

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



**Accessibility Challenge January 2023: Mouth Painting by Hubert Rabbitskin**

Supported by Facilitator Natalie Dee Scott

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# SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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## Strategic Platform

### 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

## Strategic Plan 2021-2024

### Key Result Areas

- Capacity to Fulfill Mandate
- Community Linkages
- Financial Resource Generation
- Indigenous Engagement
- Public Relations and Recognition

### Services

- Rehabilitation
  - Peer Mentorship Network
- Education and Employment
  - Scholarships
- Community Accessibility, Awareness and Inclusion
  - Accessibility Strategy
- Information and System Navigation

## President Message



**William Lehne**

President

In 2022-2023 Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan (SCI SK) relocated operations in Saskatoon to improve accessibility for our members and the general public. The post pandemic landscape shows evidence that continual growth demands a wrap round service delivery model for higher level service delivery standards. It's evident SCI SK must initiate innovative strategies in order to develop renewed connectivity for our rural, Northern and Urban clientele. SCI SK is relying on new technologies and utilizing social media platforms to enhance community awareness across the spectrum. The Peer Mentorship Program is a critical tool activated in the rehabilitative phase for our post trauma clientele. The strength of our Mentorship network is the existence of person(s) with lived experiences that possess the skill set of resilience facing a new world of living with a mobility impairment(s). It's a person's family, friends and loved ones that are the benefactor of these experts which guide them towards an empowering journey of independence.

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan is an industry leader in the development of the Canada Disability Act through consultations with our Provincial and Federal partners. The Canada Disability Act continues to gain traction towards a legitimate vehicle for the rights of Canadians with disabilities. The Canada Disability Act will provide much needed monies to complement the implementation of this ground-breaking Federal strategy. The SCI SK 2021-2024 Strategic Plan developed in conjunction with the SCI Sask Board of Directors encompasses this evidenced based innovation for community inclusivity.

## Message from the Executive Director



*Laurel J. Scott*  
Executive Director

The SCI Sask Operations and Service Delivery throughout the 2022-23 fiscal year were guided by the Strategic Plan key result areas of Capacity, Community Linkages; Financial Resource Generation and Sustainability; Indigenous Engagement; and Public Relations and Recognition. The HR Team collectively met to develop and implement specific activities and outputs to ensure all efforts towards achieving the key result areas were undertaken. The HR Team remains at nine permanent members, with six working in Saskatoon and three in Regina. The Financial Review remains stable, however similar to many non-profit CBOs, SCI Sask is challenged to realize greater financial capacity with limited success in solicited grant allocations, sponsorship and donation. SCI Sask delivered two major fund-raising and community awareness events in 2022-23, which are highlighted in this report. After ten years in one location, the SCI Sask Provincial Office relocated to 1705 McKercher Drive, Saskatoon in June 2022.

SCI Sask, as a corporate member of SCI Canada, collaborates, consults and supports several issues of national significance, included MAid, ACA, Disability Benefits and research projects such as Essential Needs and Cellular phone enhancements. This partnership greatly enhances the SCI Sask capacity.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for their governance, and thank you to the HR Team for their diligence.

### SCI Sask Board of Directors

#### EXECUTIVE

President Bill Lehne\*

Vice President Monique Beauregard

Treasurer Jacqueline Halliday

Secretary Audrey Zucker Levin

Member-at-Large Stewart McKeown\*

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Doug Mitchell\*

Glen Jones\*

Jacqueline Kraushaar

Selali Tettevi\*

\*Denotes person living with a physical disability

### SCI Sask Provincial Human Resources Team

#### LEADERSHIP

Executive Director Laurel J. Scott

Finance and Materials Manager Randall Keays

Regional Office Coordinator Farzana Nazir

Administrative Coordinator Judi Cebry/Mallory Maurice

#### DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES

Client Service Coordinators

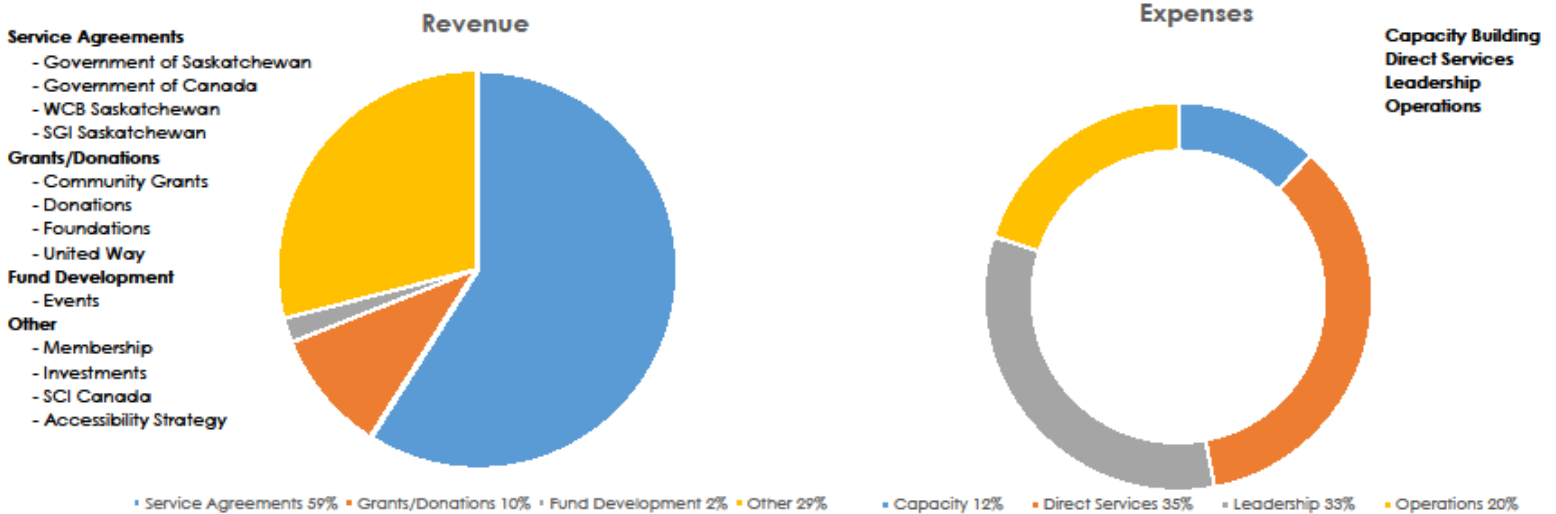
- Delynne Bortis
- Karthik Babu Menon
- Mason Leidal
- Nigel Fernandez
- Saba Wahab Khan

#### PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

- Truth and Reconciliation Engagement Coordinator Josh Forrest
- K Polytechnic Administrative Practicum Glaiza Orpiano

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## Financial Overview



## SCI Sask Mandate

### MEETING the MANDATE

#### SCI SASK CORE SERVICES

- Rehabilitation
- Education and Employment
- Community Inclusion and Awareness
- Information and Systems Navigation

#### Rehabilitation:

- Support in activities of daily living including Housing, Transportation, Equipment, Access to systemic services
- Peer Mentorship Network  
Peer Mentor and Peer Mentee Connections; Gatherings with Peer Mentors, Group, and Women's Circle
- Truth and Reconciliation Engagement  
Indigenous Leadership Engagement  
Remote, rural and northern service gaps identification

#### Education and Employment:

- SCI Sask LA Charities Scholarship 2022:  
One scholarship of \$ 2000.00 awarded August 2022
- Education and Employment supports were provided to twenty individuals living with a physical disability within the SCI Sask clientele; with eleven individuals in receipt of disability accommodation financial support
- Nine individuals living with a physical disability obtained gainful employment through supports delivered by SCI Sask Client Service Coordinators

#### Community Awareness and Accessibility:

- SCI Sask is represented on the following accessibility related committees:
  - ✓ City of Moose Jaw Special Needs Advisory Committee
  - ✓ City of Regina Sector Reference Group

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- ✓ City of Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee
- ✓ City of Saskatoon Public Library Consultation
- ✓ Saskatoon Airport Authority Community Consultative Committee
- SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy:
  - ✓ RHF Accessibility Professionals Network; Wildlife Services Canada; Saskatchewan Building Officials Association
- SCI Sask participation in community awareness is fostered by presentations, membership and community consultation with the following groups.
  - ✓ Presentations: Moose Jaw Town Hall; Prince Albert Town Hall; White City Town Hall; Huston Heights Regina; Office of Treaty Commissioner; Phoenix Residential Society; Respect Canada Forum; Sask Abilities Regina; Sask Polytechnic; U of R Brad Hornung Test Centre; U of S Health Sciences
- Partnerships/Memberships:
  - ✓ Chambers of Commerce- Regina, Saskatoon and Saskatchewan; Disability Income Support Coalition; Disability Services Alliance; Saskatoon Council on Aging
- Indigenous Engagement

SCI Saskatchewan Inc. acknowledges that we serve all People of Saskatchewan and acknowledge all Treaty Territory and the Homeland of the Métis within.

*"We acknowledge we are on Treaty Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another."*

## **Truth and Reconciliation Engagement (TRE) April 2022-January 2023**

The objectives in the SCI Sask Truth and Reconciliation Initiative:

Improve upon SCI Sask presence/service offerings within Indigenous Communities

Collaborate with Indigenous Leaders

Prioritize and incorporate targeted Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations-Call to Action- into the SCI Sask Holistic Culture and Service Delivery

Through the SCI Sask Truth and Reconciliation Engagement Project, a comprehensive resource list inclusive of the seventy (70) First Nations Bands, Tribal Councils, CBOs, and Elders-Knowledge Keepers within Saskatchewan was developed. Through this, the SCI Sask capacity to connect with FN Band Leaders, Health Directors and other Indigenous Leaders was magnified. SCI Sask will continue to identify what primary barriers are experienced by Indigenous people living with disabilities in Saskatchewan. It is known through conversations that many barriers exist for Indigenous people living with a disability, with one key barrier of overall accessibility, resulting in challenges for individuals to achieve an optimum level of independence and remain in one's respective community, preferably surrounded by supports and family.

An extensive resource document **"Indigenous Concepts and Legalities"** was collated by the SCI Sask TRE Coordinator Joshua Forrest, edited by Launel Scott, and reviewed by Sheldon Krasowski, Director, Research & Archives, Office of the Treaty Commissioner and Ms. Rita Bouvier, Cultural Advisor. The resource document is available upon request from SCI Sask.

### **Information and Systems Navigation:**

➤ Support connection in the community and assist clientele with the following entities:

- ✓ Indigenous Services Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)
- ✓ Saskatchewan Housing Authority
- ✓ Regina Para Transit; Saskatoon Access Transit
- ✓ SHA Saskatoon Client Patient Access Services; Regina Systems Wide Admissions/Discharge
- ✓ Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL)
- ✓ Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID)

➤ SK Health Authority:

- ✓ Acute Care Regina: General Hospital and Saskatoon Royal University Hospital
- ✓ Rehabilitation Centres: Saskatoon City Hospital and Wascana Rehab Centre
- ✓ Saskatoon Client Patient Access Services
- ✓ Regina Systems Wide Admission/Discharge

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## SCI Sask Clientele Demographics and Referrals

### Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.

### Geographic and Demographic Outline

#### DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (of Current Clients in 2022-23)

Total Clients in Saskatchewan= 1106

- Indigenous: 145
- Age 0-17=10      18-65=697      65-100=318  
(SCI=6/Non-SCI=4)    (SCI=376/Non SCI=321)    (SCI=121/Non SCI=197)
- > SCI: 540
  - Level of Injury Paraplegia=140    Quadriplegia=241
  - Causes of Injury
    - MVA: 174    Motorcycle: 18    Off-Road Vehicle: 29
    - Medical/Surgical/Tumors: 45
    - Work-Related: 41
    - Falls: 28
    - Diving: 24
    - Congenital/Spina Bifida: 21
    - Violence: 13
    - Farm-Related: 7
    - Sport Related: 3
- > Non-SCI: 566
  - Chronic health conditions: MS: 68/ Syndrome-Condition: 111
  - Congenital: 45
  - Medical Disease/Surgical Procedures: 16
  - Loss of Limb/Amputation: 25



Based upon historical and current data as available

### SCI Sask Client Referrals 2022-23

**Self-referrals; SHA Referrals; Transfers to SK**

Provincial Office Saskatoon: 35

Regional Office Regina: 14



SCI Sask Team: Paul Gustafson (SoloRider provided by Golf SK), Jordan, Josh and Mark Bortis

## Fund Development and Awareness Events

### SCI Sask 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

The third annual event was held on August 20 2022 at Mark's Nine Hole Golf and Country Club, located just north of Prince Albert SK. Nine teams participated in a "Texas Scramble" format, on a beautiful August day. Ten companies and individuals sponsored or donated to the event, which raised over \$10,000.00 for SCI Sask services. A very sincere "Thank you" to our participants, volunteers and sponsors (see list on page 9).

### SCI Sask Saskatoon Accessibility Challenge

The "Accessibility Challenge" 2023 was held on January 21 2023 at 1705 Mc Kercher Drive in Saskatoon. Open to the public, SCI Sask clients and families, and supported by SCI Sask HR team, Board of Directors and volunteers, over fifty (50) people participated in the event, RAISING JUST OVER \$5000.00. Seven "challenge stations" were offered including:

1. Obstacle Course
2. Adaptive Technology (hosted by the Abilities Council)
3. Mouth Painting
4. Tactile Search
5. Cerebral Dexterity Challenge
6. Balance and Reach
7. Strong-Arm Fish Pond

Thank you to our sponsors and donors (see next page). Without our fabulous 15 volunteers, the event would not have been possible, THANK YOU.

## Accessibility Challenge 2023



Mavis Bristow tries out the Obstacle Course



Nigel Fernandez and Mark Kennedy at the Adaptive Technology Station



Lynnett Boris at the Mouth Painting Station



Maurice Draude on the Obstacle Course  
Facilitators Mark and Josh Bortis



Sask Abilities Adaptive Technology Station  
Facilitator Andrew Baenziger, Technologist



Aaron Wright at the Cerebral Dexterity Challenge

# SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Thank you to Funders, Supporters, Sponsors and Donors

## Major Funders



## Financial Supporters



## Sponsorship and Event Contributors

### 3RD Annual Golf Tournament August 2022:

**Major Sponsors:** Prince Albert DAILY HERALD; LAKELAND FORD; PA Canadian Tire; RALLY MOTORGROUP; SIGA; and Northern Career Quest. **Hole Sponsors:** Mark's Nine Hole Golf and Country Club; Missinippi Broadcasting Corp; Northern Resource Trucking; RBC Wealth Management; R and W Collision; and SGI. **Community Supporters:** Golf Saskatchewan; 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Car Wash PA; Elk Ridge Resort; Legends Golf Club; Leon's Furniture PA; Nutrien Limited; PA Battery and Truck Accessories; Prairie Meats LP; Skye Planning Group; Silver Hills Golf Resort; and Steel Craft Sales and Service.

**Saskatoon Accessibility Challenge January 2023:** **Major Sponsors:** NorDon Drugs and Medical; Sask Energy; and SIGA. **Prize Donors:** Canadian Tire Preston Crossing Saskatoon; Churchill's British Café and Imports Saskatoon; Jasmine/Maurice/Sandy Draude; Mavis Bristow; Saskatchewan Realtors Association; Saskatoon Blades; the wood is the good; and TCU Place. **Major Donors:** Aaron Wright Realty; Stewart McKeown; and McCannell Financial Group.

**SCI Sask extends a sincere appreciation and thank you to SCI Sask individual and member donors, memorial donations on behalf clients who have passed, Board of Director donations and general public.**