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SPINAL CORD INJURY SASKATCHEWAN INC.

MISSION

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

VISION

Working collaboratively towards an inclusive community.

HIGHLIGHTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- SCI Sask Regina Wheelchair Relay May 25 2024
- National AccessAbility Week May 26-June 1 2024
- SCI Sask 60th AGM June 21 2024
- SCI Sask 5th Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament August 10 2024

Message from the Executive Director



As we enter the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, SCI Sask continues to deliver the four CORE SERVICES of Rehabilitation; Education and Employment; Community Awareness and Inclusion; and Systems Navigation. SCI Sask continues to diligently work with professional and community-

based organizations, the SHA, provincial and municipal government, Indigenous Leaders, and individuals living with physical disabilities and their families. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of existence in Saskatchewan.

Significant events in 2024-25 include:

- SCI Sask Regina Wheelchair Relay May 25 2024 2-5 pm at Wascana Rehab Centre Gym
- SCI Sask 60th AGM June 21 2024
- SCI Sask 5th Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament on August 10 2024 at Mark's Nine, PA
- Peer Mentorship Network Gatherings and newly introduced "SCI Canada Peer Initiative Evaluation Framework"
- SCI Sask 60th Anniversary Celebration November 2024- Date and Location to be announced at a later date!

We encourage you to view the SCI Sask website www.scisask.ca to learn of available resources, stay current with Events, and see how to contribute to SCI Sask. To receive current news, messages, accessible equipment and items for sale, and event notifications, we encourage you to join our email distribution group, through Constant Contact, by connecting on the website or by sending your email and contact information to sciinfo@scisask.ca

Please take the opportunity to enjoy reading through this edition of the Spring 2024 ParaScope for interesting articles and notices of our upcoming events.

On behalf of the SCI Sask Board of Directors and Human Resource Team, thank you for your participation and contribution to the community

Best wishes,
Laurel J. Scott ED

Organizational Update Human Resources Team



Heli Sheth Client Service Coordinator

Ms. Heli Sheth joined the SCI Sask HR team on March 25 2024, and is working out of the Regional Office in Regina. Heli is completing her degree in Kinesiology at the U of R, and brings strong operational and customer delivery skills to the position. We welcome Heli to the Team and look forward to her positive contribution. Heli's client assignment includes Regina and the Southwest Geographic Region; she can be reached at 306.584.0101 extension 103 or by email at helisheth@scisask.ca



Josh Forrest Client Service Coordinator

Josh recently completed the role as the Truth and Reconciliation Initiative Coordinator at the end of March 2024; SCI Sask thanks Josh for this major accomplishment. Previously working in a temporary term as Client Service Coordinator previously, Josh honed the skills in connecting with clients and the community. We are pleased to have Josh join the team in the permanent position as Client Service Coordinator effective April 29 2024, working from the Provincial Office in Saskatoon. Josh's client assignment includes Saskatoon and Area; he can be reached at 306.652.9644 extension 225, or by email at joshforrest@scisask.ca

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Celebrates our 60th Anniversary



NATIONAL HISTORY

The Canadian Paraplegic Association (CPA) was founded in 1945 by a group of WW II veterans with paralysis who were determined not to spend the remainder of their lives in hospital. Their efforts resulted in improved medical and rehabilitation services, better pensions and, perhaps most importantly, increased awareness in the medical community and throughout society of their abilities and potential. Peer support was, and continues to be, paramount to our programs and service development.

Rebranded in 2015, Spinal Cord Injury Canada, with Corporate members in the majority of Canadian provinces, SCI Canada Federation provides a wide variety of services to more than 40,000 Canadians who live with a spinal cord injury or other physical disability. The scope has increased considerably since 1945, but it remains true to its founders' self-help philosophy.

The SCI Canada Board of Directors governs the National organization, and includes representation from each Corporate member of the SCI affiliates. The majority of Directors add expertise and capacity through their respective lived experience with a physical disability.

SASKATCHEWAN HISTORY

In November 1964, the Saskatchewan Division of the CPA became a reality through the dedication of members Harold Bielby, Hal Rees, and A. C. McEown. The Provincial Office opened in Saskatoon in 1964 and in 1982, the Regional Office opened in Regina, expanding services in the southern area of the province.

- CPA Saskatchewan was instrumental in many significant initiatives to improve the quality of life and work environments for persons living with physical disabilities: Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Parking Program for People with Disabilities
- SGI No-fault Personal Injury Insurance Plan
- Small Business Co-operatives for People with Disabilities
- SK Wheelchair Sports Association
- School Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Program
- Disability Tax Credits Program
- Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program
- Saskatchewan Disability Action Plan

Building upon our history of members helping members, some of the highlights during the 1980s included CPA Saskatchewan hosting of the first National Disabled Farmer's Conference in Regina in 1987, and the establishment of a formalized Peer Support Program in 1988.

In 1998, the first Wheelchair Relay Challenge fundraiser took place in Saskatchewan. The relay is now a signature event and fundraiser, creating enhanced awareness of day to day challenges and inclusion of persons living with physical disabilities.

CPA Saskatchewan became the first division to officially designate "Spinal Cord Injuries and Other Physical Disabilities Awareness Month" in September 2003, which promoted understanding, knowledge and awareness of Saskatchewan's Community Based Organizations that support people living with disabilities.

In November 2015 the official name of Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc. was adopted. SCI Sask continues to work on new initiatives to enhance access to vital systems, as well as improvements in the built environment in communities across the province. Through consultations, collaborations and partnerships, positive change is achievable in the areas of education, employment, housing, personal support services, recreation, transportation and accessibility in the built environment.

Achieving Milestones continues into the 2020s

- 2019 the SCI Sask Regional Office in Regina relocated to 130-335 Hoffer Drive
- 2020, the SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy was launched; this strategy provides consultation and assessments to the global community to address accessibility in the built environment
- 2020, in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic catalyst, SCI Sask enhanced technical capabilities and introduced virtual means to connect with the clientele across Saskatchewan and ensure SCI Sask maintained and increased the capacity to meet client needs
- 2021, the Peer Mentorship Network expanded to include virtual gatherings for Peer Mentors and PMN All-Comers. Also in 2021, the Family Support Network was launched in a virtual platform, to provide assistance and support to the "circle of support" of SCI Sask clientele
- 2022 the SCI Sask Provincial Office relocated to 1705 McKercher Drive in Saskatoon

Paralympic History

CPA National, with the help of the Pan-American Society Organization, organized the first Paraplegic Games in Winnipeg in 1967. Amongst the first Canadian athletes was CPA SK member, Leroy Coates of Prince Albert. Many additional Saskatchewan athletes continued in "Paralympic" history, including (non-exclusively), Mike Bacon, Collette Bourgonje, Aron Braun, Lisa DeJong Nikita Ens, Colin Farnan, Lisa Franks, Jessica Frotten, Clayton Gerein, Nik Goncin, Bruce Heidt, Brittany Hudak, Heather Kuttai, Stewart McEwen, Julian Nahachewsky, Shelby Newkirk, Garrett Ostepchuk, Rick Reelie, Al Seminuk, Daryl Stubel, and newly named for Paris 2024, Jacob Wasserman.

SCI Sask apologizes if any Paralympians were inadvertently missed from the list!

[Watch for the Upcoming Announcement: Spinal Cord injury Saskatchewan Inc hosts the 60th Anniversary Celebration in November 2024.](#)



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend the

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.

60th AGM 2024

June 21 2024 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Hosted virtually via the Google-meet platform

MEETING DETAILS

Time zone: Regina (GMT-6)

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xra-abab-pjz>

Or dial: (CA) +1 587-977-1431 PIN: 427 345 873#

RSVP by June 16 2023 to sciinfo@scisask.ca or

phone 306. 652.9644 ext. 1 or 888.282.0186

Note: Eligibility to vote: SCI Sask currently paid members;

Other participants are welcomed, and acknowledged as “observers”.

Watch for notice of the SCI Sask 60th Celebration, to be held in November 2024



**SEEKING INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN
The Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc. is a non-profit community-based organization that supports individuals living with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities through Core Service delivery across the province of SK.

“SCI Sask” is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, who meet on a quarterly basis, participate in Board Committees and attend the Annual General Meeting.

“SCI Sask” invites community-minded individuals, particularly persons living with a physical disability, and are interested in joining the SCI Sask Board of Directors, to contact one or both of the following by May 31 2024:

Nominating Committee Chairperson Selali Tettevi at selali.tettevi@scisask.ca or

Executive Director Launel Scott at launelscott@scisask.ca

For more information about SCI Sask, please visit our website at www.scisask.ca



ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

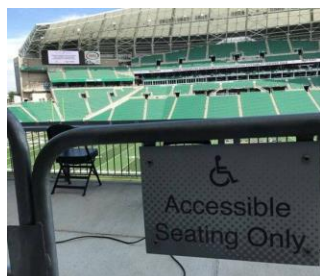
Certified Consultations, Assessments and Designations to Build an Accessible Saskatchewan

ADOPTING THE CONCEPTS OF ACCOMMODATION AND ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH UNIVERSAL ACCESS WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE

Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. The importance of inclusive design is that all audiences benefit; invest in ways to enhance your business, workplace and community spaces to serve a more diverse audience.

ACCESSIBILITY IN CANADA

One in seven Canadian adults currently lives with a physical, vision, or hearing disability. Within the next 20 years, the number of Canadians living with disabilities is expected to grow to more than 9 million - or one in five. The simple truth is that each of us may experience disability at some point in our lives and will need communities to be accessible so that we can continue to participate and live full lives.



The SCI Sask designated RHFAC Professional within the HR Team is pleased to assist your business or organization to assess your built environment and provide strategies to enhance accessibility through universal design recommendations.

SPINAL CORD INJURY SASKATCHEWAN INC. ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy, as a member of the Accessibility Professionals Network of the Rick Hansen Foundation, promotes the development of enhanced accessibility in communities to improve upon opportunities for people to live, work and play.



HOW IT WORKS



ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTATION

Accessibility Consultations are available to organizations, businesses, and other sectors. The SCI Sask Accessibility Strategist will review the current space, proposed accommodation, determine universal design goals in the built environment, pursue options and assist customers to establish a strategy to build a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable space. The consultation is provided for a service fee; for consultations outside of Saskatoon and Area, travel will be costed to the customer.



ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND REPORT

The SCI Sask Accessibility Assessment, Gap Analysis and Report will be completed through the use of accessibility and universal design principles, plus the CSA Standards B651-23 and Accessible Dwellings B652-23. A Memorandum of Agreement or Service Agreement, developed with the customer, outlines the Assessment Scope and Timelines, plus determines the fee for service, applicable travel expenses to meet the desired key deliverables and outcomes.



RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATION REGISTRY

Registration and Adjudication, within the applicable RHFAC fee structure, facilitates an RHFAC/CSA Rating and Listing on the RHFAC Registry. SCI Sask can facilitate the Accessibility Assessment Report for CSA Adjudication upon customer request and RHFAC Registration.



INVEST IN ACCESS LEAD THE WAY

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www.scisask.ca



Humboldt Broncos bus crash survivor is on a fast track to Paris Paralympics

Jacob Wassermann's rise in Para rowing has been meteoric

Jacob Wassermann's meteoric rise in the sport of Para rowing has put him on a fast track to the Paralympics in Paris this summer, something the 24-year-old could never have imagined even just a year ago when he first started getting serious about the sport.

The goal initially was to get to the 2028 Games in Los Angeles — Wassermann wanted to set a realistic expectation, considering he was fairly new to the world of Para rowing. He admits those first few times on the water were a little shaky.

What wasn't factored into that calculation was his unwavering commitment to being the best he can be at any sport he competes in, his resilience and desire to never quit.

Wassermann is one of 13 people who survived the horrific Humboldt Broncos bus crash in 2018, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. Saturday will mark six years since the tragedy that left 16 dead.

Rowing has come naturally to Wassermann, who is a gifted athlete in every sense. As he powers his way across the water he says he feels free.

"One of my old teammates used to say you leave your wheelchair at the dock and leave your disability at the dock. And it's a very freeing experience to be out there," he told CBC Sports. "I'm out there with the other high-performance athletes and everybody's working hard. I just get to go out there, perform and be an athlete, do my thing."

Survivor of Humboldt Broncos bus crash earns Paralympic quota spot for Canada in rowing
For Wassermann, who was the Broncos' No. 1 goaltender, sport has been a constant. The thrill of competition, striving for athletic excellence, is in his DNA. And his disability wasn't going to change that. Wassermann has remained steadfast in his desire to continue a life filled with sport, even though it might not be taking shape the way he imagined.

"I've been an athlete my whole life. I've always, from the time I started sports from a very young age, wanted to be a pro athlete. I've always just strived to be the best I could compete in events against the best in the world," he said. "I found rowing and kept putting in the work.

"I've been fortunate to work with some great coaches throughout my short time and they've shown me a lot of progress really quickly."

He's tried Para ice hockey, adaptive water skiing and just last fall found Para rowing after a chance meeting at a grocery store with "one of his buddies," also in a wheelchair, who told him about an opportunity to try rowing at the Saskatoon Rowing Club.

"I didn't have a sport at the

time. I was just sort of training on my own, just kind of trying to figure out where I wanted to go in my athletic career," he said. "I just decided to go and give it a try and I sort of just stuck with it and got into the boat that summer."

That fateful meeting has led Wassermann down a rowing pursuit that has him on the precipice of a major breakthrough.

After capturing a silver medal at a qualifying event in Rio de Janeiro last month, and in the process clinching Canada a quota spot in the PR1 men's single event, it appears Wassermann might just get the opportunity to represent Canada on the grandest athletic stage this summer in Paris.

"Being an athlete is a huge part of my identity and I've been an athlete since I could walk basically, so the crash and being in a wheelchair now didn't change that for me," Wassermann said.



All Bodies Movement

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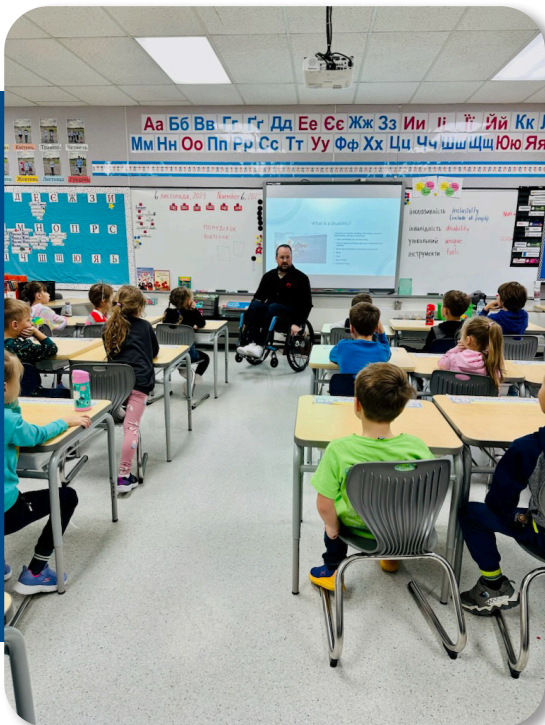
Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30 PM, April 23-June 11
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A mixed abilities, creative movement class. No dance training required. Our use of ensemble improvisation increases accessibility for differently abled movers.

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KSAMB Dance Company



Education and knowledge is power!! Mark was out talking about disability and what it looks like to a class of grade one's. Being inclusive so everyone can participate is great. Keep up the good work kids.



SCI Sask is a provincial community-based organization that delivers services across the province. The mission of SCI Sask is to assist individuals living with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence, self-reliance and full community participation. Our vision: "Working collaboratively for inclusive communities"

***Presented a* SPECTRUM OF INNOVATION**

Conference and Tradeshow

on January 31 2024 in Saskatoon SK . We were pleased to have such an amazing group of

Keynote Speakers:

- **Virtual address by Rick Hansen**
 - Dr. B. Cathy Craven- *Using Social Media to Promote Healthy Aging: Muscles, Bones & Nerves*
 - Ryan Riehl- *Live life to the Fullest –Starting today*
 - Dr. Wagner Souza- *Overground Exoskeleton Rehab-Alternatives & Challenges for Clinical Translation*
 - Dr. Stephen Patrick- *Participants' Perspectives of 'NeuroSask: Active and Connect'*
 - Ean Price- *Technology for Living-A Plethora of Adaptive Devices*
 - Paul Gustafson - *Movement is Key*
 - Christine Strauss - *Art with GlassOuse*

Several Tradeshow Vendors joined the event and provided information and displayed equipment and supplies . The Vendors included:

- Convatec Group
- MOTION Canada
- NorDon Medical
- URO Medical Supplies

Appreciated Sponsors included SGI, My Financial Group, and PA Daily Herald

LOGOS to be added

Thank you to the Keynote Speakers, the Vendors, the Sponsors, and to you the Participants for attending this most informative , collaborative and successful event !

PICTURES TO BE ADDED



Highlight on SCI Sask Peer Mentorship Network

Peer Connection with Lisa and Kyra

SCI Sask Peer Mentor, Lisa, decided a few years ago that she wanted to give back to a community that had supported her through many life changes. She sustained an sci as a teenager, and contributes a good portion of her resiliency and acceptance to peers, both formal and informal, that she has encountered along the way. When she was approached by SCI Sask and asked if she was interested in taking the formal certification to be a peer mentor she didn't hesitate. She has been an invested volunteer, bringing ingenuity, compassion, quick wit, and humour as some of her best mentoring qualities.

Kyra was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis in the fall of 2022. Symptoms are caused by an inflammation in the spinal cord, resulting in weakness, paralysis, and other systematic dysfunctions that are consistent with spinal cord injury. She spent a few months of recovery time in Saskatoon City Hospital Rehab, where she was connected with SCI Sask. She learned of the Peer Mentorship Network while in the hospital, but decided to request a mentor after returning home. She believed she could use the support while navigating her way with her new circumstances.

Kyra shares that she was definitely ready and actually eager to have a peer mentorship connection. Kyra candidly stated what she was seeking was to be connected to a community, and relatability, someone who would understand.

After meeting with Lisa, Kyra feels better connected to community and joined the SCI Sask Peer Mentor Women's Circle. With a smile, Kyra says she really enjoys "humour, and Lisa's sense of humour". When she's having a bad day, she can talk to her peer mentor, because sometimes a little humour is the best way to deal with a disability related situation.

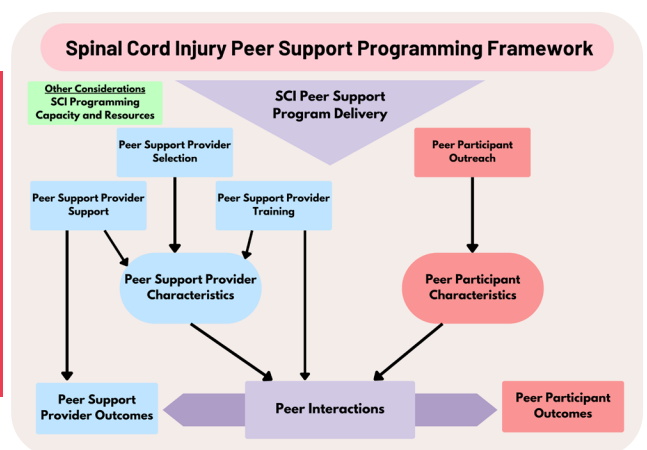
Life can get busy when you are managing aspects of everyday living. There is a conversation regarding the journey back into driving. The mentee and mentor cover a lot of the bases; and in this connection, share YouTube videos back and forth on getting into the car and managing to get your wheelchair in as well, 2 doors vs 4 doors, etc. Our peer mentors can be most are resourceful. Conversation is easy, and the banter between the two is comfortable and smooth; the connection is a success!

The reason for most peer mentors to take on this role is "to give back". Peer Mentors have at some point experienced a connection that helped to get through situations, and then feel that sharing experiences can do the same with others; like "paying it forward". But it is mostly about the connection. The connection to other people going through similar challenges helps pave the way to experience other adventures in the journey.

Sometimes finding time to do everything can be a bit of a barrier, for mentors and mentees, and also finding the balance between being an effective listener, and not offering too much. So finding the balance between what is offered and what the mentee is looking for out of the connection is important.

The SCI Sask Client Service Coordinators take so many areas into account when determining who and what would be a good choice as a peer mentor for the person requesting a connection. Some deciding factors can include gender, age, disability, reason for request, compatible personality and areas of interest.

If you are interested in a peer connection, please feel welcome to talk with your Client Service Coordinator, or contact the Provincial or Regional SCI Sask Offices or email sciinfo@scisask.ca.





SCI Sask Truth And Reconciliation Initiative

SCI Sask is proud to relay the outcomes of the Truth & Reconciliation Initiative, led by Joshua Forrest, TRC Coordinator. The initiative achieved the intended goals and objectives in several areas, especially related to strengthening connections to Indigenous entities.

Josh delivered "Information Sessions" with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology; Metis Nation's Core Health Team; STR8Up Saskatoon; and the Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre. Feedback included suggestions to further deliver the SCI Sask information to elementary, high school & post-secondary organizations, as well as present to First Nations and other health care entities. Each of the overall total of sixty-six (66) participants reported that they appreciated learning more about SCI Sask and the holistic services that are offered across Saskatchewan for individuals living with physical disabilities. As well, a significant number of participants' knowledge and understanding of inclusion, disability challenges, and accessibility was raised.

Multiple network opportunities were enhanced through the attendance at conferences including Saskatchewan Intercultural Society's "Reconciliation Roundtable" on September 28th 2023, in honor of "Orange Shirt Day". Additional networking occurred at the multi-day conferences hosted by Metis Nation (MN-S), specifically "Aging into Well-being" and "Saskatchewan Housing & Homelessness", both held in Saskatoon.

One outcome that progressed from connections made with MN-S was access to the SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy, via an accessibility consultation for the MN-S downtown apartment, soon to be renovated with the inclusion of six (6) accessible units.

As part of the dedicated activities to research gaps in the systems and conduct a "gap analysis", SCI Sask hosted a focus via an in-person & virtual platform. Seven participants attended with five declaring Indigenous identity. Numerous barriers were identified by the participants; including but not exclusive to:

1. Finances
 - i. Lack of reasonable and sustainable funding
 - ii. Eligibility barriers and /invasive process to obtain)
2. Accessibility in built environments
 - i. Lack of proper signage
 - ii. Parking
 - iii. Accessible entrances and washrooms
3. Transportation
 - i. Geographical challenges in meeting health care needs
4. Lack of independence
 - i. To be able to enjoy hobbies with dignity
5. Bureaucracy in navigating systems
6. Forced accommodation
7. Aging while living with a disability
8. Mental Health affected by disability impact
 - i. Past trauma & present stigma to overcome
9. Racism & stereotyping while living with a disability

SCI Sask also was invited to host an information booth at both FASD Network's "Community Connection" event in December 2023, and at First Nations Family & Community Institute Inc.'s SCI Sask expresses sincere gratitude to Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation for the funding provided. SCI Sask is proud to continue to serve our clients holistically, with enhanced cultural awareness and strengthened connections within the global community!



Team Saskatchewan wins GOLD at the 2024 Wheelchair Curling Championship



From left to right: Gil Dash, Marie Wright, Moose Gibson, Sheryl Pederson
Coach Lorraine Arguin at the back.

Playing in front of a packed hometown crowd at the Moose Jaw Curling Centre, Saskatchewan won the 2024 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championship for the second year in a row. "Doing it in front of our home crowd, with lots of friends and family, it's just a great feeling," said Dash, who also won a silver medal this year as second on Team Canada at the 2024 World Wheelchair Curling Championship.

It is a historic fifth gold medal for Dash, Wright and coach Lorraine Arguin, giving them the record for the most wins at the championship. Wright says winning the gold this year means a lot to the whole team. "We wanted to do it for [Arguin] and with her because she's been an amazing coach," she said. Arguin, who is a physical therapist by trade, started coaching the team in 2008 and is retiring this year. "Seeing their success and seeing that even though they've all had struggles in their lives with whatever injuries, they have overcome all of that and come out with positive attitudes and shown us what they could do ... I have learned a lot," she said.

This game was held at the Moose Jaw Curling Centre, which is a fully accessible facility, for the second time in two years.

National AccessAbility Week 2024

We invite you to celebrate National AccessAbility Week (NAAW), taking place from **May 26 to June 1, 2024!** This special week is dedicated to celebrating the valuable contributions and leadership of Canadians with disabilities, as well as promoting efforts to increase accessibility and inclusion across the country.

National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) (which takes place every year starting on the last Sunday in May), is an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities. It is also a time to recognize the efforts of individuals, communities and workplaces that are actively working to remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion.

Increase awareness, through National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) activities, to support the broader culture change objectives of the *Accessible Canada Act (ACA)*.

- improving understanding and knowledge of Canadians on accessibility and inclusion
- reducing stigma and attitudinal barriers towards persons with disabilities
- sharing best practices and lessons learned related to NAAW activities within the disability community

Canada



NAAW

#TalentFocused

National AccessAbility Week
May 26 - June 1, 2024

Help Us Change People's Perceptions About People with Disabilities and Work

National AccessAbility Week is May 26th - June 1, 2024. As a part of this week we are looking to change people's perception of disability and work. We want to reduce the stigma that having a disability inclusive workplace means making major changes to a workplace or that the person may not be able to get the job done like an employee without a disability.

We're looking for people with disabilities to share with us:

- What they do for work
- What tasks do they do at their job
- What skills they use at work

We'll stitch the information together to create a story that we will use in social content and in our promotional campaigns for National AccessAbility Week.

Share Your Story

In Memory

Of...

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan acknowledges and celebrates the lives of those known to us who have passed on. May their memory be a blessing; our thoughts are with you. We remember: **Evelyn Bank; Larry Evans; Linda Keller; Dennis Peepeetch; Dorothy Scheidth; Robert Tyler; Don Vetter**



Kevin McIntyre

Spinal Cord injury Saskatchewan Inc. received a bequest of over \$230,000 from the estate of Mr. Kevin Arthur McIntyre, formerly of Carrot River SK, who passed away on June 5 2022. The SCI Sask Board of Directors and Human Resource Team graciously acknowledge this gift of generosity as received in March 2024.

Kevin was predeceased by his wife, Sandra Lee McIntyre, whose estate also contributed to the bequest to SCI Sask. Kevin's incredible donation will facilitate enhanced outreach services, and directly benefit individuals living with physical disabilities across Saskatchewan.

Kevin McIntyre was born on April 10 1961 in Saskatoon, and grew up on a farm in rural Saskatchewan. After public school in Arborfield, Kevin attended the Natonium Community College, where he participated in the Motor Vehicle Mechanical Repair Program. Following a pre-employment program, Kevin was hired by the John Deere Dealership.

In July of 1979, at the age of 18, Kevin was involved in a motor vehicle accident, where he sustained a spinal cord injury at the quadriplegic level. Kevin's life journey was forever altered, and he and his family learned to adapt to new and challenging ways in daily living activities. The house was modified to the best the family could manage at that time; this house was moved from the farm to Carrot River in 1993.

Kevin loved to drive, and being a "farm-boy" at heart, he continued to take an active part by becoming the chauffeur for his parents on the farm and numerous family trips. Kevin had three different vans over 43 years, all modified with accessible adaptations. He drove his family on many trips to MB and BC, as well as flying to Hawaii on several occasions.

In 1997, Kevin met his soul-mate Sandra; they were married in the fall of 2000 in San Jose California, and returned to Carrot River in 2002, where together, they had an active happy life. In 2019, Kevin began to experience health challenges, and spent several months in hospital and a care home. Just when Kevin was back home and "getting back to living", Sandra sadly passed away in the fall of 2021. Kevin passed peacefully the following summer, on June 5 2022.

Kevin was first connected to the Canadian Paraplegic Association SK Division (now known as SCI Sask) in November of 1979, and experienced years of services and peer support through peer connections and the Human Resource Team. Kevin and the SCI Sask HR Team spoke several times over the last few years of his life. Kevin's motto was "never-give-up" and he carried on the fight for forty-three years after his accident.

SCI Sask is most appreciative of the thoughtful and well-received bequest and donations from Kevin and his family. We thank the Estate Executor, Kevin's cousin, Hazel White and her spouse, Larry, for their diligence in fulfilling Kevin's bequest to carry-on the work of our organization in his memory, and providing SCI Sask with a framed photo of Kevin and Sandra which hangs in the Provincial Office "Hall of Fame".



Larry White, Josh Forrest, Launel Scott, Hayden Fairley, Michael Kerr, Hazel White, Mia Fairley, Julian Bodnar

Describing Disability Tax Benefits

The Disability Tax Credit is a non-refundable tax credit that assists people with disabilities, or their supporting family member, reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay. If you live with a severe and prolonged impairment, you may apply for the credit. If you are approved, you may claim the credit at tax time. By reducing the amount of income tax you may have to pay, the Disability Tax Credit aims to offset some of the extra costs related to the impairment.

How to apply: - Fill out the digital form or use paper form. Either digital form or paper form contains a section to be completed by a medical practitioner. Digital forms are filled out online. Therefore, these will be processed faster. Paper forms can take up to 6 to 8 weeks to be reviewed.

The Canada Workers Benefit is a refundable tax credit to help individuals and families who are working and earning a low income. Canada Workers Benefit has two parts: a basic amount and a disability supplement. CWB can be claimed when you file your income tax. Those who received CWB in 2022 will receive advance payments, there is no need to apply. The maximum benefit amount depends on the situation of the individual or their families. Disability supplement portion of CWB can be claimed if the individual is eligible for Disability Tax Credit.

The Child Disability Benefit is a tax-free monthly payment made to who care for a child under age 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. In order to receive CDB individuals must be eligible for Canada Child Benefit and also Disability Tax Credit.

Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/child-and-family-benefits>

Karthik Babu Menon Client Service Coordinator
Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan

Overview of the Disability Benefit 2024

The Government of Canada's Office for Disability Issues (ODI) within the Department of Employment and Social Development is pleased to provide you with the latest update on the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB).

On Tuesday, April 16, the Government of Canada announced funding for the Canada Disability Benefit in the 2024 Budget. Specifically, the Budget 2024 proposes an investment of \$6.1 billion over six years, beginning in 2024-25, and \$1.4 billion per year ongoing, for the CDB program. The proposed design is based on a maximum benefit amount of \$2,400 per year for low-income persons with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 64.

With this historic milestone, which follows the Canada Disability Benefit Act receiving Royal Assent on June 22, 2023, the Government is enshrining the benefit into Canada's social safety-net. As you may know, the Canada Disability Benefit Act will come into force no later than June 22, 2024, and the regulations setting out the details of the Canada Disability Benefit must be in place no later than 12 months after that - in June 2025.

This paves the way for the Government of Canada to begin providing payments to eligible Canadians starting in July 2025, following successful completion of the regulatory process and consultations with persons with disabilities.

To deliver the benefit as quickly as possible and to ensure nation-wide consistency of eligibility, the proposed CDB would be available to people with a valid Disability Tax Credit (DTC) certificate. As proposed, this benefit is estimated to increase the financial well-being of over 600,000 low-income persons with disabilities.

To ensure access to the CDB for eligible Canadians, and to address an anticipated financial barrier associated with benefit take-up, Budget 2024 further proposes funding of \$243 million over six years, beginning in 2024-25, and \$41 million per year ongoing, to cover the cost of the required medical forms during the DTC

application process. Persons with disabilities also face barriers in finding out about and accessing government benefits and services. The Budget therefore includes funding for community-based navigation services to improve awareness and take-up of federal, provincial, and territorial programs available to working-age Canadians with disabilities.

We are pleased to report that we have already embarked on the next stage of work required to make the new benefit available to eligible persons with disabilities. Recognizing that many Canadians with disabilities are in need of the additional financial support that this benefit will provide, we will move forward as fast as we can with the required regulatory development process, so that the benefit can be paid beginning in 2025.

Work has already begun on drafting regulations setting out important benefit details such as the application process, how the benefit amount will be calculated, payment frequency, and the mechanism for Canadians to appeal decisions. We aim to publish the regulations in Part I of the Canada Gazette as soon as possible, which will enable persons with disabilities and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed approach in the spirit of 'Nothing Without Us'. Input received through this consultation process will be considered in revising the regulations for final publication in Part 2 of the Canada Gazette.

At the same time, we have begun work on the delivery systems to receive CDB applications and distribute benefit payments.

Finally, we will also be working simultaneously with the provinces and territories to ensure that the CDB can best meet its goal of lifting persons with disabilities out of poverty.

We will continue to share information as this work continues, and updates will also be available on the Government of Canada's website [Overview of the Canada Disability Benefit – Supporting Canadians with disabilities - Canada.ca](#).

Thank you for your continued interest in the Canada Disability Benefit.

Office for Disability Issues, Employment and Social Development Canada

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1. A Multi-Centre Clinical Investigation to Assess the Performance of GentleCath™ Glide intermittent catheters. Study U378 GentleCath™ Glide Final Report. July 2018. In vitro data on file. Convatec Inc.

2. Pollard D, Allen D, Irwin N J, Moore J V, McClelland N, McCoy C P. Evaluation of an Integrated Amphiphilic Surfactant as an Alternative to Traditional Polyvinylpyrrolidone Coatings for Hydrophilic Intermittent Urinary Catheters. Biotribology. 2022;32(Dec 2022):100223.

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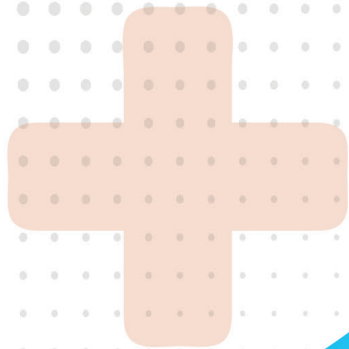
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