

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.
Lésions Médullaires Saskatchewan

**Changing the way we think, talk and
act about accessibility and inclusion!**

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MISSION, VISION AND SERVICES

VISION

Working collaboratively for inclusive communities.

MISSION

To assist persons living with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence, self-reliance and full community participation.

SERVICES

- Rehabilitation
- Education and Employment
- Community Accessibility, Awareness and Inclusion
- Information and System Navigation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

William Lehne* President
Monique Beauregard Vice President
Delmer Huber* Treasurer
Arvid Kuhnle* Secretary
James Allonby* Member at Large
Lynn Archdekin* Past President

Directors

Denise Thibault*
Jacqueline Kraushaar
Shane Wunder
Audrey Zucker Levin

*Indicates Director living with a physical disability

PROVINCIAL HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

Leadership

Launel J. Scott Executive Director
Randall Keays Finance Manager
Mallory Maurice Administrative Coordinator
Farzana Nazir Regional Office Coordinator

Direct Client Services

Delynne Bortis CSC
Colin Farnan CSC; Accessibility Strategist
Christine van der Merwe CSC
Omar Rashad CSC
Dafydd Herbert PMN Coordinator

Consultants

Morgan Darbellay Community and Corporate Engagement
Aaron Wright Events Manager

Departures

Kristin Drummond CSC; Blake Lamontagne CSC; Larry Carlson ROC

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Board of Directors, I'm proud to honour the outstanding collaboration of volunteers as a catalyst to achieving unprecedented success this past year. The SCI Sask TEAM pursued uncharted waters to discover opportunity and bold souls contributed towards a greater goal than individualism can obtain.

As our captain steers our flagship through turbulent waters our very existence is challenged in an unforeseen environment of upheaval and uncertainty. Restoring community confidence and developing membership connectivity via the virtual world has resurrected the need for a full spectrum of client service delivery. More importantly, SCI Sask demand for peer support services continues to grow exponentially despite the perceived need for status quo. SCI Sask acquired national certification to assist in overcoming the systemic barriers that plague accessibility in the commercial and residential marketplace which will help to ensure full community participation and independence is prioritized.

Our SCI Sask Board of Directors continue to evaluate the landscape and expand its governance to ensure our fiduciary duty regarding the integrity of stakeholder involvement and due diligence is exercised in protecting the SCI Sask legacy. The guiding light of our strategic plan resonates the importance for systematic processes to meet the problematic trials and tribulations faced by the individuals we support.

SCI Sask strives to develop a wrap around service delivery model to meet the growing demand for SCI Sask services. As the much anticipated Saskatchewan Disability Strategy continues to gain momentum towards a National Disability Act our governmental partner's continued support and assurance affirms the importance for strong governmental relationships in achieving our mission, "To assist persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence, self-reliance and full community participation."

"Working collaboratively for inclusive communities"

Regards

William Lehne, President

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SCI Sask continued to stabilize, grow and evolve in the 2019-20 fiscal year. Collaborative partnerships were strengthened through the Disability Service Alliance of provincial disability organizations, working collectively to enhance services for individuals living with disabilities in remote, rural and northern communities. The SCI Community in Saskatchewan, inclusive of acute, rehab and community services, aligned with RHI (now Praxis Institute), to develop an SCI Care Pathway to improve system coordination, access to care, optimize health outcomes, and minimize long-term complications.

Reaching the goals of the Strategic Plan leads many of the initiatives throughout the year. The Peer Mentorship Network expanded, with a focus on increasing the Network across SK, particularly in the remote, northern and Indigenous communities. One of the highlights was the Community Gathering held in Ile a la Crosse, where health, education and community systems gathered to discuss challenges experienced by people living with disabilities. The SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy and the refreshed ChairLeader Awareness Campaign were launched.

In the Fund Development Area, SCI Sask inaugurated its successful 1st Annual Golf Tournament in Prince Albert, as well as hosted the 20th Saskatoon Wheelchair Relay. The SCI Sask Human Resources Team stabilized with the securement of the Provincial Finance and Materials Manager, and the Regional Office, coupled with a relocation in Regina, consolidated the team with the Regional Office Coordinator and two Client Service Coordinators.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has affected the health and well-being of people around the world. The SCI Sask CSCs, our direct service workers, worked remotely during this time, and prioritized reaching out to our clients to offer support, services and a community connection during an unprecedented time of restrictions, physical distancing, and reduced access to daily necessities. SCI Sask continues to meet virtually with our clients, families and stakeholders to ensure the community is stronger and more resilient moving forward.

Thank you to the Provincial HR Team for their insight, dedication and capacity committed to assisting persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to reach their maximum potential. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their governance, which steers the strategies and operational direction for SCI Sask.

Launel J. Scott, Executive Director

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2019-2020

Revenue Categories

Service Agreements

- Government of Saskatchewan
- Government of Canada
- WCB Saskatchewan

Grants/Donations

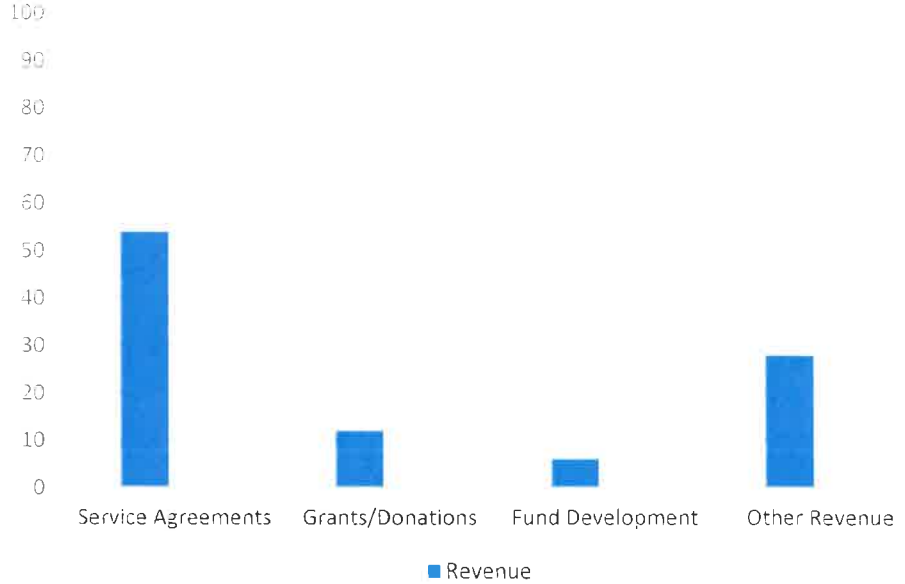
- Community Grants
- Foundations
- Donations
- United Way

Fund Development

- Events

Other Revenue

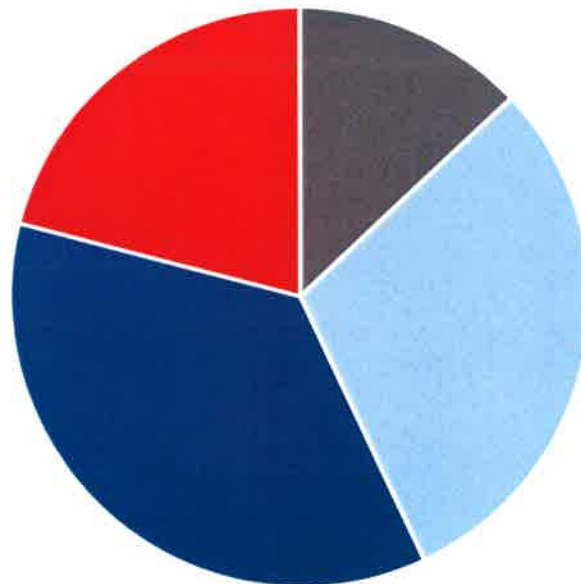
- Membership
- Investments



Expenses

Expense Categories

- Capacity Building
- Direct Services
- Leadership
- Operations



Capacity Building 13%
 Direct Services 30%
 Leadership 36%
 Operations 21%

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan focused on the four primary Strategic Directions to effectively respond to the Vision and Mission Organizational capacity and services.

ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN, REMOTE AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

SCI Sask is committed to fostering a strengthened engagement with people living with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities and their families in all communities in Saskatchewan. Through vital conversations across the province, individuals expressed the desire for communities to be totally inclusive and welcoming, and affirmed that everyone is unique in various ways. The meaning of “community” in all meetings revolved around the theme of inclusion. This involves understanding and reaching out as well as acceptance of differences, plus open communication so that “community” is a safe place to be; it means caring for the wellbeing of one another and working together to meet the needs and priorities. Emerging issues in communities included: the growing population of seniors emphasized: the necessity of enhanced universal accessibility; the prioritizing of financial and human resources to create a fully accessible built environment; the awareness of media and educators to understand the significance of positive portrayal of people living with a disability; and the celebration of barrier-free workplaces and community.

SCI Sask strengthened peer support through expansion of the Peer Mentorship Network (PMN) across Saskatchewan. The goal was to increase the number of SCI Sask Peer Mentors, through recruitment, training and support, and consequently increase awareness about services, but most significantly, connect people with people at the right place, the right time and the right location, who share common interests, questions and solutions in the life journey of persons living with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities. The PMN increased from nine to twenty SCI Sask “Certified” Peer Mentors in urban, rural and Indigenous communities. The culmination of the efforts in 2019-20 was the SCI Sask hosted “Community Gathering” in Ile a la Crosse in February 2020, where health, education, and the disability community shared challenges that people continue to face, and worked towards common and collaborative solutions. The SCI HR Team facilitated the gathering, shared services and resources information, and presented the value that community engagement and peer mentorship can support change and efforts towards inclusion and accessibility.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

SERVICE DELIVERY ENHANCEMENTS VIA DIRECT AND VIRTUAL MEANS

SCI Sask enhanced client connections through Peer Group Sessions, including social events such as movie day, shopping outings, coffee chats, the women's group, after work pizza night, and physical fitness with your peers. Pilates and Personal Progress offered physical benefits of increased range of motion, improved breathing capacity, and proper postural strengthening. The augmented outcomes also realized were the benefits of peer support in a group setting, gained knowledge about available supports, and setting goals for the future. The participants agreed that group support was a motivational factor for continuing sessions. "This was an amazing opportunity! To be able to learn and be active in this environment was extremely beneficial! Participating in this new experience with peers from the Spinal Cord Injury Disability community was great as we could talk, help, and support each other and go through this experience with people who can relate".

Technology and virtual service delivery contribute vastly to the potential of an effective and expansive capacity in service delivery to the SCI Sask clients living in various locations in Saskatchewan via virtual meetings, communication, access and information sharing. The technological industry in communication devices, environmental controls, internet access and supportive software programs offers a widened horizon to achieve personal success, workplace achievements, home and family life opportunities, mental well-being, mindfulness and skill development awareness, as well as social and community engagement. The Peer Mentorship Network has huge potential to utilize virtual and accessible technological means to function effectively, as we strive to meet the rehabilitation and participation needs of our clients throughout Saskatchewan. The Virtual Delivery of the PMN was initiated in 2019-20 and will continue into the following operational year. SCI Sask provided disability accommodation supports to several clients with technological devices, ergonomic equipment, accessibility access through virtual means, and education and employment tools to contribute to individuals' self-actualization as well as contributing to the economic and societal sectors.

MAXIMIZED ALLIANCES, COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

During 2019-20, Partnerships and Alliances underwent a revitalization and strengthening to ensure collaboration and maximization towards change, improved accessibility to services and full community inclusion were realized. SCI Sask worked with community-based organizations, the business, education and health sectors and the government in federal, provincial and municipal capacities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- the Office of Disability Issues
- the Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC)
- the Disability Services Alliance (CNIB, INSK, SDDHS, CHMA, SVOPD and SCI Sask)
- the Gabriel Dumont Institute
- the Patient Oriented Research Team (PORT) and the Who Needs 20 Support Group
- the Regina, Saskatoon and Saskatchewan Chambers of Commerce
- the Rick Hansen Foundation and the Accessibility Professional Network
- the Rick Hansen Institute (now the Praxis Institute)
- the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee
- the SaskPolytechnic Campuses
- the Saskatchewan Health Authority Acute Care, Rehab Centres, and Community Outreach
- the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
- the Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association
- the SCI Canada Corporation
- the Tribal Councils of Saskatoon, Meadow Lake and Fort Qu'Appelle
- The Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan

DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND RESOURCES

SCI Sask continued to build, maintain and maximized diverse and sustainable resources that allowed the delivery and expansion of services that best supports persons living with a physical disability, their families and their community. Awareness, Accessibility, Equity and Inclusion formed the foundation of the Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan endeavors. The following identify the areas of development, focus and innovation incorporated by SCI Sask to achieve diverse and sustainable funding and resources.

- LA Charities Scholarship Fund
- SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy
- SCI Sask ChairLeader Campaign
- SCI Sask Annual Golf Tournament
- SCI Sask Wheelchair Relay

Visit www.scisask.ca for more information. *Parascope Newsmagazine Spring 2019, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 highlight profiles, partnerships and events.*

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS AND DONORS

Major Funders

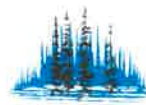
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Saskatchewan Rattlers

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A sincere appreciation and thank you to our individual event, general and memorial donors.