both students and professionals working in the sector.

# Research Highlights

CIF supports and engages in research that is aligned with our mission, strategic goals, and funding priorities. This includes enhancing quality of life and wellbeing, supporting the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan, and evaluating our own progress in achieving our mission and strategic goals.

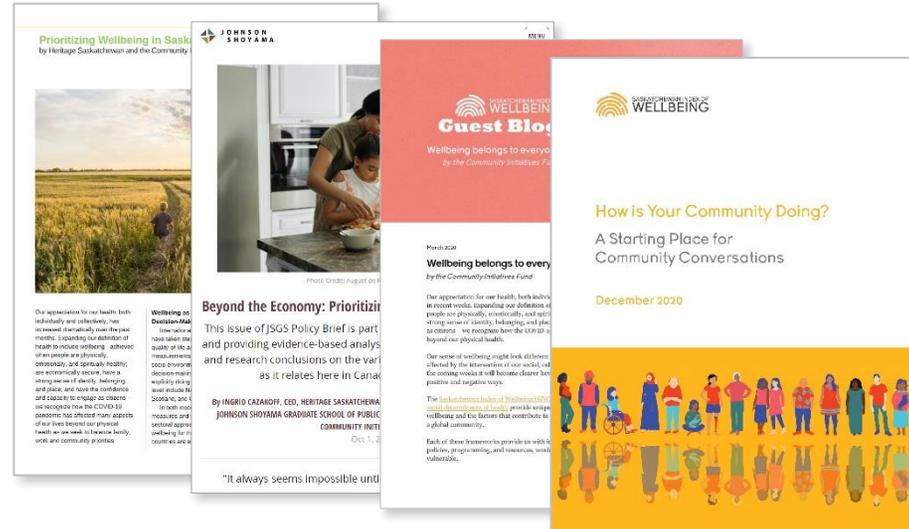
The following pages highlight several of the primary research initiatives we have undertaken over the past twenty-five years.



# Wellbeing Research

With a mandate to enhance quality of life in Saskatchewan communities, CIF has engaged in research to better understand and monitor the quality of life and wellbeing experienced by residents.

A key partnership with Heritage Saskatchewan Alliance Inc. has led to the development of SaskWellbeing, an initiative that encourages communities and decision-makers to consider all dimensions of wellbeing, and to engage in collaborative multi-sectoral approaches to improve quality of life for all citizens.



CIF co-authored a number of blogs and articles in 2020 promoting adoption of a wellbeing lens by decision-makers:

[Prioritizing Wellbeing in Saskatchewan Communities](#) encourages incorporating quality of life and wellbeing measurements into political, socio-environmental, and economic decision-making to improve wellbeing for citizens, using international examples.

[Beyond the Economy: Prioritizing Saskatchewan's Wellbeing](#) explores the need to shift from economic measures to what matters most – the wellbeing of people.

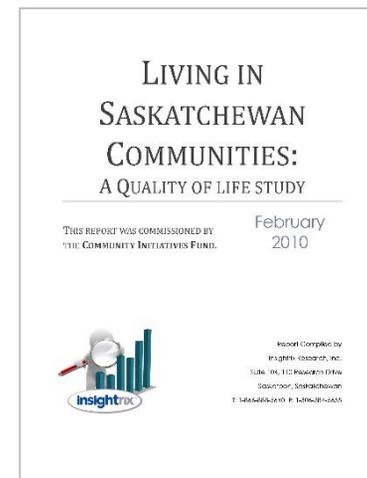
[How is Your Community Doing? A Starting Place for Community Conversations](#) was created as a starting place to ignite community conversations and actions centered around wellbeing in Saskatchewan.

[Wellbeing Belongs to Everyone](#) illustrates the need for individuals and families to have access to services, supports, and programming designed to nurture wellbeing.



## How are Residents of Saskatchewan Really Doing? A Report by the Canadian Index of Wellbeing

In October 2019, the *Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing* report prepared by CIF, Heritage Saskatchewan, and the Canadian Index of Wellbeing through the University of Waterloo was released. This report was accompanied by a Technical Report, Abstract, Summary Report, and Presentation. The report and supplementary resources provides evidence of how Saskatchewan citizens are faring based on eight inter-connected domains of wellbeing. The report is designed to inform policies, decisions and actions at local, regional, and provincial levels to improve wellbeing in our communities.



## Living in Saskatchewan Communities: A Quality of Life Study

In February 2010, results of the survey *Living in Saskatchewan Communities: A Quality of Life Study* were released. The study was conducted on behalf of CIF by Insightrix Research Inc. with over 4,000 Saskatchewan households to understand residents' perceptions of access to, and use of, programs and services in their communities. It was also designed to assess residents' perceptions of the quality of life in their communities.

# Nonprofit Sector Research

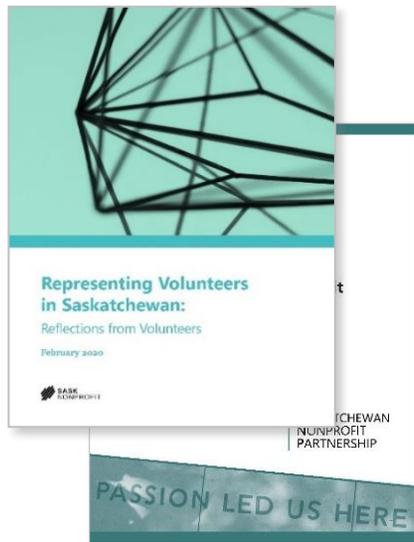
Nonprofit organizations and community groups are integral to the wellbeing and quality of life of residents throughout Saskatchewan. As providers of critical programs and services, CIF is committed to supporting and strengthening the nonprofit sector in our province, through both our grant programs and our participation in sector-focused initiatives.

CIF is a founding member of the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership (SNP), a collaborative initiative to increase awareness of the value of the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan.



## [Saskatchewan Nonprofits & COVID-19: Impact Summary Report](#)

This survey was conducted in 2020 to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the operations and program delivery of nonprofit organizations in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan nonprofits and charities were invited to complete the survey between March 27 and April 3, 2020, and garnered 522 responses.



CIF has been actively engaged in several research initiatives undertaken by SNP that reveal the social and economic impacts of the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan.

Representing Volunteers in Saskatchewan: Reflections from Volunteers

Individuals across Saskatchewan shared their perspectives and experiences on volunteering, in a survey distributed in 2019. The survey results provide insights into the types of activities volunteers are seeking and how people like to volunteer. This report increases our understanding of volunteerism in Saskatchewan, helping community organizations design opportunities that will engage individuals as volunteers.

Saskatchewan Social Enterprise Sector Survey

In 2015, the first profile of social enterprises in Saskatchewan was prepared in partnership with Mount Royal University, Simon Fraser University, CIF, and SNP. This research identified the ways in which nonprofits in Saskatchewan sell goods or services with the purpose of generating revenues while achieving social, cultural, and/or environmental outcomes.

Saskatchewan Network of Nonprofit Organizations: Feasibility Study & Organizational Options

In 2012, CIF provided financial and in-kind support to explore the concept and feasibility of an independent Saskatchewan nonprofit network. This initiative undertook a number of steps to determine the level of support, potential outcomes, and organizational models for a provincial network. This study along with a Provincial Summit involving 150 sector leaders resulted in agreement to further develop this network, now known as the Saskatchewan Nonprofit Partnership.



A Profile of the Nonprofit Sector in Saskatchewan: An Overview

SNP undertook the first-ever survey of the nonprofit sector in Saskatchewan in 2018. The report, accompanied by an infographic and presentation, provides an overview of key characteristics of nonprofit organizations and the significant impact of the sector in our province.

# Evaluation and Learning

CIF is committed to continuous learning and improvement, with feedback from our stakeholders comprising an essential part of our ongoing evaluation strategy. Input received helps us to assess the relevance and responsiveness of our funding themes to community priorities; understand our relationship with grant applicants and recipients; and informs the development of resources and communications designed to assist organizations throughout the grant program administration cycle.



The *Community Perspectives Survey*, first undertaken in 2016, was repeated in 2019 to evaluate stakeholders' experiences with CIF and our grant program processes, as well as to enhance CIF's understanding of current and emerging community priorities. In 2021, CIF's survey explored the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on community-based programming.

In 2013, CIF and United Way Regina collaborated to examine the outcomes/impacts achieved by the organizations they fund. Dr. Gloria DeSantis was contracted and developed the report *Exploring Determinants of Health, Interventions and Outcomes Reported by CIF Funded Organizations: A Discussion Document*.

Back in 2009, The Evaluation Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (now Parks, Culture and Sport) in collaboration with CIF, released 3 internal reports: an Applicant Survey; a Regional Intersectoral Committee and Urban Aboriginal Adjudication Committee Member Survey; and a Municipal Administrator Survey. These surveys and reports were followed by a public report in 2010: [\*Living in Saskatchewan Communities: A Quality of Life Study\*](#).

# Funded Publications

Below is a sampling of publications from other organizations that CIF has helped fund over the years through our various grant programs.



## [Honouring Her Spark: A Saskatchewan Indigenous Woman's Economic Framework](#)

This framework, prepared by the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan in 2020, looks to improve the economic landscape for Indigenous women in Saskatchewan. Its main objective is to facilitate collaboration working towards positive economic change for Indigenous women with multiple stakeholders.



## [A Round for Fifty Years: A History of Regina's Globe Theatre](#)

A History of Regina's Globe Theatre developed by Gerald Hill in 2015 takes you on a journey through the history of the only professional theatre-in-the-round in Canada, the Globe Theatre.



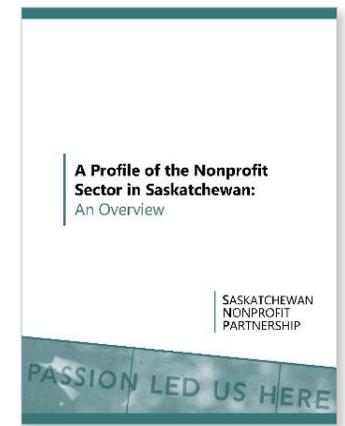
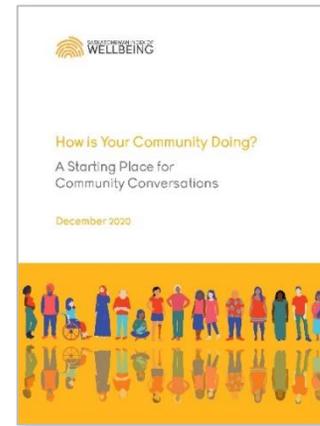
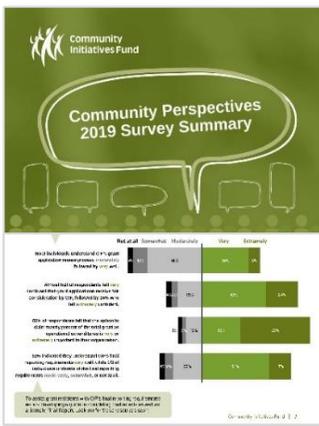
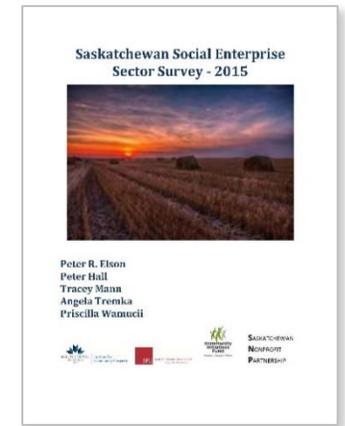
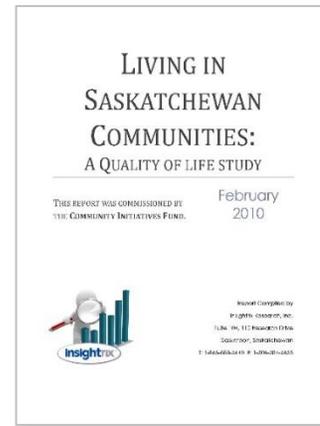
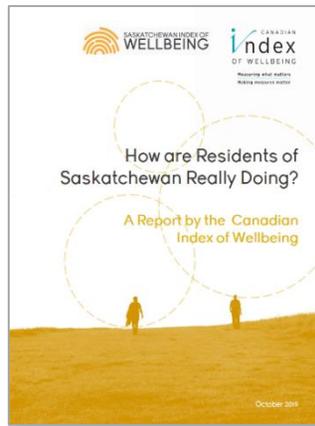
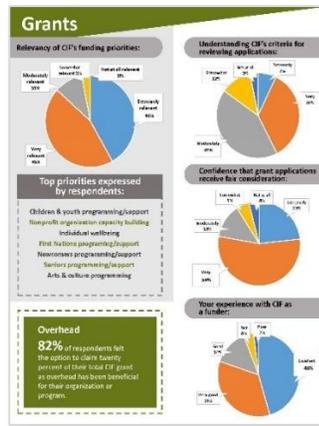
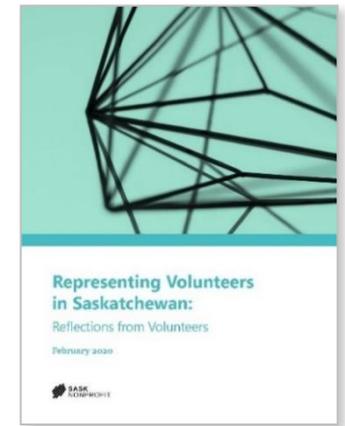
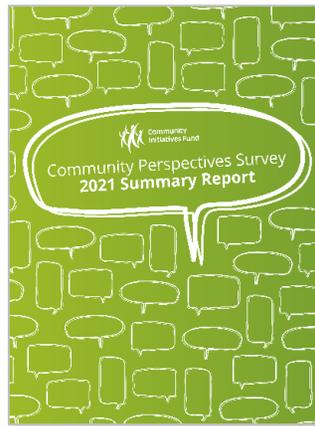
## [Hello In There, Hello Out There](#)

An interactive art project by Common Weal Community Arts in 2014 engaged senior citizens living in residential facilities through inviting them to share personal narratives, life stories, and memories. Participants were guided through workshops to make a selected story or memory accessible to others through the creation of a personal art project. These stories were collected and made into a publication.



## [The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan](#)

The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan was developed in 2005 by the Canadian Plains Research Centre to celebrate Saskatchewan's centennial, capturing the breadth of the province's history, knowledge, and achievements. The Encyclopedia is a dynamic compendium of knowledge on Saskatchewan and its place in the world. It celebrates the many significant achievements in the province's history and has made information about the province readily available.



# Community Stories

Take a walk with us through the past twenty-five years as we highlight stories of programs we have helped fund. Since 1997 we have been sharing and celebrating these unique programs and projects, showcasing the important work of these organizations throughout the province.

We appreciate being a part of these Saskatchewan stories and look forward to helping write many more inspiring stories in the years to come.



# 1997

## Summer Active '97 Shaunavon

When Nelson, a member of the Shaunavon Community Action Team heard about the Associated Entities Fund (AEF, now known as the Community Initiatives Fund), she began organizing other community members to develop a summer program for kids using AEF grant money. The end result was the Summer Active program.

“It was designed to offer healthy, active activities and to give parents and youth an opportunity for some fun summer activities,” explained Nelson. A wide variety of programs were developed for youth aged 9-18, and some events attracted over 100 youngsters. The school gym and the arena were popular venues for volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, and rollerblading. Art classes were offered for sketching, watercolors, and sculpting. A scuba clinic gave kids exposure to an entirely new sport.

A music celebration called “Splash Night” took place at the swimming pool in which three local youth bands were recruited to exhibit their talent. The “Whale of a Beach” party was another successful outing in which 80 youth participated in volleyball, basketball, water polo, and skateboarding. Sport clinics were held in conjunction with the Zone 3 Sport Council, introducing kids to sports such as fencing, lacrosse, wrestling, and cycling. A Texas scramble golf tournament and scavenger hunt throughout the community were also popular.

A community member’s two sons enjoyed many of the activities that were available. Without the program, she said the family probably would have to drive to a larger centre. “Being in a smaller centre, they usually only have access to traditional sports such as hockey and curling. Through the program they were able to enjoy sports like scuba diving and fencing. The new sports were affordable and really interesting, and they may be interested in learning more about them when they go to university.”

“If I didn’t have the grant, then there’s no way we would be able to do this kind of programming. The town certainly doesn’t have this kind of funding, so we really depend on this fund,” Nelson shared.

# 1998

## Churchill Learning Centre La Ronge

“Some youth tend not to fit into the conventional education system,” shared Chris Todd, Churchill School principal. That’s why Churchill sprang to action and developed an innovative learning centre in downtown La Ronge. “We developed an extension of our school in the downtown, designed for youth ages 13-17 who don’t follow normal attendance patterns,” said Todd.

Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) funds have been used in a variety of ways, including anger management courses, Elder talks, and St. John’s Ambulance first aid courses. “We even had four students go out on a trap line. We wanted to give them trapping experience. That’s something that is hard to evaluate with a Grade 8 report card, but we wanted to give them the opportunity to learn.”

“About 30 students are taking Grade 7-10 courses at the school,” shared Todd. “Some of these students have never even been registered in high school before, so it has been an outstanding success.” Students do not have to attend everyday. Their grades are based upon what they learn when they are there and the education is geared towards knowledge that the students want to learn.

“I’d give CIF a resounding thumbs up,” declared Todd. “It’s very well administered and has allowed us to go beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic.”



# 1999

## Fun in the Summer Swift Current

The Saskatchewan Abilities Council (SAC) in Swift Current was concerned that there weren't activities for children with severe disabilities in the community during the summer. With a CIF grant, the organization developed a *Fun in the Summer* program which strived to create a safe, supportive, and fun environment, providing children and youth with the opportunity to gain new experiences, make new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy a variety of activities.

"By the end of summer, parents shared that their kids had never before done such a variety of activities and that they learned so much in the program," said Irene Enns, SAC Regional Director.

Two coordinators were hired to develop and implement the activities. The children enjoyed everything from waterslides, horseback riding, planting, and caring for flowers. They also went bowling, watched magic shows, attended soccer clinics, and made puppets. Before the program began, the coordinators met with the participant's families to understand the children's abilities and keep track of their progress in the program.

"The kids were shy at the beginning of the program, but within a few days they were interacting with each other. We found that the interaction made the kids more open and they showed lots of improvement in their social development. We also received many positive comments from parents on the way their kids had improved behaviours at home and they later found it easier to make the transition back to school," said Ennes. She adds that even with volunteer assistance and donations from the community, the program likely would never have taken place without CIF. "This type of funding is very significant for us," she said. "There's no other program like it."

# 2000

## Micisotan – Let's Eat Cumberland

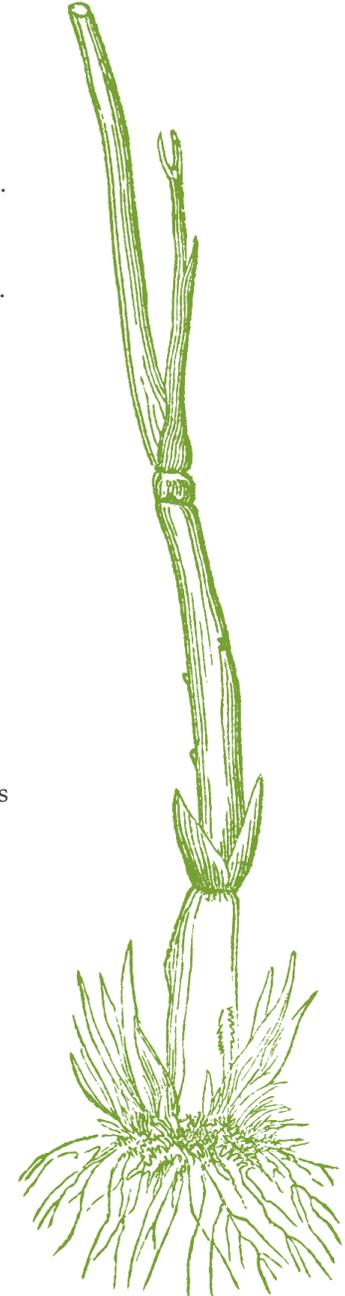
Awasisak Headstart, an indigenous youth agency, Charlebois Community School, and Saskatchewan Social Services had operated a nutrition program in Cumberland for several years, but the program was in danger of ending due to a shortage of funding. Thanks to CIF, the program continued, allowing children and families to become more aware of nutrition by making their own budget friendly meals.

Some of the activities included:

- *Cooking in Your Garden* – where a nutrition coordinator assisted in meal preparation;
- *Grow a Garden* – where participants plant a garden, tended to it over the summer, and preserved the produce;
- *Cultural Foods* – where cultural activities included picking, cooking and preserving berries and preparing moose, fish, and waterfowl; and
- *Pick a Snack Micisotan* – where parents were encouraged to assist in the preparation of snacks for children.

The program had numerous benefits and participants learned the cultural experience of food preparation and preservation, which is quickly becoming lost among the younger generation.

A variety of other organizations participated in this program including the local Outfitters Association, Cumberland Health Centre, and the municipal council.



## 2001

### Jasper Cultural & Historical Centre Maple Creek

The Jasper Cultural and Historical Centre used CIF funding to develop a program to keep children of lower income families involved in healthy, positive activities. From scavenger hunts and reading nature books, to making lariats and playing musical instruments, children in Maple Creek had plenty of activities to participate in during the summer.

"For children at risk, there are no summer programs. Without the means to purchase a pass at the pool, there is little available for these children to do. The summer programming for children is valuable to this community. The program offers a wide variety of activities for children ages 5-10, in an atmosphere which is comfortable, yet structured," shared volunteer Leslie Shirley.

The Jasper Centre worked in partnership with other community organizations such as the Maple Creek Library Board, the Maple Creek Recreation Board, and the local Guides. These organizations provided funds, volunteers, and facilities to assist with the program.

"We incorporated a host of ideas in our program, from setting up the Olympic Games, to holding a language learning day where members of the community came and taught the children words and phrases," said Sally Douglas, manager of the Jasper Centre.

Lynette Rowley of the Maple Creek Community Action Team stated the program provides tremendous benefits for the town. "This program ... gives many children the opportunity to take part in organized cultural projects. It also provides children another education alternative to occupy their time throughout the summer months. As well, it adds to the development of these children in that they learn new skills, develop social skills, gain a sense of belonging, and enhance their self-esteem."

## 2002

### Buddies With Books Tisdale

The Buddies with Books program was developed by the North East Early Childhood Intervention Program and Tisdale Middle and Secondary School. With CIF assistance, daycare children aged 2-5 years were paired with Grade 6 students in a unique reading program.

Low literacy students from the school were encouraged to read books to the younger children. The older students learned how to appreciate and enjoy sharing books with pre-school children, which improved their literacy skills.

The program was effective in several ways. Adolescents increased their self-esteem and developed new life-long skills, and they learned how to become leaders through literacy.

"The daycare children received one-on-one reading and specialized crafts and activities to expand the books," shared Faye Goos of North East Early Childhood Intervention. "The readers felt in control as they were the teachers for all activities. These were all prepared and practiced before delivering."

All of the participants indicated that they would take the program again. As one Grade 6 student indicated, "I would (participate again) because those little kids are so cute and I would like to read to them more often."



## 2003

### Good Food Box Program Tisdale/Melfort Area

Healthy eating is the cornerstone to achieving optimal wellness. To achieve this, it is necessary to have sufficient resources to afford healthy foods as well as the knowledge to make nutritious choices. The Tisdale and Area Community Action Co-operative Ltd. and the Food for All Coalition in Melfort partnered to create the North East Regional Good Food Box Program, which was designed to meet the needs in this area. The Good Food Box contained fruits and vegetables that were offered to families at wholesale prices.

Using CIF funds, these organizations made bulk purchases from local producers and had volunteers assemble and distribute the boxes. Each box contained food preservation tips, recipes, and nutrition information on current food-related issues.

The boxes were distributed to residents of Tisdale, Kinistin First Nation, Yellow Quill First Nation, Melfort, Naicam, Pleasantdale, Star City, Nipawin, Shoal Lake, and Red Earth. The program filled a special need in communities that did not have easy access to affordable fresh produce, with an emphasis on individuals with an increased risk of developing health problems, particularly Type II Diabetes.

The Good Food Box program is the first of its kind in Canada. It is unique because it is truly a rural based program with some volunteers traveling up to four hours to ensure the needs of their community are met.

## 2004

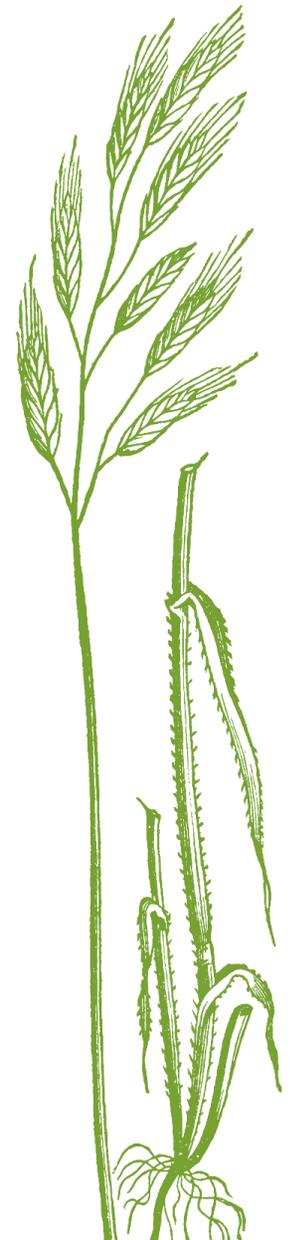
### Construction of an Eco-Centre Craik

CIF helped fund the construction of the Eco-Centre project through the Centennial Facilities grant program. The town of Craik, with a futuristic eye to conservation, developed the Craik Sustainable Living Project. The town came up with an idea to establish an Eco-Village by providing 127 acres of free land to anyone serious about building energy-efficient houses. This offer could be taken advantage of by prospective builders who first came up with both an energy-efficient house plan and a business plan proving that they could make at least 50% of their living off the land.

The Eco-Centre was built as a demonstration building and housed a restaurant, two meeting rooms and a pro golf shop. The facility had more energy efficient systems than any other building in Canada. Most of the building materials were recycled, such as the timbers and the bricks for the oven. Straw bales were used for insulating walls. Recycled timber was also used in making the furniture. Passive solar heat systems were added to provide energy and a system to collect rainwater was installed. The Eco-Centre was the only commercial building in Saskatchewan that does not add chlorine to its water.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities presented a CH2M Hill National Award to the Eco-Centre for its sustainability. Dr. Lynn Oliphant had also received an award through the Royal Canadian Geographic Society for assisting the Craik community with this project.

A high level of support and volunteerism during the project increased community awareness and a sense of project ownership. More than a dozen jobs were created during the construction phase, with 14 jobs at the Eco-Centre along with part-time positions in the summer.



## 2005

### Prairie Roots Prince Albert Youth Hip Hop Music Collaboration Project Prince Albert

The Prairie Roots Youth Hip Hop Music Collaboration Project received funding from CIF to have professional performing artists link with youth from various backgrounds. The hands-on, music-based program was available without charge to youth of any background. The project involved over 850 participants and received strong support from both the community and media.

Through the mediums of hip hop music and rap-poetry, the youth developed new artistic skills while learning from affirmative role models, including Indigenous artists and leaders. The artists focused on lyrics with upbeat messages and encouraged the youth to develop a positive self-image. Participants were taught songwriting, physical conditioning, production, and confidence.

The youth used hip hop to speak about the social and cultural issues relevant to them. In more advanced workshops, they created music and worked toward producing their own CDs. Local performance nights gave the youth opportunities to showcase their performances within schools and the community, and to perform before an audience of 1,200 at the Youth Arts Festival.

## 2006

### Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre Lloydminster Area

With the assistance of a CIF grant, the Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre and the Thunderchild First Nation created a summer camp for 80 children, aged 11-13, primarily from low-income families of the Thunderchild First Nations communities.

The camp, which was held in Lloydminster and surrounding area, provided hands-on learning experiences in a variety of areas including archaeology, Indigenous culture, geology, art, camping, and recreation.

Over eight days, children participated in daily culture and recreation activities, including cultural camps, excavations and survival treks. The goal was to teach about history, discourage racism and discrimination, and to provide a fun and educational experience for children.



## 2007

### Kids in Action – Blackstrap Regional Recreation Association Watrous Area

Kids in Action is a summer recreation program offered free of charge for children aged 5-12. The program is hosted by communities throughout the Blackstrap Regional Recreation Association. In order to meet the challenges of delivering the program over a rural area, the recreation associations of seven communities in the region pooled their available resources to offer the program across the whole region. Communities in the region that did not have a summer activity program were given first opportunity to host the program.

By contributing to regional delivery of the program, CIF helped the Blackstrap Regional Recreation Association and its partners to provide summer activity opportunities for children in rural communities who would not otherwise have access to summer programs. Thanks to the CIF grant, Kids in Action was able to offer free admission to its program, which played a huge role in lowering barriers to participation for children, especially in communities that lacked recreational infrastructure such as swimming pools or recreation centres.

In 2007 about 500 children took part in the Kids in Action program. The program also partnered with Saskatoon *in motion* to introduce children to regular physical activity.

## 2008

### Youth Conference to Combat Lateral Violence Sandy Bay Area

The Northern Village of Sandy Bay received a CIF grant to hold the 2nd Annual Youth Conference to Combat Lateral Violence. The 3 day conference, which took place in October 2008, focused on helping participants address, resolve, and ultimately prevent lateral violence, alcohol addiction, self-esteem issues, gangs, and drug use. A total of 500 participants from the communities of Sandy Bay, Sturgeon Landing, and Pelican Narrows came together for the conference. The majority of participants were of First Nations and Métis ancestry, with 300 students between the ages of 13 and 19.

The conference provided leadership development opportunities for youth, parents, school staff, and community members. Sandy Bay's Junior Mayor and Council, a committee comprised of seven local youth, took a leadership role in the event by helping to select, plan, and co-facilitate sessions. High school students 15-18 years of age also learned about leadership during a workshop provided by Youth Launch.

Leaders from the Sandy Bay community also played a role in the event, encouraging others to become leaders. Fourteen community role models spoke during panel presentations about their education, careers, and leading a healthy family lifestyle. They provided insight into various careers that youth can pursue, including education, social work, justice, mining, Indigenous studies, trades, health, dentistry, and administration.

The conference included keynote speaker, Vera Tourangeau, who spoke about the difficult situations facing some Indigenous children and youth. As well, the Native Art Theatre company presented *Bye Bye Beneshe*, spoken entirely in the Cree language and youth square dancers from Pelican Narrows performed with Sandy Bay student jiggers, hoop dancers, and rap dancers.



## 2009

### Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System Boreal Forest Storytelling Tour Air Ronge

The Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System received a CIF grant for the Boreal Forest Storytelling Tour, which took place at several schools in 2009.

This cultural event used the tradition of Indigenous storytelling to increase cultural and educational involvement in isolated communities, while providing information about Saskatchewan's northern boreal forests.

This type of outreach is important in northern communities with high First Nations populations because it established the importance of storytelling to protect cultural, social, and personal values.

The Boreal Forest Storytelling Tour also provided a creative and unique medium to teach children about their immediate surroundings, and environmental issues such as deforestation. Presentations have been well-received by teachers and students.

## 2010

### Moxie Club Moose Jaw

The Moxie Club of Moose Jaw works with children and teens with autism to improve social skills and help with community integration. This work continues because of a grant from CIF.

"We've designed our program to help participants develop coping and social skills to help them function in our imperfect world." said Sharon Bourdeau, coordinator for the Moxie Club and community services coordinator with the Moose Jaw Association of Community Living. Sharon enlists the consultants, develops the program, books the activities, secures the venues for participants, and proposes funding.

"CIF's grant is helping the Moxie Club address this need," shared Sharon. "With CIF's assistance we've now got a great program, and interest is steadily growing."

Sharon concludes that CIF's assistance with the Moxie Club, "... has considerable vision associated with it, and really understands how to help our community."



## 2011

### Rink Renovations and Heritage Property Restoration Kronau

The Kronau Community Revitalization Committee received a CIF grant for rink renovations and the Kronau Museum Heritage Committee received support for its Saar School restoration project through CIF's Community Vitality Program.

"We're pleased to contribute to Kronau's community projects." Tracey Mann, Executive Director of the Community Initiatives Fund said. "When community members invest their time and efforts to restore and enhance their communities in the spirit of partnership, I'm pleased the Community Initiatives Fund is able to support and promote these community efforts."

"The important things that make up strong communities are clearly demonstrated in Kronau," Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Bill Hutchinson said. "The rink renovation and heritage property restoration projects are shining examples of the amazing teamwork and outstanding community pride that improves sense of place and helps Saskatchewan move forward."

## 2012

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Morse Morse

A brief gathering of almost 30 people in Morse helped kick off Morse's upcoming 100 year anniversary celebrations and explain how CIF, specifically through its Community Vitality Program, supports community projects like the celebrations planned for Morse.

"Morse is deep into planning for its 100th anniversary celebrations," says Tracey Mann, Executive Director of the Community Initiatives Fund. "As the program name suggests, the grants help infuse vitality into communities by bringing people together and contributing to huge milestone celebrations like this."

"I am glad we are able to support the community of Morse in its planning to celebrate this significant milestone in the town's history," Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Bill Hutchinson said. "I think it is important to celebrate our heritage as we look to the future with renewed optimism. This government is committed to improving community quality of life and making Saskatchewan stronger, and a great way do that is with investments from the Community Initiatives Fund."

Just over 200 residents of Morse will welcome hundreds more in August 2012, when the town officially celebrates its homecoming of the Century.



## 2013

### School Playground Air Ronge

New playground equipment for pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 students now benefits the entire community around the Gordon Denny Community School, located about 5 minutes south of La Ronge in the village of Air Ronge.

Student enrollment at this northern Saskatchewan school has steadily increased since 1992. With almost 275 students attending, the Gordon Denny Community School Playground Committee set out to provide safe and inviting playground equipment for the students and their families to help encourage a healthy and active lifestyle.

“We wanted our students and their families to enjoy being outdoors, getting fresh air and being physically active,” shared Laura Park, Resource Teacher and Playground Revitalization Committee member. “The bonus as we see it is that many more from our community, those living nearby and the extended families of those who attended the school, are also drawn to the new playground structure.”

With enormous collective pride, the new playground equipment quickly became a daily highlight for the students and their families. “The kids love the new playground! Rain or shine, they are physically engaged,” said Laura. “We could not have created this heart-warming community hub of activities without the grant from CIF.”

## 2014

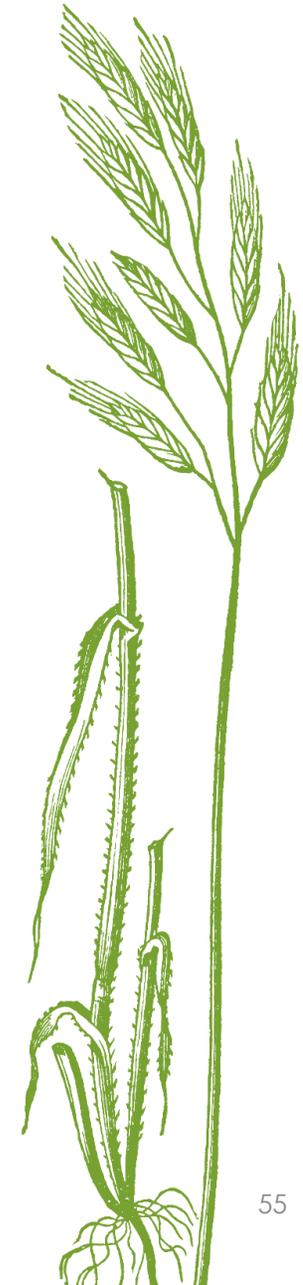
### Community Kitchens Program Moose Jaw

Moose Jaw’s Community Kitchens Program, supported in part through a grant from CIF, is helping this community’s most vulnerable children and families learn the basics of nutrition and healthy eating, food preparation, and safe food storage.

Delivered by Hunger in Moose Jaw Inc., the Community Kitchens Program provides weekly food preparation classes, mostly to young single mothers (ages 18-30) and youth (ages 9-12), that cover the basics of cooking and healthy eating. Participants are charged a nominal fee to enroll – but only if they are able to pay – and are provided free transportation and babysitting while attending, as needed.

“Many of those who come to our classes have never had the opportunity to learn from or help their parents prepare meals,” said Carol Action, Executive Director of Hunger in Moose Jaw Inc. “These weekly skill-building sessions promote both socialization and learning among participants. Overall, without the CIF grant we could not have adequately run this great program.”

Those participating learn to prepare nutritious and well-balanced meals that generally include protein, vegetables, a salad, and dessert such as smoothies or fruit salads. Weekly classes run from 6-8 weeks and on the last day of class participants are invited to prepare an entire meal for their families and take their personalized cookbook of basic nutritious recipes home with them.



# 2015

## Rural Outreach Project Provincial

TransSask Support Services' Rural Outreach Project was developed in 2015 with the drive to bring information and opportunities for education and training about Saskatchewan's transgender community to groups and organizations located in areas outside the cities of Saskatoon and Regina.

The Rural Outreach Project has two target audiences: 1) rural area service providers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other groups; and 2) transgender people. "Through working together with rural area service providers, we hope to offer training and information, and through partnership with these service providers, ultimately make available a network of resources and support accessible by transgender folk living in rural Saskatchewan," shared Mikayla Schultz, Executive Director of TransSask Support Services Inc.

"Our very first funding opportunity, thanks to CIF, has provided us the chance to employ a transgender individual, improving their quality of life immensely. Because of extremely high levels of oppression and discrimination, transgender people often find themselves unemployed and living in poverty. We are really excited to be able to provide opportunity to our community," highlighted Schultz.

The project will bring to many people a source of information and support where they would otherwise not have. Through training opportunities, TransSask Support Services hopes to help service providers better understand transgender people and their obligations to serve them as they would any other person, in spite of current stigmas. "It goes without saying, this increase of awareness by rural area service providers will make for improved conditions for transgender folk in their day to day interactions within their local communities," said Schultz.

# 2016

## Enabling Inclusive Arts Regina

Listen To Dis' (LTD) offers workshops, performances, and touring opportunities for variously-abled Saskatchewan artists. Their main objective is to establish sustainable cross-abilities arts programming to connect people living with disabilities to the larger community. In 2016, LTD put on a show called Neither Heroes Nor Ordinary People to over 1000 people. "I need to go home and rethink everything I thought I knew and understood about this (disability)" was what one audience member in particular expressed after seeing the show.

This program targets anyone living with a disability that wants to spread their creative wings. It reaches many different communities including various disability communities, the arts community, agencies and their employees working with marginalized people, and a broad spectrum of others who make up LTD's audiences.

"The quality of our member's lives have been profoundly affected," shared Traci Foster, Director of LTD. "We have members who have started working, gone to university, and have been given opportunities in professional arts and as public speakers because of our programming. People underestimate the effect art has on skill development and confidence. It gives a voice to those who do not feel heard."

"We have seen so many amazing transformations. Eva is a longtime member who lives with Autism," shared Foster. "When Eva began she was very quiet and generally did not speak to anyone except close family members and friends. It was believed that she could not read or write. Since being involved in the arts programming (6 years), Eva not only reads and writes but she volunteers time and time again to perform on stage for large audiences. Apparently, she is one of the most vocal Regina Pats fans out there now!"

"The true integration and acceptance of the broader community has changed the way each and every member feels about themselves and the world around them," said Foster.



# 2017

## Resettlement Initiatives for Support & Empowerment Saskatoon

The Resettlement Initiatives for Support and Empowerment (RISE) is designed to help newcomer, immigrant, and refugee families become full participating members of Canadian society through the provision of free and uniquely designed settlement and integration programs and services. This program provides supports to participants and creates opportunities for empowerment. It is divided into two programming streams: Beyond 55 for seniors and the Bridging Program for women.

The RISE project has increased the quality of life of newcomer, immigrant, and refugee seniors and women by enabling them to build social connections among themselves and various community services. Through weekly sessions the participants are provided the opportunity to come together, learn new skills, and share their own experiences. Facilitating workshops on topics such as financial literacy, health and nutrition, family law, and more, has ensured that newcomers are connected to resources and supports within the community. Incorporating practical exercises and activities, such as cooking class, fitness sessions, and community volunteering has also ensured that concepts and ideas are brought to life.

The Bridging Program has provided a space for women to learn new skills, build upon existing ones, and connect with other women. The International Women of Saskatoon has created a safe and welcoming environment where the women feel comfortable to open up about the challenges and hardships they face.

One client expressed how grateful she is to be a part of this program because she believes the program not only provided emotional support at a time when she needed it most, but has also inspired her take steps to develop herself and recognize her strength and resilience. Prior to the program, the client was struggling with settling in Canada. After joining the Women's Bridging Program and reaching out for support, her perspective on life in Canada changed and she has become more confident and eager to take on new challenges.

# 2018

## Digital Storytelling Project: Across Generations, Across Cultures Saskatoon

Across Generations, Across Cultures is a film-making project put on by the Saskatoon Open Door Society, where newcomer and First Nation youth learn skills to create their own documentary-based stories on their own communities and experiences. In the program, they are trained on script writing, cameras, and light and sound recording techniques. The senior component to the program has seniors share their stories and youth film and edit these stories to be showcased to the community.

“This program has run for the past two years in partnership with the Core Neighborhood Youth Co-op and Paved Arts and is taught by established filmmakers in Saskatoon,” shared Ian Shaw, Saskatoon Open Door Society. “We run four sessions throughout the year with a final film screening in March at the Broadway Theater.” The project is designed primarily for newcomer and First Nation youth ages 14-22. The program is targeted to the communities that the youth live in, whether it is their cultural community, or the larger Saskatoon or Canadian community.

“The program was excellent. In the beginning I was a little worried as I did not know what to expect. I had many questions in my mind: How will I look on camera? What story should I tell? What will people think of me? But as the program went on and with the help of the instructor and coordinators who were interpreting for us I started to feel comfortable. It felt good to get involved and mix with everyone. The program was great in every way.” – Program Participant

The projection of the films produced by the youth have impacted many viewers that attended the screening events. Since the films portray personal stories and biopics, many viewers can relate to the content and experience which are being spoken of. The sharing of these experiences brings the people closer together and helps break stereotypes, mass media misinformation, and racism. They help bridge the community and create a positive culture.



# 2019

## Outreach Education and Awareness Program Southeast Saskatchewan

The Outreach Education and Awareness program offers presentations on healthy relationships and interpersonal violence in Weyburn, Estevan, and surrounding rural communities. Presentations are developed in-house, using the curriculum of the school division, and topics are chosen to reflect the age group and maturity of each grade.

Based on best practices, the Outreach Educator visits each classroom three times with different presentations. “These are unique presentations specifically designed for students in our region. By visiting each classroom three times, the students have an opportunity to expand their knowledge of topics that may be new to them over a period of time as each presentation builds on the one previous,” shared Christa Daku, Executive Director of Envision Counselling and Support Centre Inc.

Reaching students in grades 7-10, this program is available throughout Southeast Saskatchewan (27,000 km squared) with a focus on Weyburn, Estevan, and surrounding rural communities and has partnered with local schools since the fall of 2015. “This program is important since there is no other organization offering prevention programming for students that explores themes such as dating violence, sexual assault, consent, and healthy relationships. As an organization that specializes in interpersonal violence and sees how it impacts rural communities, we have the distinct opportunity to shape the material to relate specifically to what the students may be experiencing in their school or community,” stated Daku.

Creating an open discussion of how to create healthy relationships is important to engage youth and reduce stigma. This program has increased the wellbeing of communities by increasing the understanding and awareness of what violence looks like in relationships and also creates awareness for interpersonal violence and what options are available rurally for those who may need support. “Envision Counselling and Support Centre is very grateful for the partnership of CIF. Without grants we would be unable to provide our vast array of services to our local communities,” shared Daku.



# 2020

## Theatre in the Neighbourhood Saskatoon & Martensville

Sum Theatre's core values were at the forefront of this project: excellence, community, sharing, citizenship, accessibility, innovation, inclusion, and fun. A strong community is a connected community; and art unites us in a way that nothing else can. Innovation has always been one of our core values and we tapped into that creativity to create this year's summer program.

Phase One consisted of the Sum Creation Studio. Each week, we posted a theme on our social media and asked kids to create art based on this theme. The themes, such as bravery and friendship, were specifically chosen to be antidotes to what children are feeling right now (e.g. scared and isolated). Submissions were shared on our social media to connect kids to one another, and they were also used by our creative team to create Phase Two of our project. Phase Two was Theatre in the Neighbourhood, a travelling theatre experience. From the Creation Studio, we created original music and puppets for this parade-like event. We then worked closely with the City to figure out how to safely travel through 27 different neighbourhoods this summer with a traveling show. Bringing community-building art right to the front lawns of families across the city.

By participating in our Creation Studio, kids had the opportunity to reflect on positive themes that are antidotes to what they are feeling right now. By showcasing the art of our community's children, Theatre in the Neighbourhood helped individuals feel connected to one another. Our show itself was made up of 10 wonderful "scenes" looping in succession; telling a story of healing and helping, of friendship and love. We pre-recorded the music to omit live singing and our ensemble wore masks. This spectacle of theatre travelled at a slow pace through residential neighbourhoods and invited individuals to participate from their own lawns, balconies, and driveways.

We performed in 25 communities in Saskatoon and 2 communities in Martensville, travelling over 50 km in just two weeks. Some audience members chose to sit and catch a glimpse as we passed by, others donned masks and followed at a safe distance to catch the whole show. They learned songs through our social media pages so they could sing along and were invited to decorate their sidewalks with chalk to celebrate our arrival. These feelings of connection lasted long after our parade passed by.

It's important for children to have fun, community-building memories during this scary time. They need experiences that bring them joy and make them feel safe and normal. They need to feel connected to community. And not just children. Adults are feeling disconnected and restless as well. Like children, we need experiences that make us feel safe and normal. Experiences that remind us that the human spirit is alive, joyful, and resilient. Theatre in the Neighbourhood fulfilled this need.

We are always grateful for the support of CIF, and we were especially thankful for their support this summer. We could not have made Theatre in the Neighbourhood happen without them.

How has your program been modified since the onset of COVID-19? Were there any obstacles you had to overcome? Any tips or lessons learned?

We typically host 7000 individuals in their local parks. We're famous for our crowds of hundreds packed shoulder to shoulder... so a lot had to change. The biggest obstacle was all the unknowns. We didn't know what the health guidelines would be in August. We didn't know when restrictions would be lifted. We didn't know how we would be able to safely work. Essentially we came up with a variety of scenarios and when the timing seemed right, we executed what seemed like the best plan. We managed to keep everyone safe and provided a community-building experience, but it was certainly a challenge.

My top tip would be communication. Even if you don't know the answers! As a team, we met frequently through Zoom to talk through options. I called each team member right at the beginning to say, "we want to do something but we don't know what that will be. Please hold tight." And then had to call everyone a month later to give them the same message. But keeping in touch like that is so important.

I'm proud of our team and what we overcame. It was a tricky road, but we worked together really well. And, we had fun.



# 2021

## Connecting Brain Injury Survivors Lloydminster Area

The Connecting Brain Injury Survivors program, supported in part by CIF, provides essential social, recreational, and educational programs for adults with brain injuries in and around Lloydminster. Through providing social and interactive programs, activities are designed to empower individuals with brain injuries to embrace life once again. Not only do participants receive support, but so do their families and caregivers with the much needed respite time while their loved ones are attending Lloydminster and Area Brain Injury Survivors (LABIS) programming.

Along with directly serving individuals with brain injuries, this program indirectly serves their families and caregivers, as well as the general public with referrals and resources. We believe that by educating people on brain injury, we can help lessen the stigma and bring awareness to brain injury and the need for our programs within our community.

This year, more than ever, people can relate to experiencing isolation, depression, and feeling alone. These are just a few attributes that commonly affect individuals with brain injuries in their daily lives. Our programs are designed to ensure our participants are supported in all aspects on their journeys throughout the brain injury recovery process. Fellowship amongst their peers and their community, having the feeling of belonging and connecting to their society continues to prove the necessity of our programs and services for our participants and our community. Knowing one is not alone is so important after sustaining a brain injury. LABIS has been serving our community for the past 35 years with our free supports and programming for brain injury survivors and their families and caregivers.

How has your program been modified since the onset of COVID-19? Were there any obstacles you had to overcome? Any tips or lessons learned?

We saw the pandemic as a time where our participants needed our supports more than ever. We had to adapt how those services were being provided, but our participants still knew that even with our doors closed, they were able to access support.

Phone calls, video calls, social distanced visits, and text messages to participants and their families and caregivers helped us through the hard times. Care packages of projects, journals, painting, and coloring were provided to participants. We gave challenges and tasks to the participants to partake in and keep track of their progress.

We learned that this time was also very hard on our caregivers and families as they were not receiving the respite they much needed. We kept in contact with them as well, to know that we still supported them, and to ensure they were getting time for themselves.



# Looking Forward

A lot has changed over the past twenty-five years, but what hasn't changed is CIF's commitment to supporting community-based, community-led initiatives that enhance quality of life and wellbeing for Saskatchewan citizens. As of March 31, 2021, CIF has approved a total of \$175,525,862 in grants to support an estimated 15,000 grant requests for the delivery of programming, services, commemorative events, and facility improvements in 510 communities across the province.



This would not have been possible without the contributions of many who have joined us on this twenty-five year journey: past and present Board members, committee volunteers, Sask Sport Inc., organizational partners, community leaders, and the Ministry and Government of Saskatchewan. We also acknowledge the dedication of the staff and volunteers of community-based organizations throughout the province whose efforts, often unrecognized, are critical contributors to our individual and collective wellbeing.

The past two years have heightened our awareness of the importance of accessible programs and supports, especially for those who already are vulnerable. We no longer take for granted opportunities to gather and connect with others, to participate in arts, culture, and recreation programming, and to have timely access to services that provide needed support to individuals and families. In response to an amplified awareness of existing social inequities, communities have organized grassroots responses; public, private and nonprofit organizations have re-examined their policies and practices; and individuals have accessed opportunities for learning and volunteering.

As we look to the future, CIF will continue to support initiatives that enable participation in inclusive programming, that embrace the principles of reconciliation, and that support the wellbeing of Saskatchewan individuals, families, and communities.





