

Celebrating 25 Years of Granting in Saskatchewan

This year, the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) celebrated 25 years of granting and leadership in Saskatchewan. Between 1996 and 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. CIF's support has helped individuals and communities access services, supports, and programming designed to enhance the quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Looking to the future, CIF will continue to support initiatives that enable participation in inclusive programming, and that support the wellbeing of Saskatchewan individuals, families, and communities

From CIF's recent October 1, 2021, deadline, **\$2,300,997** in funding will support **155** grants through its Community Grant Program. These grants will contribute to the wellbeing of **69** communities across Saskatchewan.

Programs funded through the Community Grant Program provide opportunities for children and youth to gain 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. Programs also provide support for non-profit staff, board members, and volunteers to improve program delivery, governance and leadership, and for individuals to become involved as active citizens, volunteers, and community leaders.

The CIF is extremely grateful to the Government of Saskatchewan for providing an Emergency Pandemic Response Gaming Grant of \$4 million for the 2021-22 fiscal year, allowing CIF to continue to support community-based organizations in their delivery of programs and services across Saskatchewan. This grant will help offset the loss of more than \$8 million the CIF would normally receive due to the temporary closure of Casinos Regina and Moose Jaw from COVID-19.

"Our government works closely with the Community Initiatives Fund to ensure Saskatchewan residents and communities are benefitting from investments in community-based programs and projects throughout our province – and we look forward to continuing this important working relationship," Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Laura Ross said. "Congratulations on 25 years of enhancing the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people."

"This year we celebrated the creativity, innovation, and resilience of Saskatchewan citizens and communities that CIF has been fortunate to support for the past 25 years," shared Tracey Mann, Executive Director of the Community Initiatives Fund. "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 volunteers and community-based organizations across Saskatchewan."

The CIF is a Special Purpose Fund created through *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and governed by a government appointed board of community volunteers.

CIF's *Celebrating 25 Years* publication along with a complete list of the most recent grant recipients and their programs can be found at www.cifsask.org.

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