



Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.  
Lésions Médullaires Saskatchewan

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 24



# 1964-2024

Watch for Celebration notice by visiting [www.scisask.ca](http://www.scisask.ca)

# SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 24

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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

It's an honour to serve Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc. (SCI Sask) Board of Directors (BOD), as our mission statement remains the fundamental building blocks to SCI Sask success "To assist persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence, self-reliance and full community participation. The 2023 - 2024 Annual Report showcases strategic alliances that were developed to meet the demand of our communities that we serve despite a severe flood that disrupted Saskatoon services. SCI Sask introduced technological advances to meet the growing demographic diversity of rural, urban, and our more Northern remote communities.

SCI Sask Board of Directors in conjunction with Committee collaboration supports the SCI Sask Team; Financial, Audit, Investment, Fund Development, Accessibility, Nominating, Indigenous Advisory, and Executive Review Committee strives to advance a wrap - around service delivery model. In 2023 -2024 a milestone of unprecedented achievement, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act* became a reality as a result of Federal and Provincial stakeholder commitment to *The Accessible Canada Act*.

SCI Sask fostered partnership activity to support value-added programming to enhance membership connectivity and integrate sustainable resources. Partnership engagement builds public confidence and awareness for the evolvement of an all-inclusive community. Fund raising activities and volunteerism are an integral part of community engagement necessary for expansion to this service delivery model. SCI Sask embraces annual professional development to ensure its governance structure possesses the skill set and capability to meet its fiduciary duty ensuring accountability and integrity. SCI Sask BoD must acknowledge our Executive Director and the SCI SASK TEAM for our overall success.

Without the support from our Federal and Provincial partners, public dignitaries, SCI Sask membership, staff, volunteers and community stakeholders contribute to the success of our SCI Sask Peer Services Network.

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc. Board of Directors are committed to the continuity of the CPA legacy. The SCI Sask BoD recognizes and acknowledges the vast contributions our partners make towards SCI Sask vision and mission.

"Working collaboratively for community inclusivity."

### Message from the Acting Executive Director



*Delynn Bortis*

Acting Executive Director

For the fiscal year of 2023-2024 Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc. continued to be guided by the Strategic Plan, working towards expanding success in the areas of Capacity, Community Linkages, Finance Resource-Generation and Stability, Indigenous Engagement, and Public Relations and Recognition.

The HR team worked diligently, implementing new virtual groups to engage clients and enhance peer support services in urban and rural areas, and offered information sessions, utilizing technology and in-person methods as a way of reaching out on a broader base.

SCI Sask continued to collaborate with other CBOs, and had representation on many committees dedicated to accessibility and inclusion, including committees formed by the University of Saskatchewan, and the City of Saskatoon. The HR team strove to consume and stay updated on information relevant to stakeholders of SCI Sask such as the implementation of the Canada Disability Benefit, the momentum of the Accessible Canada Act, as well as initiatives to promote accessibility across Saskatchewan, including consultation and collaboration on a project that saw 6 affordable barrier free units becoming homes for people experiencing mobility disabilities.

SCI Sask, along with other corporate members of SCI Canada continues to advocate for programs and systems that are essential for advancing inclusivity and accessibility on a national level. Greater insight can be found within the 2023-24 Annual Report.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for their dedication in governing SCI Sask, and thank you to all members of the HR team for all the hard work and perseverance in fulfilling the SCI Sask vision.

## SCI Sask Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE

President-William Lehne\*

Vice President-Monique Beauregard

Treasurer-Jacqueline Halliday

Secretary-Audrey Zucker-Levin

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Stewart McKeown\*

Doug Mitchell\*

Blair Morgan\*

Christine Strauss\*

Selali Tettevi\*

### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Robert Capp M.D., FRCP

Dr. Lionel Lavoie

Lynn Archdekin

\* Denotes person living with a physical disability

## SCI Sask Provincial Human Resources Team

### LEADERSHIP

- Executive Director-Launel Scott
- Bookkeeper-Rebecca Du
- Finance and Materials Manager-Randall Keays
- Regional Office Administrative Assistant-Glaiza Orpiano
- Administrative Coordinator-Mallory Maurice

### DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES

Client Service Coordinators

- Delynne Bortis
- Karthik Babu Menon
- Josh Forrest
- Nigel Fernandez
- Karen Thompson
- Saba Wahab Khan

### PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

- Truth and Reconciliation Engagement Coordinator  
Josh Forrest

Financial Overview

Service Agreements

- Government of Saskatchewan
- Government of Canada
- WCB Saskatchewan
- SGI Saskatchewan

Grants/Donations

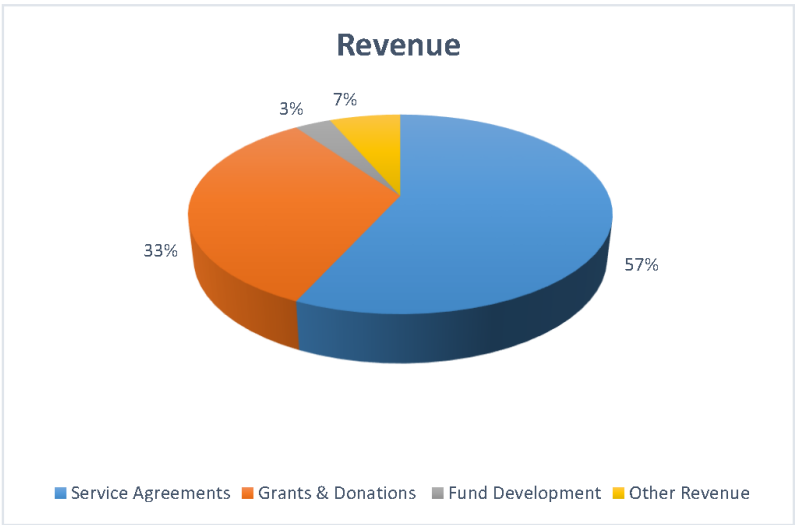
- Community Grants
- Donations
- Foundations
- United Way

Fund Development

- Events

Other

- Membership
- Investments
- SCI Canada
- Accessibility Strategy

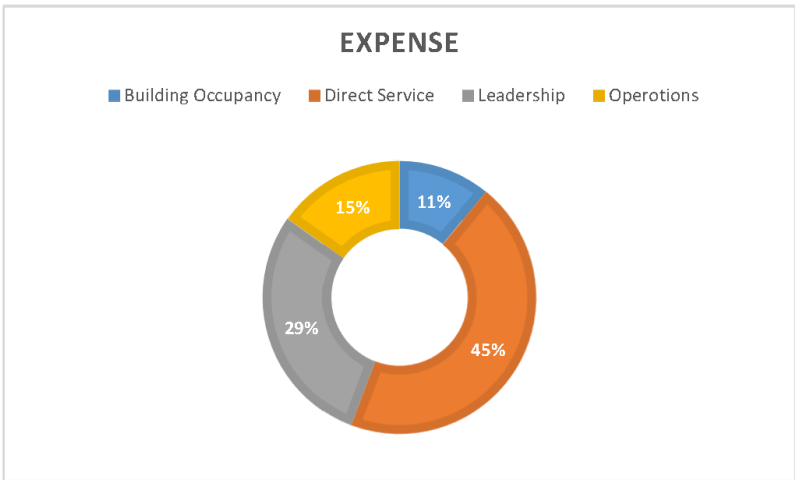


Capacity Building

Direct Services

Leadership

Operations



SCI Sask Mandate

MEETING the MANDATE

SCI SASK CORE SERVICES

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

# SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 24

## 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 2023:  
Four scholarship of \$ 500.00 awarded July 2023
- Education and Employment supports were provided to thirty 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 Regina Sector Reference Group
  - ✓ City of Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee
  - ✓ City of Saskatoon Public Library Consultation
  - ✓ College of Kinesiology Adapted Physical Activity Fund Committee
  - ✓ Saskatoon Airport Authority Community Consultative Committee
- SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy:
  - ✓ RHF Accessibility Professionals Network: Englefeld School Playscape, Englefeld SK; Blackstrap Glamping Dome Project; Innovation Sask Saskatoon & Regina
- SCI Sask participation in community awareness is fostered by presentations, membership and community consultation with the following groups.
  - ✓ Presentations: Weyburn Public Library; Weyburn Leisure Centre; Catholic Family Services; University of Regina; Sask Polytechnic; Phoenix Residential Society; Community Low Income Centre; Therapy Services-Tatagwa View; Saskatoon City Hospital; SIIT Saskatoon main campus; SIIT Saskatoon remote campus; Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre; Metis Nation; Str8-Up
  - ✓ 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."*

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## Truth and Reconciliation Engagement (TRE) April 2023 – May 2024



### *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!





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## 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)
  - ✓ Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association (SWSA)
- SK Health Authority:
  - ✓ Acute Care Regina: General Hospital and Saskatoon Royal University Hospital
  - ✓ Rehabilitation Centre's: Saskatoon City Hospital and Wascana Rehab Centre
  - ✓ Saskatoon Client Patient Access Services
  - ✓ Regina Systems Wide Admission/Discharge

## SCI Sask Clientele Referrals

### SCI Sask Client Referrals 2023-24

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

**Provincial Office Saskatoon: 26**

**Regional Office Regina: 12**

## Fund Development and Awareness Events

### SCI Sask Saskatoon Present 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**
- **In-Person**
  - ✓ Dr. B. Cathy Craven – Using Social Media to promote healthy aging: Muscles, Bones & Nerves.
  - ✓ Ryan Riehl – Live life to the fullest, starting over.
  - ✓ Dr. Wagnar Souza – Overground exoskeleton Rehab
  - ✓ Dr. Stephen Patrick – Participants' perspective on 'NeuroSask: Active and Connect.
  - ✓ Ean Price – Technology for Living-A Plethora of Adaptive Devices.
  - ✓ Paul Gustafson – Movement is Key
  - ✓ Christine Strauss – Art with GlassOuse

## SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 24

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

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

Appreciated Sponsors Included: SGI, My Financial Group, and PA Daily Herald

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





## SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 24

### SCI Sask 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

The fourth annual event was held on August 12 2023 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. Forty companies and individuals sponsored or donated to the event, which raised over \$35,000.00 for SCI Sask services. A very sincere "Thank you" to our participants, volunteers and sponsors (see list on page 10).



# SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 24

Thank you to Funders, Supporters, Sponsors and Donors

## Major Funders



## Financial Supporters



## Sponsorship and Event Contributors

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament August 2023:

**Major Sponsors:** Prince Albert DAILY HERALD; PA Canadian Tire; NexGen Energy LTD; Northern Lights Casino; and Nutrien Ag Solutions; SMEDCO **Hole Sponsors:** Pines Power Sports Marine – PA; LAKELAND FORD; Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation; Rally Motorsports; SGI (Operations Centre); TacoTime; Parkland Ambulance Care; Prairie Heart Mobility; PTR Properties Inc.; R & W Custom Collision; Lake Country Co-op; AW Real Estate Services; Clarence Campeau Development; **Community Supporters:** Cooke Municipal Golf Course; Crickle Creek; Dharma Chakra; ECONO Timber Mart; Elk Ridge Resort; Gabriel Dumont Institute; Darryl & Patti Koivisto; Leon's Furniture; Mark's Nine Hole Golf and Country; Mars Mini Golf 3D Glow-in-the –Dark; Reeds Security; SaskEnergy; SaskTel; SK Research Council (SRC); Tru North PA; Valley Road Par 3 Saskatoon; and Vanscoy Hotel.

### Saskatoon Spectrum of Innovation Conference and Tradeshow:

**Major Sponsors:** SGI (Operations Centre); McCannell Financial Group; and Prince Albert DAILY HERALD.

**Vendors:** URO Medical Supplies; Motion; Convatec Canada; NorDon Medical.

**Presenters:** Paul Gustafson; Christine Strauss.

**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.**