



Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.  
Lésions Médullaires Saskatchewan



# Annual Report 2024-2025

Celebrating a year of community, connection, and impact

Provincial: 306.652.9644

Regional: 306.584.0101

[sciinfo@scisask.ca](mailto:sciinfo@scisask.ca)

[www.scisask.ca](http://www.scisask.ca)

# SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 25

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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

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.”*



*William Lehne*

President

The 2024 - 2025 Annual Report showcases the strength of community engagement and the power of partnership development in the progression of community inclusivity. SCI Sask continues to build upon community connections and integrate resources to enhance service delivery standards for the people we serve. SCI Sask introduced key changes in leadership to compliment the growing demographic diversity of rural, urban, and our more Northern remote communities.

In 2024 SCI Sask consulted external experts to assure SCI Sask 2025-2028 Strategic Plan met the growing demand of the communities that we serve. SCI Sask BoD's reinforced leadership with a revitalized synergy that translated into an energized workforce dedicated to enhancing service delivery standards. SCI Sask introduced value-added supports for SCI Sask members striving for educational advancement in the journey to employability success. "The Saskatchewan Abilities Act" is an essential resource influx designed to empower person(s) throughout the service delivery spectrum.

Committee collaboration was instrumental in achieving the 2021-2024 strategic goals as the SCI Sask HR Team worked towards safeguarding corporate continuity. Annually, SCI Sask initiates scrutiny of its governance structure to ensure BoD's possess the skill set to meet its fiduciary duty warranting an accountable infrastructure of integrity. SCI Sask BoD must acknowledge our Executive Director and the SCI SASK HR TEAM for overall success.

SCI Sask recognizes our Federal and Provincial partners, public dignitaries, SCI Sask membership, staff, volunteers and community stakeholders' contributions towards achieving the SCI Sask Peer Services Network accolades. The SCI Sask BoD's acknowledges the vast contributions our partners make towards making SCI Sask vision a reality.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc. (SCI Sask) Board of Directors (BoD), as our mission statement "To assist persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence, self-reliance and full community participation remains the foundation of SCI Sask success.

"Working collaboratively for community inclusivity."





*Delynnne Bortis*  
Executive Director

Hello Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Members, Partners, Funders, and Friends. I would like to take the opportunity to offer heartfelt thanks for the roles you all play in supporting SCI Sask as we gather for our 61st Annual General Meeting. I am filled with appreciation as we reflect on the journey of the past year and look ahead to the possibilities of the year to come.

The 2024–25 fiscal year marks a pivotal chapter in our organization’s long-standing commitment to advancing inclusion, accessibility, and independence for individuals living with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities across Saskatchewan. We have continued to strengthen our community connections, enhance our services, and amplify the collaborative strength of the people we serve.

This past year, we focused on expanding peer support, deepening partnerships with provincial rehabilitation services and community-based services, and advocating for accessible environments where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. From innovative outreach efforts in outlying communities to collaborative projects and employment initiatives aimed at physical and systemic barrier reduction, our impact has only been possible thanks to the trust and engagement of our members, the dedication of our staff, board of directors and volunteers, and the unwavering support of our funders and partners.

Looking ahead, our priorities will continue to be centered around the lived experiences of our community. We are committed to strengthening capacity, investing in and creating meaningful programs, and ensuring every individual we serve is supported, valued, and empowered.

Thank you for being part of this essential work. Together, we will continue to lead change, break down barriers, and build a more inclusive Saskatchewan.

### **SCI Sask Provincial Human Resources Team Photo**



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## SCI Sask Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE

#### President

- ❖ William Lehne\*

#### Vice-President

- ❖ Monique Beauregard
- ❖ Blair Morgan\*

#### Treasurer

- ❖ Jacqueline Halliday

#### Secretary

- ❖ Dr. Audrey Zucker-Levin

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- ❖ Matthew Dean\*
- ❖ Blair Morgan\*
- ❖ Brandon Prevost\*
- ❖ 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; Delynne Bortis\*
- Bookkeeper/Finance Manager-Rebecca Du
- Regional Office Administrative Assistant-Glaiza Orpiano
- Administrative Coordinator-Mallory Maurice
- Provincial Office Administrative Assistant-Cuong La\*

### DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES

#### Client Service Coordinators

- Karthik Babu Menon\*
- Josh Forrest\*
- Madison Wassermann\*
- Heli Sheth
- Saba Wahab Khan

### PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

- Administrative & Technical Assistant-Cuong La\*

\* Denotes person living with a physical disability

**Service Agreements – 80%**

- Ministry of Social Services
- Ministry of Immigration and Career
- SGI Saskatchewan
- WCB Saskatchewan

**Grants & Donations – 3%**

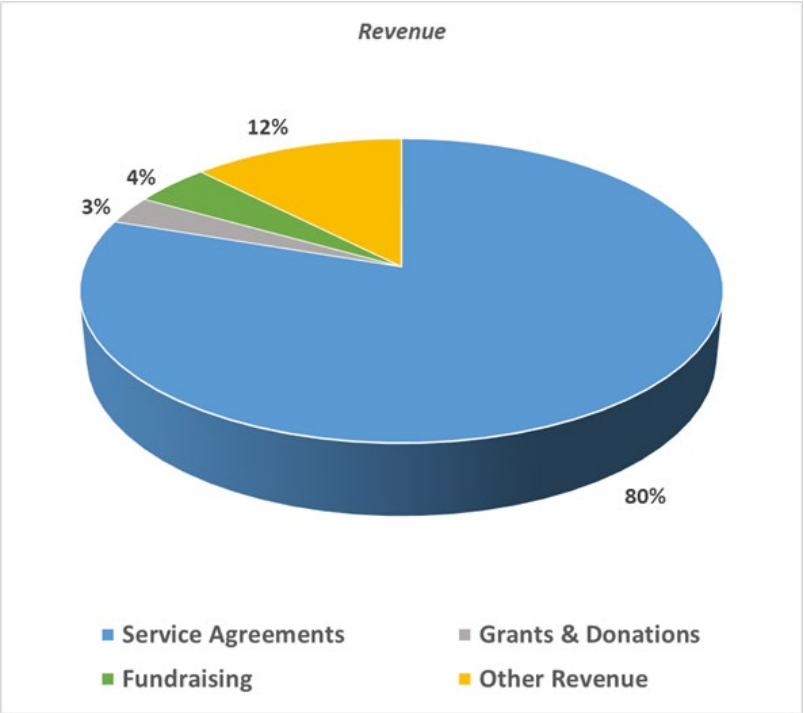
- Memorial Donations
- General Donations
- United Way Regina

**Fundraising – 4%**

- Events

**Other Revenue – 12%**

- SCI Sask Membership
- Accessibility Strategy
- Advertisers
- Investment Income

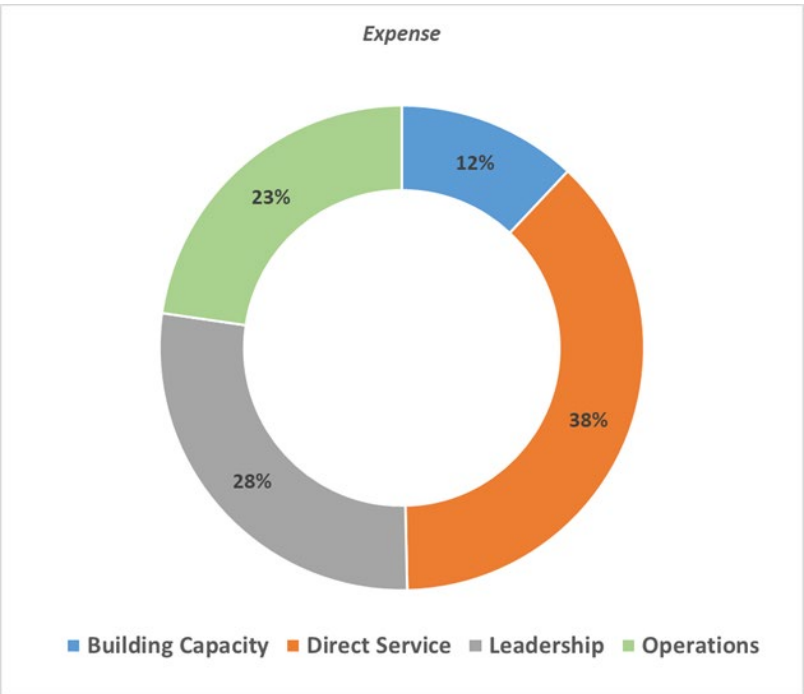


**Direct Service – 38%**

**Leadership – 28%**

**Operations – 23%**

**Building Capacity – 12%**



### MEETING the MANDATE

#### SCI SASK CORE SERVICES

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

#### Rehabilitation Services:

- Support in activities of daily living including Housing, Transportation, Equipment, Access to systemic services.
- Peer Mentorship Network:  
Peer Mentor and Peer Mentee Connections; virtual and in-person gatherings, women's circle, and family support.
- Remote, rural and northern service gaps identification.

#### Education and Employment:

- Education and Employment supports were provided to thirty individuals living with a physical disability within SCI Sask clientele; with eleven individuals in receipt of disability accommodation financial support to enhance or enable education and employment initiatives.
- Ten (10) individuals living with a physical disability obtained employment through supports delivered by SCI Sask Client Service Coordinators

#### Community Awareness and Accessibility:

- SCI Sask is represented on the following awareness accessibility related committees:
  - ✓ Canadian Women with SCI Committee
  - ✓ City of Regina Sector Reference Group and Indoor Aquatic Facility Sub-Committee
  - ✓ City of Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee
  - ✓ College of Kinesiology Adapted Physical Activity Fund Committee
  - ✓ Saskatoon Airport Authority Community Consultative Committee
- SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy:
  - ✓ RHF Accessibility Professionals Network: Blackstrap Glamping Dome Project; Innovation Sask Saskatoon & Regina; Gov't of Saskatchewan Early Years-Ministry of Education; Sask Crafts Council
- SCI Sask participation in community awareness is fostered by presentations, membership and community consultation with the following groups.
  - ✓ Presentations: First Nations Employment Center (Regina); Neil Squire Society; University of Regina; Sask Cancer Agency; Bethlehem Catholic High School; Sask Polytechnic; Saskatoon City Hospital Rehab; Saskatoon City Hospital Rehab Executive Meeting; Southeast College Weyburn; Wascana Rehabilitation Centre Regina;
  - ✓ Partnerships/Memberships/Collaborations: Chambers of Commerce- Regina, Saskatoon and Saskatchewan; Disability Services Alliance; First Steps Wellness Centre; Saskatoon Council on Aging; Partners in Employment; Mentor Ability; Dress for Success Regina

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- Indigenous Engagement
  - ✓ Collaborate and support research project “Wheels of Wisdom: Culturally Grounded Assistive Devices for Nehiyawak (Plains) and Maskêkowiiniwak (Swampy) Cree and Métis Elders”
  - ✓ Elder support offered through SCI Sask for clients

## Information and Systems Navigation:

- Support connection in the community and assist clientele with the following entities:
  - ✓ Indigenous Services Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)
  - ✓ First Steps Wellness Center
  - ✓ 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 2024-25**

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

**Provincial Office Saskatoon: 24**

**Regional Office Regina: 5**



### **PEER MENTORSHIP NETWORK EVENTS & INFORMATION SESSIONS:**

SCI Sask client service coordinators have had a busy year, reinvigorating the peer network through Women's Circle, online virtual meetings, and "Equal Grounds Café" coffee group, while also introducing new events such as movie matinee and upcoming one-off themed events. They are excited to be working on several initiatives with the peer mentor network, finding new Peer Mentors and making new connections with Mentees.

CSC facilitated Peer Mentor Network sessions sparked engaging discussions, personal reflections, and peer-to-peer support through sharing lived-experiences. These sessions created a safe space for clients to connect, feel heard, and opportunity to develop personal and professional growth.

CSCs take turns in carrying out and organizing information sessions at Saskatoon City Hospital's Rehab ward every third Wednesday monthly. As SCI Sask works collaboratively with rehab social workers and therapists, SCI Sask had gained a visible presence throughout the rehab ward, and have seen an increase in new client referrals at the info-sessions.

Holiday gatherings and celebrations for the 2024 holiday season were very well attended as clients and staff came together to enjoy the festivities, meals, engaging games, and camaraderie.

Any SCI Sask peer support incentive encompasses a compassionate and dynamic space where individuals come together to navigate life's challenges and celebrate triumphs, united by shared experiences. Any event is more than just a meeting, and collaboratively the events are creating a vibrant, evolving community where shared experiences transform into collective strength. SCI Sask has a growing group of consistent members who look forward to welcoming new people.

### **EQUAL GROUNDS CAFÉ:**



If anything was learned from the COVID pandemic, it was that all people need and desire human connection, and although virtual options can offer great information, a sense of belonging, and a way to connect over vast distances, there is just something about sharing coffee with

a group of friends. Noting the need, Saskatoon CSC's proposed to host a coffee group at the Saskatoon office, and the response and turnout has been outstanding. "Equal Grounds Café" attendance has exceeded the capacity of the SCI Sask boardroom and has moved to a larger area in the SRA building. Consisting of a core group of attendees and new faces each time, people are responding to the opportunity to socialize, troubleshoot, and share knowledge with others with shared experiences. It has made the office feel more energized and has also led to stronger connections with and amongst SCI Sask clients. The "Equal Grounds Café" occurs the second Wednesday of the month, from 1:30-3:00 pm.

### **MOVIE MATINEE:**

The SCI Sask "Movie Matinee" was born through staff conversations centering around the love of movies, and the inability of accessing that love with a group of friends who use mobility devices, as well as the financial strain of going out to the theatre. Movie matinee occurs the 4th Wednesday of the month in the SCI Sask provincial office boardroom, complete with popcorn and drinks. The show is always interesting, inclusive, involves a theme of disability, and sparks some intimate and thought-provoking conversation.



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## WOMEN'S CIRCLE:



SCI Sask Women's Circle is a supportive community dedicated to empowering its members through shared experiences, mutual encouragement, and opportunities for personal and collective growth. SCI Sask believes in the strength that comes from women uplifting women, creating a safe and inspiring space where every voice is valued and heard. Women's Circle is more than just a gathering; it's an energetic and evolving community where every woman has the opportunity to connect, grow, and empower herself and others. The group is excited about how far they have come and the journey ahead as they continue to grow.

## SCI SASK 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SCI Sask fifth annual fundraiser Golf Tournament event kicked off on August 10 at Mark's Nine Hole Golf and Country Club, located just north of Prince Albert SK, and it was a major success.

Thirteen (13) teams participated in a "Texas Scramble" format, on a beautiful sunny day. More than fifty (50) companies and individuals sponsored or donated to the event, which raised over \$33,000.00 for SCI Sask services.

A very sincere "Thank you" to our participants, volunteers and sponsors (see list on page 11).

Some snippets of the beautiful day on the green, taken by SCI Sask staff and volunteers!



## SCI SASK REGINA WHEELCHAIR RELAY 2024



On October 19, 2024, SCI Sask proudly hosted the Regina Wheelchair Relay at Wascana Rehab Centre. A vibrant and inspiring event that brought together community members, volunteers, and participants in support of inclusion and accessibility. The day was filled with energy, teamwork, and a strong spirit of unity as attendees engaged in activities that raised awareness around mobility challenges. SCI Sask was especially honored by the participation of clients and the support from local organizations, whose involvement made the event both impactful and meaningful. The presence of Regina's former Mayor, Sandra Masters, further emphasized the city's commitment to addressing accessibility and fostering a more inclusive community. This event not only deepened

community connections but also offered valuable lessons in event planning, sponsorship outreach, and participant engagement. The overwhelmingly positive feedback affirmed the event's success and has inspired the organization to continue developing inclusive initiatives in the future.

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## 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

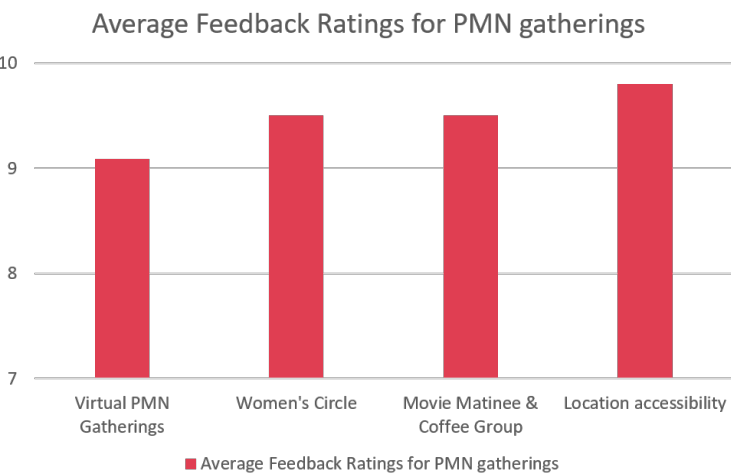
SCI Sask celebrated 60 years of providing support to its incredible community on November 2024.

SCI Sask is incredibly proud of the progress made in achieving its vision, and looking back, wants to thank everyone who has supported the organization along the way. SCI Sask is excited to see where the next 60 years goes!

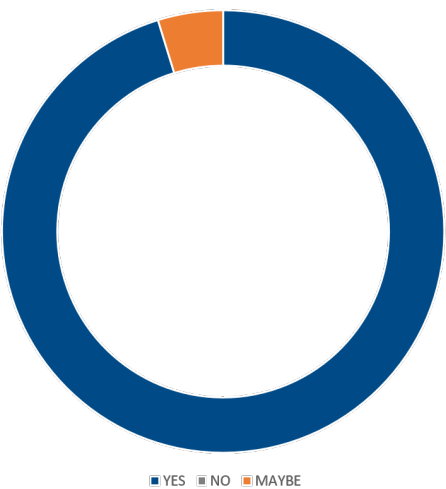
Here are some photos of the celebration, taken by SCI Sask's very own talented CSC Madison Wassermann!



## SCI Sask Peer Mentorship Network Clients Feedback



Client Feedback: Willingness to Attend Again





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Thank you to Funders, Supporters, Sponsors and Donors

## Major Funders



## Financial Supporters



## Sponsorship and Event Contributors

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 2024 Golf Tournament August:

**Major Sponsors:** MANN-NORTHWAY Collision; Prince Albert DAILY HERALD; NexGen Energy LTD; and Nutrien Ag Solutions; **Hole Sponsors:** Pines Power Sports Marine – PA; LAKELAND FORD; Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation; Rally Motorsports; Northern Resource Trucking; Prairie Heart Mobility; PTR Properties Inc.; R & W Custom Collision; Lake Country Co-op; Mackie Physiotherapy; Bernath Private Weath Management; BDS Supply Inc.; Long Lake Insurance; FORAN; Gabriel Ng CPA Inc.; Prince Albert Toyota; URO Medical; Sawatsky Catering; Western Petroleum Services Inc.; White Water Clothing; Timberline Trailers and Fabricating Ltd.; **Advertising Sponsors:** SaskTel; Centennial Plumbing, Heating & Electrical; Party City; North Ridge Development Corporation; Hollister Limited; **Community Supporters:** Golf Saskatchewan; Mark's Nine Hole Golf and Country Club; Nordon Drugs; ECONO Lumber; Warman Home Centre LP; PA Wand Wash; Armstrong Hillcrest Cabins; Valley Road Par 3 Golf Course; Perdue Oasis; Legends Golf Club; Crickle Creek; Silver Hills Golf Resort; Dakota Dunes Golf Links; Leon's Furniture; Crown Cleaners; Peavy Mart PA; Gabriel Dumont Institute; Escape Sports; McQuarrie's Tea & Coffee Merchants; Better Good; Broadway Shoe Repair; Saskatoon Golf & Country Club; Wakaw Ambulance; Beau Lac Funeral Home & Crematorium; Rally Motors; Candle Lake Golf Resort; Daryl Kokivisto; Reed Security Prince Albert; Tru-North RV Auto & Marine Sales LP;

### 2024 Regina Wheelchair Relay:

**Innovation Sponsors:** SGI (Operations Centre); SIGA; **Advocate Sponsors:** PrairieHeart Mobility; **Supporting Sponsors:** Jolly's Medical; Qualicare Home Care; McCannell Financial Group Ltd.; MOTION; FIRST STEPS WELLNESS CENTRE; Just Like Family HOME CARE Regina; **Community Partners:** Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sport Association; City of Regina; **In-kind Donors:** Western Sports Apparel; A1 RentAlls; Pizza Hut; Royal Sporting Goods; COBS BREAD; Regina Pats; Careica Health; The Everyday Kitchen; Saskatchewan Science Centre; Domino's Pizza; 21treats; aodbt; Plant Ranch; CSBT; SportChek;

### 60th Anniversary Celebration:

**Event Sponsors:** URO Medical; Hollister Limited;

**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.**