



2025 - 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

**STRONGER TOGETHER.
CONNECTED FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.**



SUPPORT



EMPOWER



INCLUDE



BELONG

SCI Sask ANNUAL REPORT 2025 – 26

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Strategic Platform

Vision

Working collaboratively for inclusive communities

Mission

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

Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Key Result Areas

- 🚦 Service Delivery Standards & Excellence
- 🚦 Strengthen Partnerships
- 🚦 Enhance Public Awareness
- 🚦 Increase Sustainability
- 🚦 Indigenous Engagement

Services

- 🚦 Adaptive Living and Support Services
 - Peer Mentorship Network
- 🚦 Education and Employment Supports
 - Scholarships
- 🚦 Community Inclusion & Awareness Building
 - Accessibility Strategy
- 🚦 Information and Systems 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

It's 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" is the foundation of the fundamental building blocks we strive to attain.

The SCI Sask 2025 - 2026 Annual Report highlights critical achievements the SCI Sask HR team accomplished in this past annum. The report showcases the importance of exercising due diligence in making solid decisions, and ensuring the fiduciary duty of its BoDs, which prioritizes a wraparound service delivery model to enhance service quality. This robust combination is a success formula that endeavors to connect members to SCI Sask for the advancement of inclusivity.

SCI Sask recognizes the overwhelming barriers our members face in pursuit of education and career pathing activities. The Kevin McIntyre scholarship was designed to complement existing educational supports, and to empower our members in their journey towards an independent lifestyle in this new-found world. Critical supports for service continuum are essential in order for success to occur throughout the rehabilitative spectrum.

As a value-added benefit, SCI Sask established a critical partnership with Prairie Heart Mobility that provides our members the opportunity to purchase adaptive equipment at a reduced rate, making accessibility more affordable.

Committee actions scrutinized organizational hierarchy and systems to assure the financial landscape provides adequate resources for the legacy to prosper. SCI Sask BoD's embrace fundraiser activities and promotional events to heighten community connectivity, and raise the community profile through volunteer interaction and integration.

SCI Sask does recognize our Federal and Provincial partners, public dignitaries, SCI Sask membership, HR Team, volunteers and community stakeholders as essential elements to achieving the SCI Sask Peer Mentorship Network success. The SCI Sask BoDs acknowledges and commends the vast contributions our partners make towards making SCI Sask's vision a reality. Prudent budget management ensures the SCI Sask 2025 - 2028 Strategic Plan continues to generate the desired measurable outcomes for community connectivity to occur.

"Working collaboratively for community inclusivity."



Delynn Bortis
Executive Director

This is my third year attempting to write the Executive Director's message for our annual report, and I've struggled to try to make it new, and exciting. In doing that it made me stop and think about what is really important, not only to Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan, but to the people that make Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan what it is. And I came to realize that there doesn't have to be a lot of bells and whistles to what we do, as long as what we do, we do well. So, I have decided to focus my thoughts on Community Connection and the power in those connections.

For the people in our community, there are so many ways to facilitate connections. This can mean finding resources to access support, scouting out opportunities for recreation, providing a space to feel accepted and valued by peers, researching accessibility in community spaces, scheduling conversations with employers for potential career opportunities, and assuring that there will be someone there to help navigate those challenges. SCI Sask does this well.

Throughout the past year we continued to strengthen relationships with communities across our province by providing programs and services that empower individuals to live independently and fully participate in community life. We have offered education and employment supports to people in out-lying communities and offered informative virtual programming to people from north to south, and west to east. We have had in person gatherings in both major centers, as well as smaller centers, and collaborated with community organizations to enable SCI Sask to enhance accessibility to programs for our clients, and create value added initiatives for our members.

The year reminded us that connection is built through people. The SCI Sask HR team, volunteers, board members, donors, funders, and community members all play an essential role in creating stronger, more inclusive spaces for everyone. Dedication and collaboration is what moves our mission forward!

As we look forward to the future, we will always remain committed to expanding opportunities, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring individuals living with disabilities feel supported, valued, and connected. These are all things that we will continue to do well!

On behalf of everyone at Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan, thank you for being an integral part of our community. Together we will continue to create meaningful change and build connections that truly matter. And we will do it well.

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SCI Sask Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE

President

- ❖ William Lehne*

Vice-President

- ❖ Blair Morgan*

Treasurer

- ❖ Jacqueline Halliday

Secretary

- ❖ Brandon Prevost*

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- ❖ Christine Strauss*
- ❖ Hope Jervis-Rademeyer
- ❖ Matthew Dean*
- ❖ Selali Tettevi*
- ❖ Stephen Draude*

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

- ❖ Dr. Robert Capp M.D., FRCP
- ❖ Dr. Lionel Lavoie
- ❖ Lynn Archdekin

* Denotes person living with a physical disability

SCI Sask Human Resources Team

LEADERSHIP

- Executive Director - Delynne Bortis*
- Finance Manager - Rebecca Du; Mary Jane Abad-Dabucol† ; Mohammad Hafiz
- Regional Office Administrative Assistant - Glaiza Orpiano
- Provincial Office Administrative Assistant - Cuong La*

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES

Client Support Specialists – Saskatoon

- Karthik Babu Menon*
- Josh Forrest*
- Madison Wassermann*
- Shivangi Tiwary

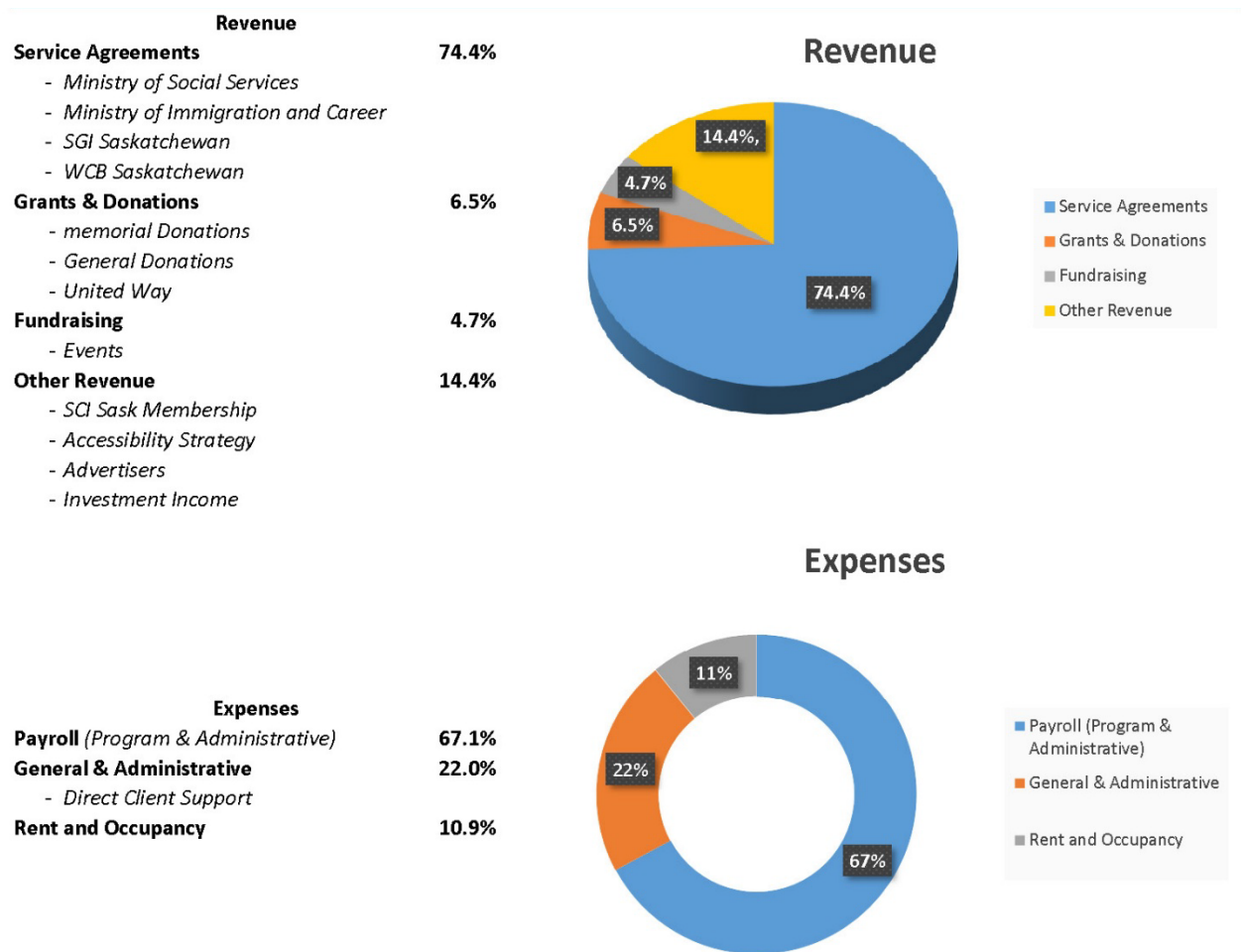
Client Support Specialists – Regina

- Braden Pettinger*
- Heli Sheth
- Saba Wahab Khan

* Denotes person living with a physical disability

† Interim position

"SCI Sask is an integral part of the disability community. I get great joy knowing that every time I go to a social event or help with a fundraiser I am giving back to an organization that has given me a lot, and that has proven its worth to me personally. I know the good that SCI Sask does for others because I've been lucky enough to experience it first-hand" ~Christine Strauss, SCI Sask Client and SCI Sask Board Director



SCI Sask hosted a Disability Tax Credit, RDSP & Canada Disability Benefit Information Session for SaskTel Employment Network on Disability (SEND) on October 8, 2025. Providing invaluable information on additional financial support and benefits for SaskTel employees living with disabilities.

"I was impressed by SCI Sask going above and beyond the presentation ask and providing us with information on Child Disability Benefit & the Canada Disability Benefit" – SaskTel Employee

"The session was practical and easy to follow, I recommend this session to anyone who wants to better understand benefits available to individuals with disabilities." – Trina Aveyard – SaskTel Diversity Manager

MEETING the MANDATE

SCI SASK CORE SERVICES

- Adaptive Living and Support Services
- Education and Employment Supports
- Community Inclusion and Awareness Building
- Information and Systems Navigation

Adaptive Living and Support Services:

- Support in activities of daily living including Housing, Transportation, Equipment, and 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 Supports:

- Education and Employment supports were provided to thirty-three (33) individuals living with a physical disability within SCI Sask clientele; with eleven (11) individuals in receipt of disability accommodation financial support to enhance or enable education and employment initiatives.
- Nine (9) individuals living with a physical disability obtained or enhanced employment through supports delivered by SCI Sask Client Support Specialists.

Community Inclusion and Awareness Building:

- SCI Sask is represented on the following awareness accessibility related committees:
 - ✓ Canadian Women with SCI Committee
 - ✓ City of Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee
 - ✓ City of Regina Disability Reference Group
 - ✓ City of Regina Adapted Sport & Recreation Grant Review Committee
 - ✓ Saskatoon Airport Authority Community Consultative Committee
 - ✓ Panel Presentation with Tourism HR Canada regarding Accessibility in Workplace
 - ✓ SCI HR & Board participation in SCI Pathway Focus Group
 - ✓ Saskatoon Inter-agency Committee
 - ✓ SCI Canada Executive Director Counsel
- SCI Sask Accessibility Strategy:
 - ✓ **RHF Accessibility Professionals Network:** Blackstrap Park; RM of Foam Lake;

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- SCI Sask participation in community awareness is fostered by presentations, membership and community consultation with the following groups.

- ✓ **Presentations:**

First Nations Employment Centre (Regina)	Neil Squire Society	University of Regina Informational Session
Bethlehem Informational Session	Sask Polytechnic Recreation Therapy Program	Saskatoon City Hospital Rehab
Wascana Rehabilitation Centre Regina	Prince Albert Connection	SaskTel Disability Benefits Informational Session
SGL Informational Session	WCB Informational Session	
Victoria Park Personal Care Community Informational Session	All Nations Healing Hospital and First Nations Health Services Informational Session	

- ✓ **Partnerships/Memberships/Collaborations:**

Chambers of Commerce- Regina, Saskatoon and Saskatchewan	First Steps Wellness Centre	Saskatoon Council on Aging
Partners in Employment	Mentor Ability	Dress for Success Regina
Saskatchewan Building Officials Association	SK Arts / SCI Sask Artists in Communities Program	Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association
REALM Foundation		

- Indigenous Engagement

- ✓ Elder support offered through SCI Sask for clients
- ✓ Knowledge Keeper Learning session for SCI Sask staff to deepen our connections and understanding to better support and empower SCI Sask Indigenous clients

“The community that comes together from SCI Sask helps me get out of the house to socialize, and provides a safe space to meet others with disabilities. The virtual meetings have also been important to attend, finding ways to connect with this community online.” ~Selali Tettevi, SCI Sask Client and SCI Sask Board Director

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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)
 - ✓ 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 Centres: 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 2025-26

Self-referrals; SHA Referrals; Transfers to SK

Provincial Office Saskatoon: 22

Regional Office Regina: 6

"I only became aware of SCI Sask after suffering a spinal cord injury myself in 2020. I soon realized how few resources there were in the community to help me navigate this life changing event. Through SCI Sask I met others with spinal cord injuries as well as mobility challenges who became invaluable sources of information. After retiring in 2021, I put my name forward to volunteer on the SCI Sask BOD as I wanted to give back to this organization that helped me through the biggest challenge of my life." ~Stephen Draude, SCI Sask Client and SCI Sask Board Director

PEER MENTORSHIP NETWORK EVENTS & INFORMATION SESSIONS:

SCI Sask Client Support Specialists (CSS) continued strengthening efforts with peer network through Women's Circle, online virtual meetings, and "Equal Grounds Café" coffee group, while increasing engagement on events such as movie matinee and upcoming one-off themed events. They have many new and exciting ideas for events lined up this year, including various collaborations with our Community Based Organizations.

CSS 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.

CSS continues to 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.

SCI Sask collaborated with Multiple Sclerosis Community Group for the 2025 Holiday Gathering. Reception and feedback for the gathering was overwhelmingly positive. The event was attended by clients and group members from both organizations.

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:



engaging and inclusive experience for all attendees. Our Movie Matinee has become a place for our clients to come together and enjoy an inclusive movie going experience without the financial strain. Movies shown are themed around accessibility and disabilities. The "Equal Grounds Café" occurs the second Wednesday of the month, from 1:30-3:00 pm. The "Movie Matinee" occurs on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Equal Grounds Café and Movie Matinee continues to be SCI Sask most beloved gatherings, with a core group of clients and familiar faces coming to every sessions. Our CSS has introduced additional activities to Equal Grounds Café such as Bingo and Vision Board Workshop to provide fun,



WOMEN'S CIRCLE:



The goal of women's circle is to bridge lived experiences with systemic change, and ensure that disability, gender equity, and support are addressed together. Over the past year, we successfully hosted seven Women's Circle gatherings, creating opportunities for peer support, knowledge sharing, and community building. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on topics such as travel and safety, autonomic dysreflexia, navigating the healthcare system, SGI processes, and many other issues relevant to women living with disabilities."

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2025 SCI SASK & MS COMMUNITY GROUP HOLIDAY GATHERING:

SCI Sask collaborated with MS Community Group to host our 2025 Holiday Gathering at our Provincial Office location. This year holiday gathering were very well received by our attendees, many of whom are shared clients and community members of both organizations. It was also a great opportunity for us to join the community in celebrating the most magical time of the year, to reflect back on all the work we have done and to sit back and take in all the smiles we have help brought to our local communities. This was a great event for us and we cannot wait to see what we can do in 2026.



SCI Sask Regina Holiday Gathering:

This year, SCI Sask Regina team continues to put their best work forward! They put together an inclusive, heartfelt, and fun gathering for the holiday. With tremendous turn out from clients, and generous support from community based organization, partners & sponsors.



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Kevin McIntyre SCI Sask Scholarship

Kevin McIntyre was long time SCI Sask client who graciously bequeathed SCI Sask with a generous Legacy Gift. In order to honour his memory, the Kevin McIntyre Scholarship was created.

SCI Sask awarded two (2) successful recipients of the 2025 Kevin McIntyre SCI Sask Scholarship.

Taylor Denny

The Kevin McIntyre educational scholarship will help to fund my educational endeavors as someone who is in their fifth year of study. My field of study is a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. I hope to one day work in mental health or the disability support sector and become a role model for other disabled folk. Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan has helped my educational experience greatly. As a student it's hard enough to find funding, adding on being disabled makes it even more difficult sometimes. Knowing I have support from like-minded people with lived experiences is very empowering.

Robert Rorke

I would like to sincerely thank Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan for supporting me with a grant to purchase an iPad for my schooling this year. Your assistance made a huge difference in helping me succeed throughout my Grade 12 studies. I am proud to share that I have now graduated and will be continuing my education at Sask Polytech this fall, where I plan to study GIS mapping. This opportunity would have been much more challenging without the support I received. The iPad has been an essential tool in helping me stay organized and complete my work effectively. Thank you again for your generosity and for helping me take this next step toward my future.

SCI Sask continues to provide value-added benefits for our paid members. The Kevin McIntyre is one of many ways we support our clients and empowers them to achieve full independence and success!

For information on how you can support the Kevin McIntyre Scholarship initiative, please contact us at sciinfo@scisask.ca or call 306.652.9644.

Taylor Denny



Robert Rorke

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan and the research team at **McGill University** collaborated and developed a survey based on 20 outcomes to formally evaluate our Peer Mentorship Network.

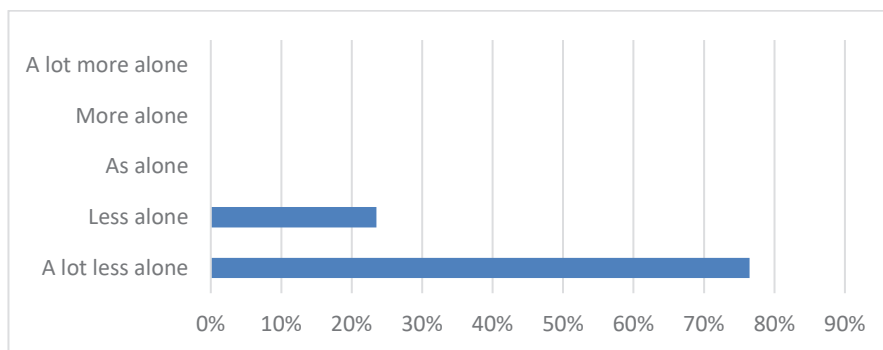
The 20 outcomes were identified through a research process between SCI Sask, pan-Canadian team of spinal cord injury & other mobility disability community-based organizations and researchers.

Between February 2nd and March 30th, seventeen (N=17) members who have participated in the Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Peer Mentorship Network completed the survey on Microsoft Forms (an online survey platform). Researchers at McGill University analyzed the data and completed this evaluation report.

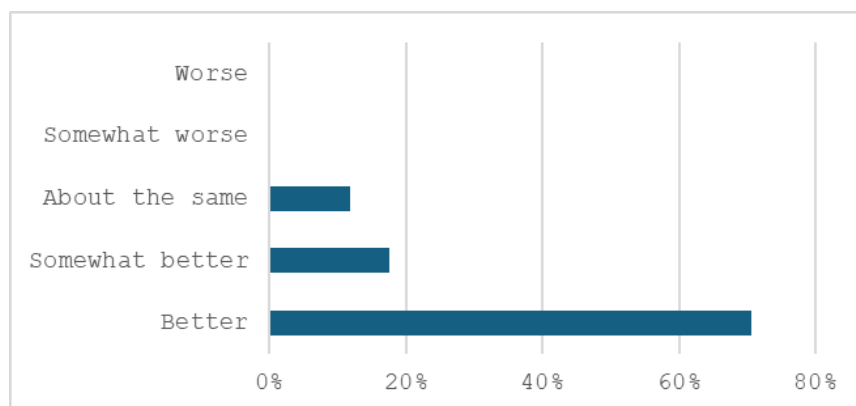
This evaluation of our Peer Mentorship Network demonstrates a significant positive impact on participants while identifying key opportunities for enhancement. Of the twenty outcomes assessed, **Reduced isolation, quality of life, and dignity** received the highest ratings. In contrast, **health skills, rehabilitation transition skills, and self-care skills** were rated lowest, signaling areas for development.

The following key outcomes are based on the services provided by SCI Sask. For a full report, please speak to SCI Sask Team member for a copy:

- 📊 **Reduced isolation:** 76.5% of respondents indicated they are “A lot less alone”, with 23.5% chose “less alone”.



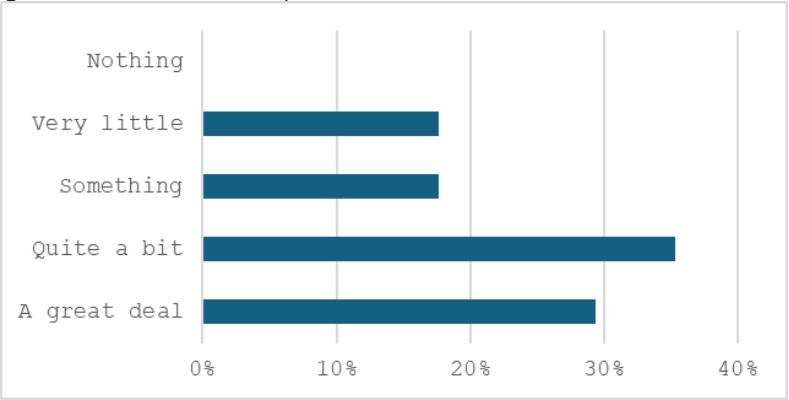
- 📊 **Quality of life:** 88% of respondents reported that their quality of life was “somewhat better” or “better” as a result of the program.



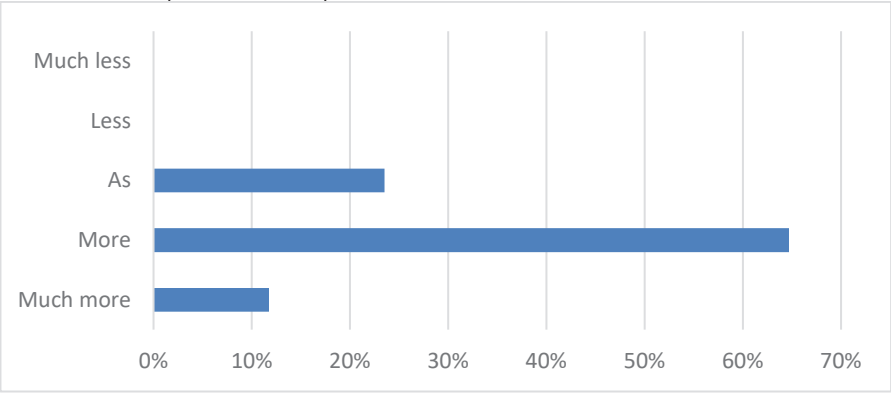
“The ability to connect with SCI Sask while in hospital made discharge into the community with a new disability much less scary” ~Kyra M, SCI Sask Client and Peer Mentorship recipient

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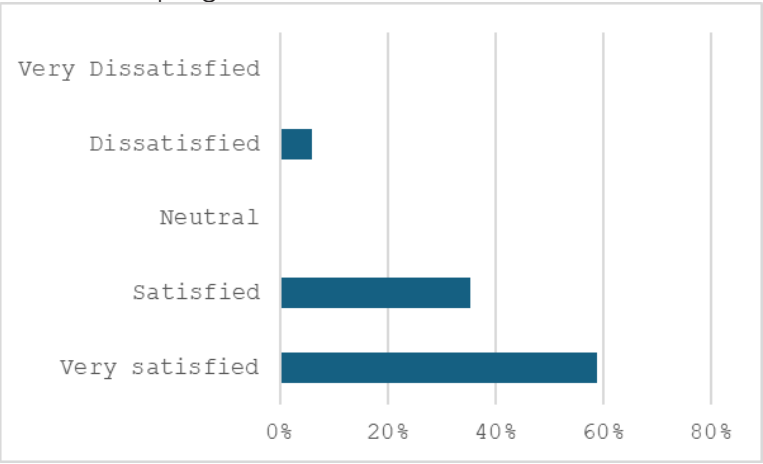
🌈 **SCI/Disability Knowledge:** 64% of respondents indicated they have gained “quite a bit” to “a great deal” of knowledge about SCI/Disability.



🌈 **Independence:** 87% of respondents reported to have “more” or “much more” independence.



🌈 **Service Satisfaction:** 93% of respondents rated “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with SCI Sask Peer Mentorship Network and its programs.



“I first connected with SCI Sask more than 30 yrs ago. I have made connections that turned into friendships, and gained information that turned into empowerment. My association with SCI Sask has helped me connect with so many amazing people who also have first-hand experience with spinal cord injury and disability.” ~Lisa P, SCI Sask Client and Peer Mentor

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Sponsorship and Event Contributors

6th Annual 2025 Golf Tournament August:

Major Sponsors: Nutrien Ag Solutions; PA Daily Herald; Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation; Centennial Plumbing & Heating; FORAN; WFG; ECONO Timber Mart; Pines Service; Rally Motorsports; NRT; Eternal Memories Funeral Service & Crematorium; BP Banister; Mann-Northway; **Hole Sponsors:** LAKELAND FORD; Prairie Heart Mobility; PTR Properties Inc.; R & W Custom Collision; Mackie Physiotherapy; Bernath Private Weath Management; BDS Supply Inc.; Gabriel Ng CPA Inc.; Prince Albert Toyota; URO Medical; Western Petroleum Services Inc.; Timberline Trailers and Fabricating Ltd.; D&S Mudrik Farms; SIGA; **Advertising Sponsors:** Taco Time; **Community Supporters:** Golf Saskatchewan; Mark's Nine Hole Golf and Country Club; **In-kind Donors:** Northridge Development Corp; Escape Sports; Dakota Dunes Golf Links; The Willows Club; Perdue Oasis Golf Course; Silver Hills Golf; Moonlake Golf & Country Club; The Legends Golf Club; YXE Golf Club; Candle Lake Golf Course; NAPA Watson; Gabriel Dumont Institute; Rising Moon Hair Studio; Ecco Supply; Reed Security; Electrofacial YXE; McCannell Financial Group Ltd; Daryl & Patti Kovisto;

2025 Regina Wheelchair Relay:

Innovation Sponsors: SaskGaming; **Advocate Sponsors:** AVANA; **Supporting Sponsors:** Affinity Credit Union; Jay D. Watson & Ms. Jane Wootten; PrairieHeart Mobility; SCI Supply Inc.; SIGA; **Community Partners:** Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association; City of Regina; **In-kind Donors:** Regina Pats; Western Sports Apparel; A1 RentAlls; Pizza Hut; Escape Sports; The Everyday Kitchen; Cineplex; SaskPower; Domino's Pizza; COBS BREAD; Royal Sporting Goods; 21Treats; Zippity Zoom Toys;

2025 SCI Sask & MS Community Group Holiday Gathering:

Event Sponsors: NorDon Drugs & Medical; Hollister; **Community Partners:** Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association; URO Medical Supplies; **Event Gift Donors:** 3 Hall Public House; Black Cat Tavern; Brainsport Saskatoon, Broadway Pharmacy/Café; Bulk Cheese Warehouse; Cineplex Cinemas at the Centre; Hunter's Bowling; Jersey's Mike (Centre Mall); Outter Limits; Pink Cadillac's Diner; Prairie Sun Brewery; The Better Good; UNA Pizzeria; Wanuskewin Gift Shop;

2025 SCI Sask Regina Christmas Party:

Event Sponsors: Coloplast; **Event Gift Donors:** URO Medical Supplies; First Steps Wellness Centre; Heli Sheth;

2025 SCI Sask Community and Peer Network gatherings:

Sponsors: Coloplast; Domino's Pizza; **Community Collaborators:** URO Med; Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association; **Community Supporters:** Regina Pats; Sandbox Insurance; Saskatoon Blades;

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Thank you to Funders, Supporters, Sponsors and Donors

Major Funders



Grants, Recurring Sponsors & Supporters



PRINCE ALBERT



Timberline Trailers
and Fabricating Ltd.

F O R A N



Wealth Management
Dominion Securities

Jeff Bernath, CIM, PFP
Senior Portfolio Manager & Wealth Advisor
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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.