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SCI Sask. Events Schedule

Meet the Mentor - Braden Pettinger

King Charles III Coronation Medal Recipients

Saskatoon Sports HOF Inductee - Stan Holcomb

... & much more!

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Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan

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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.

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Message from the Executive Director



As the seasons shift and Spring finally seems to be upon us it feels like a good time to reflect on the past few months, and while we could go down a rabbit hole of negativity due to current worldly affairs, I'm going to shift my focus to one of gratitude for the strength and support of our diverse community.

It was a bit of a rough winter, with large amounts of snow, and those "oh-so-cold" Saskatchewan days. But, thanks to the hard work of our client service coordinators, and the diligence of our clients we were able to have some really successful in-person and virtual events, which you will find highlighted in this issue. Topics have been driven by suggestions from the people we serve, and

researched by our HR team. Our hope is to continue offering social and informational gatherings for growing our networks, providing an air of inclusivity, connection, and camaraderie provincially.

From an organizational perspective, the SCI Sask Board of Directors, and SCI Sask HR teams have both been busy with professional development and planning sessions, and it is exciting to witness the timeline of progression in its early stages. So many ideas, and such great contributions!

Looking ahead, we are excited for some upcoming events, including summer kick-off activities, our 6th annual golf tournament fundraiser on Aug 9 in Prince Albert, the Regina wheelchair relay, and more incentives geared toward access and inclusion throughout our beautiful province. Stay tuned!

And on a final note, as we head into the summer months, take the time to do the things you love. Get out in the garden (there's adaptations for that), go for a bike ride (there's adaptations for that too!), grab a fishing pole (and yep, adaptations for that too), or just sit in the sun with the warmth on your face (no adaptations necessary). It was a long winter, and you deserve the peace and sunshine.

Enjoy the season, Delynn Bortis ED

Message from the Staff

Saba Khan: I have had the privilege of working with SCI Sask. for over three years, and I am truly proud to connect with individuals who possess incredible potential. Throughout these years, I've had the opportunity to support my clients by connecting them with valuable community resources, also learning from their resilience and strength.

Heli Sheth: I've been proudly working with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) since March 2024, bringing over a year of experience with this amazing organization. With a background in Kinesiology, my passion lies in supporting individuals in meeting their unique needs. My goal is to reach and positively impact as many people as possible.

Josh Forrest: Hello, this year I have gotten much more involved in our Peer Mentor Network. I'm also excited about our monthly Virtual Gatherings, Movie Matinees, and Coffee & Conversation groups. It has been fun working to reintroducing social events to our calendar and enjoy seeing our clients in person again!

Karthik Babu-Menon: I have worked at SCI Sask close to four years now. I have really enjoyed connecting with clients particularly reconnecting with past clients of SCI Sask. Overall, it's been a great learning experience!

Glaiza Orpiano: For over two years I've handled the daily administrative tasks at SCI Sask. Regina office. From managing client files, being the first point of contact for clients and maintaining inventory, to designing posters and helping CSCs coordinate events. It's rewarding to provide the behind the scenes support that helps our team.

Madison Wassermann: I've been soaking up every opportunity to learn and grow, the best part has been getting to know each of my clients. Their stories and unique perspectives are truly inspiring, and I feel so privileged to connect with them. Planning events and finally meeting everyone face-to-face has been an absolute blast.

Cuong La: Hello! My first year at SCI Sask has been exciting and educational. I have learned a lot more about what SCI Sask. does, who we serve, and the positive impact we can make. I look forward to be a part of future events!

Rebecca Du: Hello, this year I learned more operation of SCI Sask, I am enjoying my job and find it meaningful. I learned many positive attitude from our clients and colleagues.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.

61st AGM 2025

Friday, 20 June 2025 | 11:00am - 1pm

A light lunch will be served

Rsvp for more information by June 13th to
sciinfo@scisask.ca or phone 306.652.9644 or 888.282.018

Note: Eligibility to vote is for SCI Sask currently paid members;
other participants are welcomed, and acknowledged as “observers.”

SEEKING INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 June 1, 2025

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

Executive Director Delynne Bortis at delynnnebortis@scisask.ca

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

JOIN US FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL SPINAL CORD INJURY SASKATCHEWAN FUNDRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT

09 AUGUST
2025

**MARK'S NINE HOLE
GOLF & COUNTRY
CLUB**
Prince Albert, SK



Registration at 10 am; Shotgun start at 11 am

- 4 Person Team Scramble; 18 holes playing best ball
- \$600 Team Registration; \$150 per individual registration
- Hole in One (front 9 ONLY)
- Cash prize for Closest to the Pin: \$10 per person entry fee
- Registration and Sponsorship through SCI Sask; see Contact below!

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sciinfo@scisask.ca



CARTS

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Country Club**
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SCI Sask strives to improve upon opportunities in life and the environment for individuals living with physical disabilities across Saskatchewan.

Congratulations!

SCI Sask would like to extend our congratulations to the following clients on being awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Their significant contribution to Canada and the province of Saskatchewan is truly remarkable.



Shelby Newkirk has represented Canada at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2020. She also competed in Para Swimming at the Paris Paralympics in 2024 where she won a bronze medal. She holds the Canadian record for the 100-m freestyle and broke the 50-m backstroke world record in 2024.

Nikita Ens is a Paralympic swimmer who has represented Canada at 5 International competitions including the Tokyo and Paris Paralympics. She continues to pursue excellence in the sport through her determination.



Jacob Wassermann competed for Canada as a Para rower at the Paris 2024 Paralympic games. He found success in the sport after less than 2 years of rowing. He has been instrumental in growing the sport and encouraging young athletes.



EAN PRICE: TECHNOLOGY WIZARD

An interview with Karthik Babu Menon and Ean Price.

Where did Ean's Journey begin?

Ean Price was born on 1982 in Dawson Creek, BC. At just 10 months he was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA Type 2). His parents had to drive 14 hours to Vancouver for his medical Appointments, pushing his parents towards a move that would bring them closer to Vancouver. They moved to Peachland, where Ean could access the medical treatment he needed. He's lived in Kelowna for the past 16 years.

How did Ean become so Passionate about Accessibility and Technology?

Ean developed an interest in accessible technology at an early age. He found that there were lots of challenges in his daily life that could be solved through technology. At the age of 15, he temporarily left high school because of his health and persistent pneumonia. Ean and his dad, a retired engineer, created an assistive device called the C9000, a retractable suction machine straw, which helps with swallowing. Ean discovered his passion for accessible technology out of a necessity to improve his quality of life.

When Ean started having difficulty breathing it prevented him from travelling outside of his home. He reached out to the Tetra Society, a non-profit of volunteer engineers who provide solutions to environmental challenges for people with disabilities. They worked together to create a portable shower chair. At 20 years old, he left the country for the first time and has since gone to 12 countries.



How did Ean become a successful entrepreneur?

In 2006, Ean took a course in Digital Media Design through the Centre for Arts and Technology. Driven by a passion to make a change in people's lives, he started ICAN Resource Group Inc. ICAN provides multi-faceted accessible resources such as accessible travel consultations, accessible web design and assistive technology consulting. They are able to assist, travel and design according to individual needs. Ean's passion for technology and eye for finding a solutions is a testament to his unwavering determination. He tackles any problem with purpose and a smile.

I asked Ean a few questions...

“AI is new and unknown for many people. Do you think AI is advanced enough to handle malicious threats?”

Ean says “AI models are advanced by how information is provided to the system. There are two types of hacks, a black hack and a white hack. Black hack is a termed coined for hackers using these systems for their advantage, usually for monetary benefits. White hacks are a similar term but there purpose are quite different. These types of hacks are used to find vulnerabilities in a system, using the help of a systems expert or using AI systems to find vulnerabilities.”

“What is the biggest disadvantage of AI?”

“The major downside of a AI system is not having the emotional intelligence. Human's are able to make a decision according to situational awareness.”

“Are we at a tipping point where more and more people are getting heavily reliant on technology these days?”

“Yes, people are becoming more and more reliant on technology due to convenience and ease of use. Large multinational companies are using strategies to keep people using technologies like AI.”

“What other projects are you excited about?”

“I have been sailing for several years and am excited about planning my upcoming trip to Dubai!”

Breaking Limits With AI: How technology is shaping an inclusive future

- HELI SHETH

In a world increasingly driven by innovation, artificial intelligence (AI) is not just a technological breakthrough—it's a transformative force for inclusion. For people living with disabilities, AI is redefining mobility, communication, healthcare, education, and employment, ensuring that no one is left behind. From smart wheelchairs to adaptive learning platforms, the future is here—and it's inclusive by design.



AI-Powered Mobility Solutions: Independence Reimagined

Mobility is a critical aspect of independence, and AI is empowering individuals with physical disabilities to move with greater autonomy and confidence.

Smart Wheelchairs have evolved from manual control systems to intelligent machines that use AI-driven obstacle detection, voice commands, and eye-tracking.

AI-Driven Prosthetics and Exoskeletons bridge the gap between limitation and liberation. Bionic limbs powered by AI interpret neural or muscle signals while exoskeletons dynamically assist users in walking.

Brain-Computer Interfaces: The Power of Thought

For individuals with physical disabilities, traditional assistive technologies often fall short of providing true independence. Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs)—a fusion of neuroscience and AI—are changing that by enabling users to control technology using only their brain signals.

BCIs decode neural activity into commands, allowing hands-free control of devices like wheelchairs or smartphones. AI makes these systems faster, more accurate, and responsive by refining signal interpretation.



Everyday Inclusion: AI in Assistive Technologies

AI is reshaping daily life for people with disabilities by making routine tasks more accessible and efficient.

From communication to navigation, AI-powered tools are putting independence within reach. Speech-to-text apps provide real-time transcription, helping those with hearing or speech impairments engage in conversations and meetings. For users with vision loss, apps offer spoken feedback by recognizing faces, reading text, and describing surroundings.

These tools constantly improve through user interaction, and their integration into smartphones and wearables ensures accessibility is part of everyday life—not an afterthought.

Smarter Homes and Workplaces

Accessible environments are no longer limited to ramps and automatic doors—AI is transforming how people with disabilities interact with their surroundings at home and work. Everyday spaces are becoming more intuitive, personalized, and inclusive.

In smart homes, AI systems adjust lighting, temperature, and appliances through voice commands or predictive learning. Devices like Alexa and Google Home adapt to user preferences, minimizing the need for manual input.

At work, AI supports inclusion through features like real-time captioning, accessible platforms, and hands-free task tools—empowering individuals with various disabilities to fully engage in professional settings.

As AI continues to evolve, homes and workplaces are shifting from basic accessibility to proactive, empowering support.

AI in Healthcare and Rehabilitation

AI is transforming rehabilitation and healthcare for people with disabilities, making treatment more accessible, personalized, and proactive.

In physical therapy, AI systems offer tailored exercise routines, track performance, and adapt treatments based on progress. Platforms like Scotland's virtual physiotherapist Kirsty help patients recover at home, easing pressure on healthcare services and reducing wait times.

AI-powered telemedicine tools detect early health issues, send real-time alerts, and provide personalized care—especially valuable for individuals with limited mobility.

By merging data analysis, adaptive learning, and remote access, AI is improving outcomes and reshaping how care is delivered—empowering users to manage their health with greater ease and confidence.

Building Inclusive Careers with AI

The workplace of the future is inclusive, thanks to AI. Job platforms like OurAbility and Inclusively connect skilled individuals with disabilities to employers who prioritize accessibility, matching users to roles based on their abilities.

Remote work is more accessible than ever, with AI enabling voice-activated typing, real-time transcription, and adaptive interfaces. Tech leaders like Google and Microsoft now embed accessibility into their core design, proving inclusion is essential—not optional.

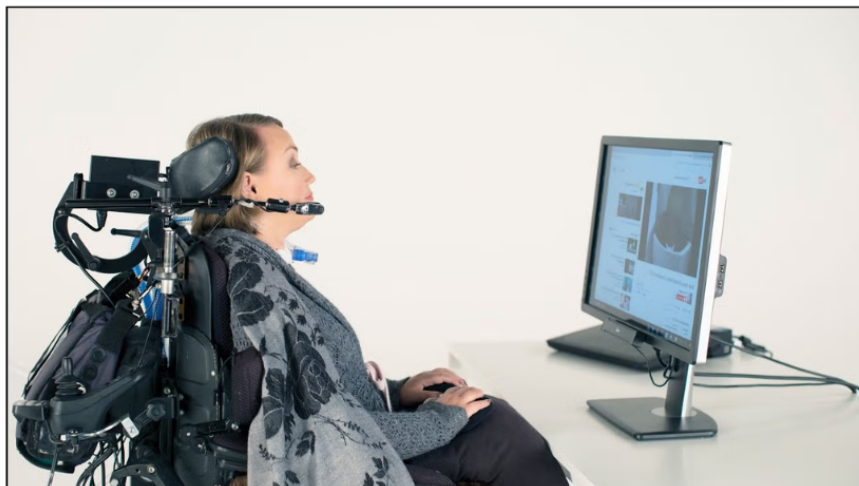
Empowering Growth: AI in Skill Development

Learning new skills is a gateway to independence. AI-driven platforms offer adaptive models that personalize content to individual needs, using voice-guided navigation and pace-adjusted learning.

AI also customizes career training to meet evolving industry demands, ensuring people with disabilities gain not only knowledge but employable, in-demand skills.

Conclusion: A Future Without Limits

AI is not just enhancing lives—it is breaking barriers. As technology continues to evolve, so does its potential to create a world where people of all abilities have equal opportunities to thrive.



SCI Sask. Congratulates Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame 2024 Inductee : Stan Holcomb

SCI Sask. would like to give congratulations to one of our longtime supporters & a leader in the local disability community, Stan Holcomb, for his 2024 induction into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame!



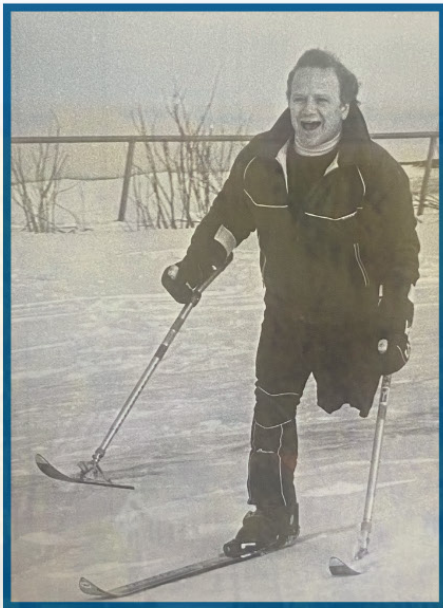
Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame -Stan (2nd from left)

Stan Holcomb was born in 1949 and raised on a dairy farm in rural Saskatchewan, living near Viscount since the age of two. He was born with Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency, a congenital disorder affecting the femur bone which caused Stan to lose his left leg during childhood. Nonetheless, Stan was an active worker on the farm and developed his upper body strength, telling me he could do eighty chin-ups in a row! Stan attended school up until Grade 11, causing concern from his mother regarding his career options. He took a three-week evaluation at the age of 20 and was determined to have an aptitude for mechanical work, taking a ten month course in car mechanics but decided that physical “low work” bending under cars didn’t suit him, so he came to Saskatoon in 1971 to attend school at Kelsey Collegiate. During an appointment at Sask. Abilities for work on his prosthetic leg, he asked the prosthetist there what it took to work there and was told it took a GED and on site work training. He had been fixing his own leg since the age of 15, and decided this would become his career. Stan began at Sask. Abilities making prosthetics and orthotics in 1972, and worked there for over 42 years until his retirement in 2014. Today Stan is semi-retired, but he continues to keep busy, and has been working at Dakota Dunes Golf Course as a Marshall for the past 16 years, which gives him exercise and makes it easy to get his holes in after his shift. He is still an avid golfer and has made two hole-in-ones, his first in 2016 and second in 2021!

Stan and his wife Kristine, have two sons, Harley & Wade, and four grandchildren, which he is immensely proud of!

But what did Stan do to be honored in Saskatoon’s Sports Hall of Fame?

Stan has been involved in sports for decades, both locally and internationally, representing Canada in multiple major Para-sports events. He has been an athlete, coach, organizer and builder. His introduction to wheelchair (WC) basketball was initiated by his coworker at the Abilities Council, an accountant name Ernie Blanchette, who suggested trying out for the team. During his years, he competed against notable fellows, Rick Hansen and Terry Fox, even helping to design a modified strap for Terry to help improve his running. His next step was Canada’s National Wheelchair Games in 1971, where he competed in shotput, discus & basketball.



This led to international competition, including in the 1971 (Jamaica) and 1973 (Peru) Pan-American Games for Canada, competing in shotput, discus, javelin, WC basketball, volleyball and wheeling in the 100, 200, 400, 800, & 1500m races. He made the team again in 1975, but was unable to go that year. Along this time, Stan met Kristine in 1973, a career counselor at Polytech, who became his wife in 1974!

1976 was a busy year for Stan, helping to start the National Coalition for Amputee Sports as a founding member along with Alan Dean as head & Bob Wade. Stan remained the Sask. representative for around ten years. The Sask. WC volleyball team he was a part of won six national championships.

The 1976 Olympics in Toronto was the first to include athlete categories for those with amputations and visual impairments, and Stan competed in shotput, discus, javelin (6th place), volleyball, and running as an above knee bilateral amputee (T42) in the 200m, and taking the silver medal in the 100m race!

Between his Olympic involvement, Stan was also an avid recreational skier, taking yearly trips to Banff with his family after his sons were born, in 1981 and 1986. In 1980, he became one of the first person living with a disability to become a Certified Ski Instructor. He also coached youth hockey for four seasons, Kinsmen football for six seasons and looked after the outdoor rink at Buena Vista for six years.

Stan returned to Team Canada in the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympics, this time on the medical team, his job was to look after the roughly 60 amputees on the team, fixing leg fitting issues as needed.

Stan's list of accomplishments is lengthy and significant!

Stan is now an elder statesman in our local disability community and as the years pass by, health issues for both himself and his wife have slowed them down but not knocked them over. Stan is finding solace in these years with an attitude of "just keep going, and enjoy the time you have", and thrives on being there for his sons & grandchildren.

Thank you Stan, for all your contributions to our community, you deserve it!



Saskatoon's Stan Holcomb (21) and Ernie Blanchette (11) squeeze out Manitoba player

Meet the Mentor : Braden Pettinger

Braden Pettinger was injured in 2015 during junior hockey game that transformed his life but it did not define him. Instead, he found strength in adversity and giving hope to others facing similar challenges. His willingness to share his journey filled with obstacles, growth, and triumph, serves as an inspiration to anyone navigating their own unique path. Braden's experiences are proof that even in the face of hardship, we have the power to rise, adapt, and thrive. Braden enjoys playing wheelchair sports and mentoring people living with spinal cord injuries.

SCI Sask. is incredibly grateful for his openness and dedication to supporting others. His strength, resilience, and willingness to uplift others make the world a brighter and more compassionate place for many.



Q: What was your life like before and soon after injury?

A: After graduating from high school I went on to play junior hockey, playing for two and a half seasons, which was my main focus. I was active, social, and was always on the go. When I was injured in 2015, it was devastating and changed everything. It completely shattered my world. I went from being a strong, active athlete to relying on a wheelchair for mobility. My self-esteem and confidence plummeted, and I withdrew myself from everything. I was afraid to put myself in any social situation because I knew people would look at me differently. It was hard to accept that I could not even take care of myself at first like feeding myself or transferring to my chair. It was a massive blow to my independence, but I was enthusiastic that I would walk again someday.

Q: How did you manage to regain independence after the injury?

A: Initially, my parents would drive me to Regina every week to attend the First Step Wellness Centre. We would stay in the city for a week and then return home to Manitoba for the weekends. As I got stronger, I began spending weekends in the city alone while my parents went back to our farm in Manitoba. I had a caregiver in the mornings, but for the most part, I was on my own.

At first, it was terrifying and intimidating to think about managing on my own, but little by little, I grew more comfortable with it. Eventually, I made the decision to move to Regina permanently. It took time, but I slowly rebuilt my independence and learned to trust myself again.

Q: What were some of the biggest challenges you faced living in a wheelchair?

A: Living in a wheelchair presented many physical challenges. Everyday tasks that were once simple became difficult and took much more time and energy than before; things like navigating uneven sidewalks or transferring myself could be risky, especially while alone. Beyond the physical hurdles, the hardest part was regaining my confidence. I had lost my sense of identity, and it took a lot of time and effort to get that back. By overcoming the physical challenges, I learned that repetition and persistence were key. I kept pushing myself, and though it wasn't easy, but I got there eventually.

Q: What does your daily routine look like now?

A: These days, I stay busy. I work part-time, play wheelchair sports, and am pursuing a degree in Psychology. I still attend the First Step Wellness Centre regularly to keep my body strong and prevent injuries. I have set goals for myself including finishing my education, build a successful career, and eventually starting my own family. While my initial goal was to get out of my wheelchair, I feel that if I did not have that goal, I would not have achieved all that I have up to this point.

Q: How was your experience with mentorship?

A: I like meeting people with new injuries as I feel like I can relate to them and offer advice based on my experiences. I can understand their fears, their doubts, and the overwhelming sense of loss they feel. I know that life is not over just because of an injury. There is still so much to live for!

Q: How did the trauma and injury affect your mental health?

A: After my injury, I became introverted. I kept myself, isolated from my friends, and had minimal social interaction. I was very anxious about what others thought of me and it really impacted my mental health. Over time, I became more empathetic. My ego was humbled, and I was made a more understanding and compassionate person. I grew to appreciate things in a way I never did before.

Q: How did you find the healthcare system during your journey?

A: Navigating the healthcare system was difficult. The wait times for specialised care were long, and I felt that there was a lack of doctors and nurses trained specifically in spinal cord injuries. Traditional rehabilitation centres seemed to have an outdated mindset, sometimes limiting what individuals can achieve which was discouraging.

Q: What do you think can improve the life journey of people living with spinal cord injuries?

A: More support and funding for activity-based therapy programs like First Step Wellness Centre are essential as well as increased access to FES bikes. This could increase people's function while also preventing injuries like bone and joint issues and complications like pressure sores. Adequate rehabilitation funding can greatly enhance someone's quality of life, not just physically, but in terms of overall well-being.

Q: What advice would you give to newly injured individuals?

A: My advice would be to not push people away. People genuinely want to help, and accepting their support can make a huge difference in your journey. Things may feel overwhelming at first, but life is still worth living, and it is possible to find joy and fulfilment again. The road may be long, but with the right mindset, you will get through it.

If you are new to the disability community, or at a time in your life where you feel like you could use some support, SCI Sask's Peer Mentor Program is here for you. Our mentors offer open, honest communication in a safe space that is non-judgemental. All are certified, and have signed an oath of confidentiality. For more information you can contact your Client Service Coordinator, call 1.888.282.0186 or email sciinfo@scisask.ca.



PEER MENTOR NETWORK 2025 VIRTUAL GATHERINGS RECAP

2025 Schedule of Hosts + Topic of Discussion: 6:30-8pm

- ✓ January 14 - “Aesthetics & Self Expression” with Ryan Palibroda from Alleles Design Studio (<https://alleles.ca/>)
Ryan co-founded a prosthetics cover studio where function meets fashion, & discussed how hiding how we look is for the past & how an individualized style helps us feel good & do better!
- ✓ February 11 - “Managing Mental Health & Wellness” with Holly Flett MSW/Summit Sports & Health
Holly discussed various mental health approaches & mindsets that help us to manage daily stressors & even some of the bigger challenges.
- ✓ March 11 - “Gaining Momentum with Assistive Technology” with Ean Price (<https://sci-bc.ca/impact-story/ean-price/>)
Ean is an expert on adaptive technology & how it helps people, sharing with us the evolution of AI from the past, to the present day & the potential uses in the future for those with disabilities.
- ✓ April 8 - “Paws & Possibility” with Dr. Linzi Williamson
Dr. Linzi shared her love of animals, & the work she is doing with service & therapy dogs as part of her research team, bettering the lives of people with disabilities.
- ✓ May 13 - “Career Navigation & Professional Growth” with Carmen Donald (MentorAbility Canada)
Carmen will be discussing job searching & overcoming challenges faced when looking for employment.
- ✓ June 10 - “Springing Into Summer With Physical Activity” - Guest Speaker TBD



FOR INFO ON FUTURE EVENTS
SCIINFO@SCISASK.CA



COMING SOON

MOVIE MATINEE

SHOWTIMES @ 1:30-4PM



"Super/Man"
May 28th



"Wonder"
June 25th



"Scent of a Woman"
July 23rd



"Re-Inventing the Wheel"
August 27th



"Still Alice"
September 24th



"Gigi & Nate"
October 22nd

SCI Sask. Provincial Office
(306)-652-9644
1705 McKercher Drive, Saskatoon

Snacks & Refreshments Provided
(Snack requests also encouraged)
RSVP to sciinfo@scisask.ca

Samuel's Journey to Canada



2022 - Receiving MBA from University of Chichester

Samuel was in a motor vehicle accident that left him paralyzed. He has always had a positive outlook on life and describes himself as generally optimistic about life. After his accident he decided he wanted a better life and migrated to Canada. He moved just six months ago. His brother did a google search and found out about SCI Sask, he encouraged his brother to seek out services. When asked about his experience with SCI Sask he said “I have felt welcomed and supported through the process. I know where to reach out if I have any questions. I felt included in the community within a short span of time. As a person who does not have a driver’s license yet, I have been dependent on Uber since moving here. I was able to get approved for Access Transit with the help of provided from Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan.”

Samuel has found many differences between his home country and Canada. The accessibility throughout Saskatoon has been a huge change for him. In Nigeria he was not able to leave his house without the help of his wife. Now he can leave and find more independence.

Immigrating to Canada was a time-consuming process. Samuel found the process to be filled with uncertainty on whether or not paperwork would get approved. The duration of the process was nerve-racking. Hopefully in the future the process will take less time, but he feels like Canada is worth the wait!

Submitted by: [Karthik Babu-Menon](#)

IN MEMORY

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan treasures and celebrates the lives and contributions of those who have recently passed on. We cherish our memories of them, and offer sincere and heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near. So loved, so missed, but held so dear".

We remember : **Doris Bergen, Margie Bort, Gunnar Gustafson, Lucille Murfitt, Norman Neigum & Dave Noolchoos.**

SCI Sask Remembers Long Time Employee & Supporter: Paul Charlebois

It is with peaceful sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Charlebois on June 20, 2024. Paul died peacefully at home on the acreage with his family by his side only seven days short of his 83rd birthday. Born June 27, 1941 & raised in Estevan, SK, Paul grew up the youngest of his four siblings. Paul worked for Sasktel until 1968, when a car accident left him quadriplegic. Despite the adversity of such a life altering injury, Paul persevered and became a very active advocate for those with disabilities, founding wheelchair sports in Regina, becoming the President of the Canadian Paraplegic Association and much more. He himself competed in the Paralympic Games and brought home several medals.

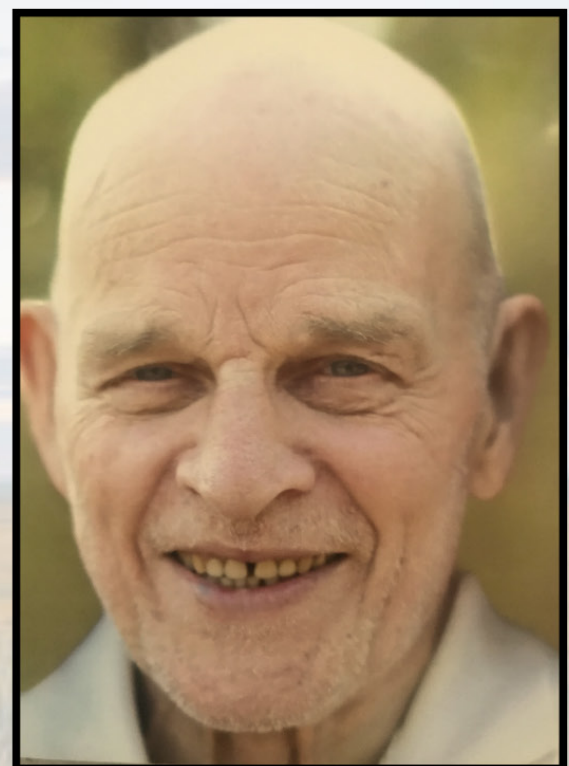
In 1970, Paul married his soulmate Cecile and they moved to Saskatoon. It was in Saskatoon that he worked at the SK Abilities Council as manager of Adaptive Tech. & Special Needs Equipment until his retirement in 2001.

In 1985, they adopted their daughter Simone & after gaining a son-in-law (Curtis) in 2008, Paul became the grandfather to six grand daughters!

Paul & Cecile (along with others), brought the Emmanuel Community from Europe to Canada with Paul as its first leader and he attributed his deepening faith & love for the Sacraments, the Church, Mary & clergy to his involvement with it since 1990.

Although his last years were very much homebound, the impact of his sacrificial prayers were felt far & wide. Paul will be remembered as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle & friend. He was a charismatic, humble, and faithful soul with a fantastic sense of humour that never wavered even to his last days. Paul was indescribably resilient and faithful to the Lord's call and plan for his life till the end.

~ As submitted by Cecile Charlebois ~



Barrier Free Tiny Cabin Rentals Opening in Lucky Lake!

Spinal Cord Injury Sask. is always excited to hear about new initiatives focusing on accessibility and inclusion in our province. So you can imagine how thrilled we were to hear about Wee All Stay - Barrier Free Tiny Cabin rentals, located in Lucky Lake, SK and just a 12 km trek to beautiful Lake Diefenbaker.

Heather and Doug Symenuk are opening Wee All Stay on May 15th. After experiencing issues travelling and finding accessible lodging during their travels, as they both are living with a disability, they felt inclusion was often an afterthought. So, they decided that they needed to be the change that they had been looking for.

They have built two fully wheelchair accessible cabins on their land. They are fully serviced and amenities include a lake tour service and mobility aid rentals if needed.

“We have created a space for EVERYONE. Here, in our tiny cabins, Wee ALL Stay.”

Heather and Doug live on the property so are close at hand if needed but the spaces are separate and private. Their house happens to be the original Lucky Lake Hospital. “We are officially the oldest AND the newest buildings in Lucky Lake!”

Contact Heather or Doug @
Phone 306-313-0228
email: weeallstay@gmail.com



Fun fact!

Heather and Doug also own and operate ‘The Carousel Cookie Co.’ making custom artisan cookies to order. Tasty treats!





Addressing the Housing Needs of People with Spinal Cord Injury / Dysfunction

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY / DYSFUNCTION (SCI-D), FAMILY MEMBERS & PROFESSIONALS TO HELP CO-DESIGN A HOUSING TOOL-KIT.

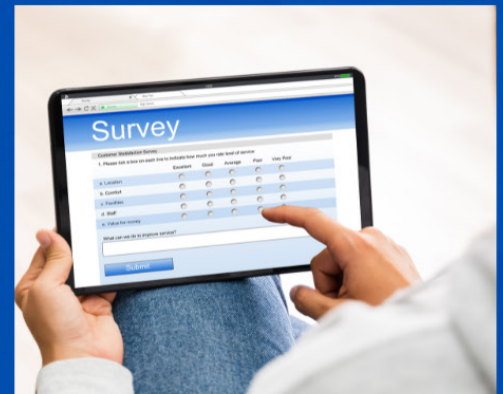


This study is asking people from the SCI/D community from across Canada to complete a survey asking questions about:

- satisfaction with their housing;
- physical, mental & social wellbeing.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

To complete the survey online or by phone/Zoom.



TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kirstin Yuzwa, Research Associate
+1 (416) 226-6780 x57605 or HousingStudy@sunnybrook.ca

Funding for this study is provided by the Craig H. Nielsen Foundation

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Sander L. Hitzig, Senior Scientist

Phone: +1-416-226-6780 x 57177

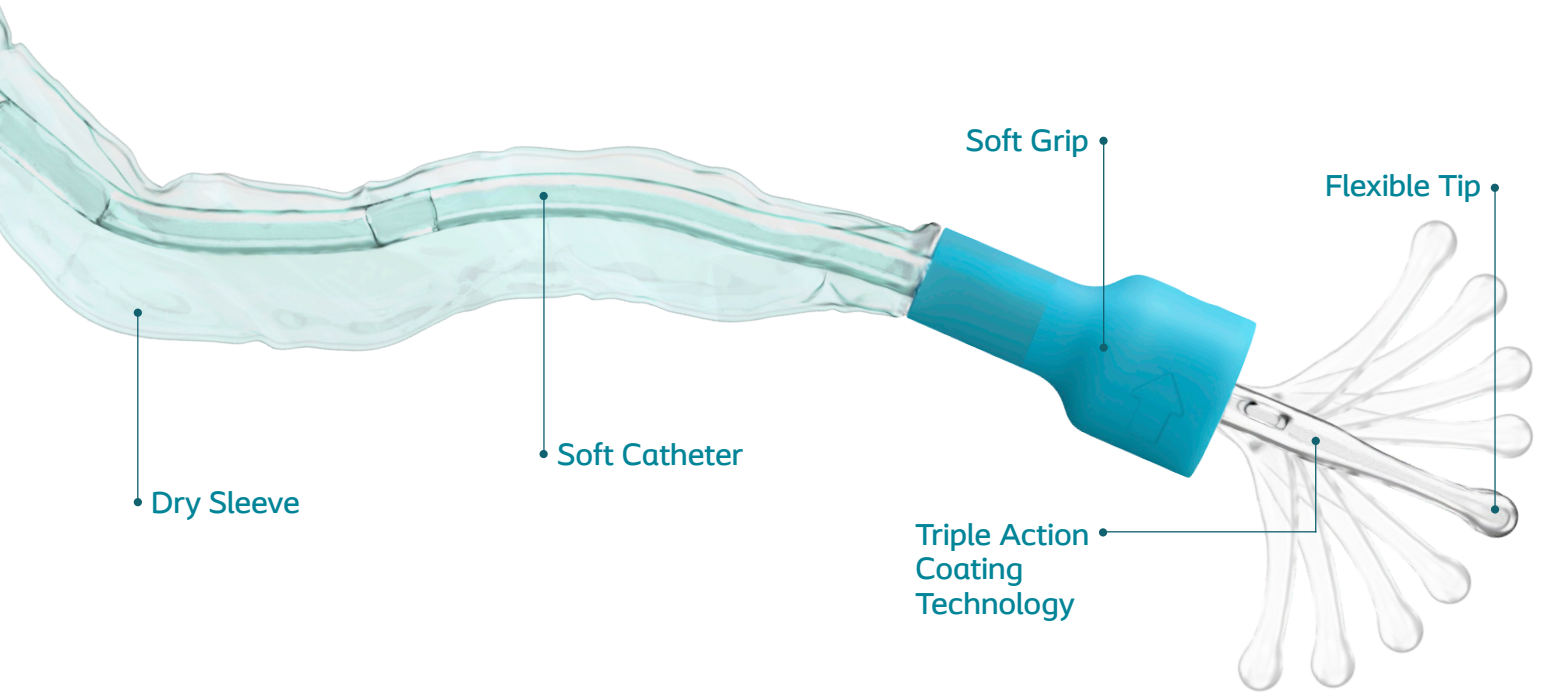
Email: sander.hitzig@sunnybrook.ca



This study has received ethics approval from the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

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* Limitations apply

1. Compared to uncoated catheters.

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References: 1. Burns, J, Pollard, D, Ali, A, McCoy, CP, Carson, I & Wylie, MP 2024, 'Comparing an integrated amphiphilic surfactant to traditional hydrophilic coatings for the reduction of catheter-associated urethral microtrauma', ACS Omega, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsomega.4c02109>. *Data from Burns et al.

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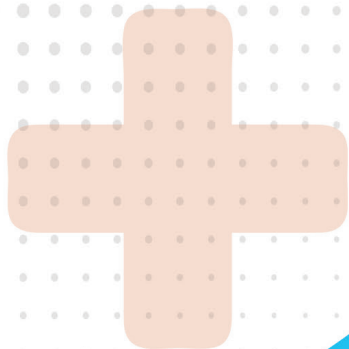
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