

*30 Years
of Community Service*

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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www.circleproject.ca



Torch Awards Winner

Trust • Performance • Integrity

The 2018 Circle Project

ANNUAL REPORT

is dedicated to:

**Our Beloved Elder
Kokum Florence Isaac**

Who went to the

Spirit World

February 4, 2018

In our hearts forever!!

MISSION STATEMENT

Circle Project Council

Executive

President: Bob Cantin
Vice President: Rhonda Bird
Treasurer: Fred Clipsham
Secretary: Keon Flamont

Council Members

Elder: Vacant
Jenny Strongeagle

Circle Project Staff

Administration

Executive Director: Ann Perry
Council/Executive Support:
Shelly Desnomie
Receptionist:
Thomasa Morriseau

Programs

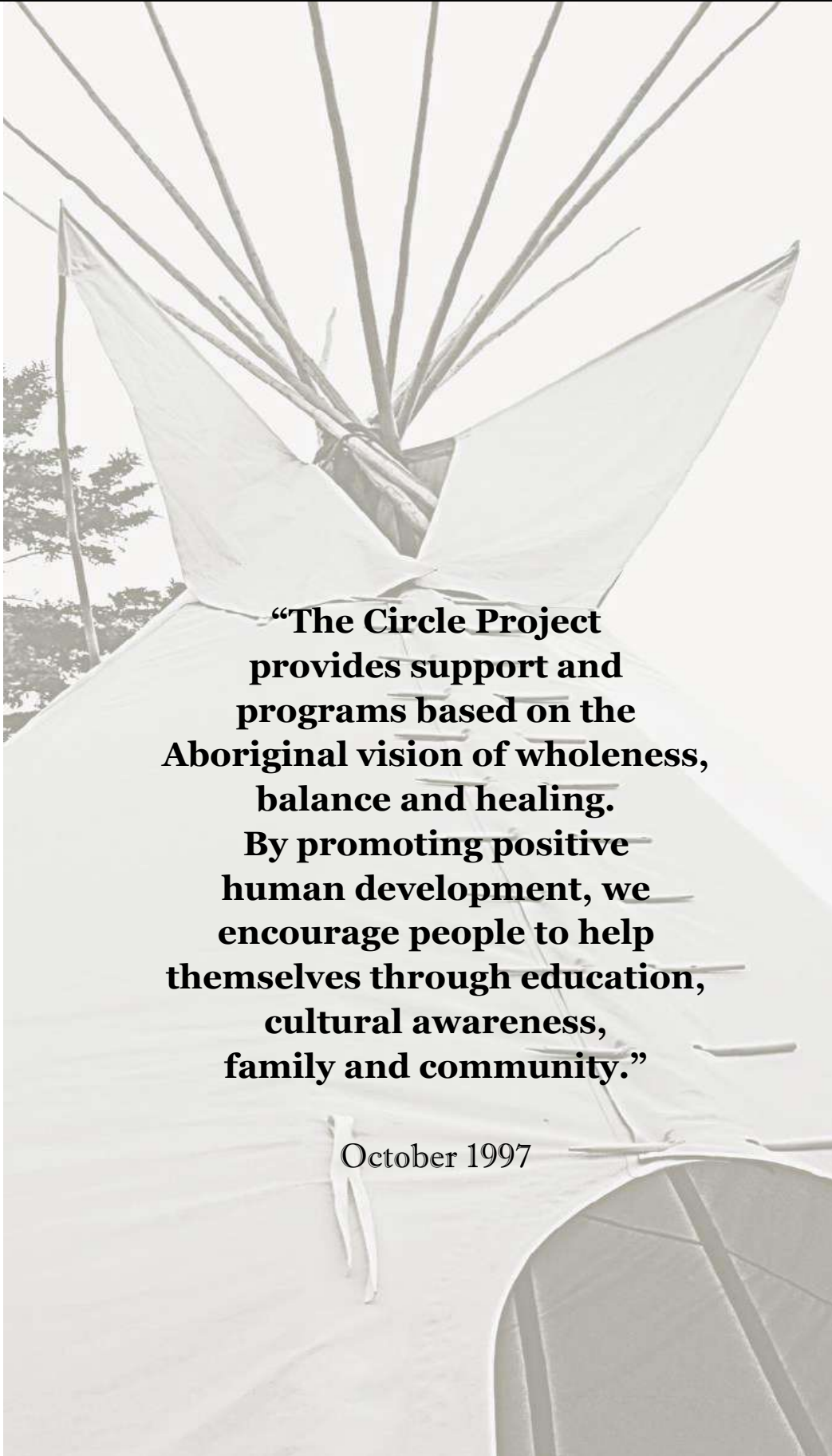
Counseling: Deanna Keewatin
Family Violence: Allan Pratt &
Brandy Churchill
Cultural Connections:
Natasha Wesaquate

Children's Centre

Director: Larissa Anderson
Assistant Director:
Kerri Quangtakoune
Early Childhood Educators:
Fanta Sanith
Amanda Froh
Lyndell Poitras
Support Staff/Cook:
Dawn Gordon

Infant Toddler Centre

Director: Tyrah Morris
Early Childhood Educators:
Kyra Stonechild
Ebony Britton
Shameela Saidmeeri
Megan McPhail
Shirley Stonechild



**“The Circle Project
provides support and
programs based on the
Aboriginal vision of wholeness,
balance and healing.
By promoting positive
human development, we
encourage people to help
themselves through education,
cultural awareness,
family and community.”**

October 1997



VISION

The Circle of Life shows that everything is connected to everything else. As human beings, this is true as well. Our physical well-being is related to our emotional, spiritual and mental well-being. If something is wrong in one area, it affects all the others. It follows; therefore, that development in any one area must be balanced and connected with efforts in other areas.

Who are we and why are we on this earth? We turn to the Creator to guide us, to give us the answer to what path we will take. The Circle Project is a spiritually based organization that uses traditional Aboriginal culture and teachings as a framework within which to offer programs and services to all who request help.

PHILOSOPHY

Our approach to the social problems faced by many in our community is a holistic one. A person must develop mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Therefore, we offer a wide variety of programs designed to help an individual overcome challenges, become physically healthier, regain pride, build self-esteem and grow spiritually.

The Circle Project offers self-development programs and counseling services within a cultural framework that has proven comfortable and acceptable for Aboriginal people. Any person who desires assistance is welcome. Traditional people have been a fundamental part of our organization from the beginning and they provide guidance to us generally, as well as work with individuals who need their help.

MANDATE

Today's Circle Project Assoc. Inc. is an urban based, Aboriginal organization that provides programs and services in Regina and surrounding areas. Although our programs participants are both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, our main focus is working with Aboriginal people in a community based setting. The Council (Board of Directors) maintains an Aboriginal majority as part of the mandate.

Programs and services are delivered through an integrated program model, which was developed by the Circle Project in 1997. The linkage of programs creates a network of services, which serve as stepping stones for vulnerable individuals and families as they work toward independence and sustainability.

The Circle Project, a non-profit charity, has been operating since 1988 and has been supported by federal, provincial and municipal governments, corporations and businesses and the community.

MESSAGE FROM BOB CANTIN, PRESIDENT AND ANN PERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY CIRCLE PROJECT...you've come a long way.

Welcome Friends! A special milestone, like an anniversary gives us a rare opportunity in the busyness of life to take a quiet moment to reflect and remember. From its humble beginnings as a drop in program and place for people to gather, to the organization it has grown up to be, the Circle Project has indeed come a long way. Many things have changed over the years; except for the understanding of the community we work with, the strong ties that have been created with individuals and families and the unconditional love we have for the community we serve.

It goes without saying that over this many years of community service we have had times of great success. We have also had times of great challenges and faced hardship, not unlike the individuals and families we work with. Through it all we moved forward with optimism and hope: optimism that by strengthening our community partnerships and building new relationships, we can bridge the gaps in our community and hope that through our efforts in "helping people help themselves" we have and are making a difference...one individual, one family at a time.

This year will go down in the history books as one of celebration and progress. In addition to welcoming two new funders in a very competitive national process, we used some of our own reserve funds to invest and launch an important new program called Cultural Connections for Kids. Our special 20th Anniversary for National Aboriginal Day (NAD) in June 2017, ended with the highest budget in the history of the event and a real big bang; with the first ever fireworks closing off a truly memorable day. In addition to hosting other important community events like the HEARTS in the Park and the annual Christmas parties, we hosted our 1st Round Dance to start the anniversary year. A fitting way to celebrate with the community as it was in the very beginning of the life of the Circle Project.

This was not a year without its share of challenges for the Circle Project and in the non-profit sector. Shifts continued to occur in funding and decision making which ultimately created additional challenges for some of the most vulnerable in our community, the homeless. As a result, much time and effort was spent in the fruitless efforts of trying to ensure that the decision making that affects a large number of Indigenous people is Indigenous led. Another significant challenge that occurred this year was the much needed restructuring of Children's Services. This major undertaking was both necessary and timely, as we prepared for future service delivery; shifting toward more parental inclusion and placing a greater focus on culturally appropriate early childhood education. This was identified as a priority in our formal review of our strategic plan in early 2018. Both of these had significant financial impacts this year.

We look forward to what the future holds and are confident that through the best practices of good risk management, sound strategic planning, continued implementation of well-established financial practices and continued engagement in outcome based evaluation, we are ready to serve the community well for many years to come. To the funders, sponsors, partners and friends of the Circle Project, thank for your support and encouragement. Thank you to the special group of people who make up the Council and Staff for the hard work and commitment in making this another successful year in the life of the Circle Project.

It gives us great pleasure to present the Circle Project's 2018 Annual Report.



Bob Cantin, President



Ann Perry, Executive Director

OUR BELOVED KOKUM

Whenever Kokum would meet someone new, she would always say, “Don’t call me Florence, call me Kokum”. At Circle Project our beloved Florence Isaac was everyone’s Kokum, a role she loved and was fully committed to.

Kokum was very generous and we think she actually invented re-gifting, always saying she wanted to share, except of course the things that were the most precious and kept in her secret stash in her spare bedroom closet. Some things she gave to others to take care of for her, which at the time we didn’t realize the significance of as an act of honour and trust in us. She made sure we stayed on the right path, especially when it came to the culture and was not afraid to scold us if we did something wrong, never failing to explain why this was important and encouraging us with, “it’s ok, you’ll do better next time” or “maybe you should call my brother Sam.” In an act of pure love, Kokum gave the Circle Project a donation from her residential school money and said, “I want you to do something special for children with this money” and we did, thus earning her the title of Kokum Candyfloss. To this day, each year at our National Aboriginal Day celebration, every child gets free candyfloss, thanks to Kokum Florence.

Whether it was a special community event or just a regular Council meeting, Kokum hated to miss anything. There were more than a few times that she would put her head down and appear to have nodded off, only to pop her head up a few minutes later, having not missed a thing. Our beloved Kokum Florence helped Circle Project and served on the Council for fifteen years, a milestone that was recognized with the presentation of a special Circle Project Starblanket.

Kokum never failed to provide a few encouraging words if someone was struggling and always made time to listen. She was especially happy when she went to the Children’s Centre, a place that held a special place in her heart. This was the same place where she prayed on the land before the building was even built to make sure we started in a good way and for each of the children and families who would come through the doors of the centre, in the years to come.

Our Kokum Florence left us for the Spirit world on February 4, 2018. The memories she left for each of us, sustain us through this very difficult time of losing our beloved Elder. She does and always will hold a special place in our hearts and in the heart of the Circle Project, as she now watches over us.

We love you and miss you Kokum Florence.

KICHI OKIMAV KIHUE ISKWE

Community Partner Quotes

"The committee was appreciative of the safe environment that your organization offers for children while their families are in turmoil, and acknowledged the important role you hold within the community."

Community Services
Department, City Services
Division, City of Regina

"Circle Project has the proven ability to take the lead in mobilizing collaborative community-partner efforts that address complex issues."

Corey Zaharuk,
Superintendent,
Regina Police Service

"Because Circle Project works in the community and for the community, it has earned the community's trust and respect."

Lynn Jansen, RN PhD,
Southern Saskatchewan
Campus, College of Nursing,
U of S

"As an organization that has worked in Regina for over 25 years, they have valuable experience in program development/delivery and have an excellent reputation in community building, particularly with Aboriginal people at risk."

Dana Folkersen, Executive
Director, REACH

Thank you!

A special thank you Natasha, Brandy, Shelly and Ann for the excellent work on producing the 2018 Annual Report.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Circle Project has the pleasure of hosting and celebrating many special events throughout the year. Through our mission and philosophy we understand the importance of our community role. For us this means to serve the community and to be present and involved in the community. In the spring we host our newest event, "Hearts in the Park", during Survivors and Victims of Crime Week. Summer is time to celebrate our agency and accomplishments at our AGM. In June, we host one of our biggest annual events National Aboriginal Day Celebration. In the fall our Open House is an excellent opportunity to come out and see what our agency has to offer. The highlight of the winter is our Annual Christmas Parties, one for our community elders and one for all the wonderful children we had the pleasure of working with during the year.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Circle Project once again joined in with other community agencies to compete in the annual inter-agency chilli cook-off. Circle Project, reigning champs from 2016, was looking for another solid win! Using our much sought after chilli recipe, staff arrived confident that their pot was the award winning chilli! Confidence quickly gave way to fear as they began to view and admire the other entries. Oh no; would this be another year of leaving empty handed?

The panel of judges just couldn't resist the bold and exquisite taste of our savoury thick and rich chili. For the second year in a row, we narrowly edged out our closest competitors and laid claim to the bragging rights for one more year! Thank you to Indigenous Christian Fellowship for once hosting a great community event filled with fun, laughter and friendly competition!

30th ANNIVERSARY ROUND DANCE

Because of the importance of the milestone we had reached, we wanted to start the celebrations off in good way by honouring and following traditional practices and protocols. With guidance and direction of our Elders, the celebratory year would begin with a pipe ceremony, feast and round dance.

This would be the first time we were hosting a round dance and we wanted to create a real community celebration. Although the weather that day proved to be disastrous, the feast and round dance were anything but. The community came out in huge numbers to help us celebrate and we even had a powwow singer from way up north join us as a special guest. Smiles, laughter and blessings were abundant as we enjoyed the time together, dancing and singing way into the night. We even gave away almost six hundred-fifty pieces of anniversary cake! What a truly great night it was.

Thank you to Elder Harold Lavallee for leading us in prayer and ceremony to start in a good way. A special thanks to our volunteers for the extra help; Jeff Cappo for the guidance in helping us plan and Circle Project staff who worked so hard to host such a wonderful ceremony and make the event a great success. This is a memory that will live in our hearts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

In the 2017-18 year we celebrated a very special birthday! On January 18th, 1988 the Circle Project became incorporated as non-profit community based agency. Circle Project's birthday was celebrated by enjoying cupcakes with program participants, where we also took a moment to sing happy birthday to a wonderful agency. One of the participants even had the chance to blow out a candle.

It has been an amazing 30 years working in the community and we'd like to give a very special thanks to the thousands of individuals, children and families who have accessed services at the Project over the years, with a hope and a commitment to better themselves and families. Whether it was through our childcare centres, our Adult Basic Education programming, Women Speak, Traditional Parenting, various literacy programs, Family Violence or addictions programming, it is was through that commitment that we are able to accomplish and stay true to our mission in our community work.

Our 30th birthday is a milestone and even amidst difficult times, tough situations and harsh circumstances over the years, in unity, we've learned to bend in the bad times and stand tall during the good. We cherish all the beautiful memories shared. Every day brings a new joy!

SERVICE MILESTONES

We are so grateful to be able to celebrate two long time staff that are also celebrating special anniversaries.

Fanta Sanith, our longest serving staff member, celebrated her 25 years of Service in 2017. Coming to the Circle Project's Children Centre in 1992, she has seen many changes over the years, including moving from the original centre on the second floor on 5th Avenue to the building of our current Children's Centre in 2002. Fanta has had a tremendous impact on the children she has cared for over the years. So much so that the little ones she once cared for are now all grown up and bringing their own children to the Children's Centre to be cared for by Fanta.

Bonnie Day the former Director of Children's Services, was presented with a star quilt at our annual Staff & Council Brunch. Bonnie came to work at the Circle Project as the Director of the Children's Centre in 1997, She was instrumental in forwarding the vision of having a new building to house the daycare. Over the years Bonnie helped countless families move forward.

RETIREMENT

Long-time Circle Project Staff member Jonina Adamcewicz, gave up her staff parking spot and keys to the doors and decided it was time to retire! After dedicating 22 years of working towards the betterment of children, parents, families and the community at large, our beautiful Joni decided it was time to pack up and move to Florida. Just kidding, she couldn't completely retire and move to Florida because she is known as one of the best volunteers around town.

Over the years, Joni made many significant contributions to the Circle Project. It was her amazing dedication, passion and love for humanity that drove her to dedicate the last 22 years of her career to working with the Circle Project. She once said, "I only came to the Project to do my social work practicum. Instead I fell in love with the people and work." And the rest is history! Congratulations Joni on your retirement and years of dedicated service to the Aboriginal community. PS: glad you are now one of our favorite volunteers!

Happy 30th Anniversary Circle Project, to celebrate we've asked staff and community friends to share some of their best moments over the last 30 years.

1. The bus tour for the Elders to view the magnificent Christmas Lights display at the beautiful snowed covered grounds of the Legislative Buildings in December 2000.
2. The ground breaking ceremony which took place on the vacant lot located on Pasqua St. and 5th Avenue. This scared ceremony was dedicated to the construction of the Circle Project's Day Care Centre. This Day Care was built with straw bales.
3. Many fond moments from all the Elders' Parties...so much fun and laughter.
4. That one time when Ann was wrong. It was so long ago I can't remember just when.
5. The first National Aboriginal Day celebration at Victoria Park in 1998.
6. The laying of the flax bales, when building the Children's Centre.
7. All the opportunities the Circle Project has given me over the years.
8. All the special events hosted over the years where staff get to be a part of the community we love.
9. Attending the daycare as a child in Fanta's classroom to now working alongside her.
10. Being invited by founding Elder Louie Whiteman as a youth to come and share with other youth about our community need for upcoming Circle Project youth programming.
11. Like-minded staff and council who believe and practice the holistic philosophy that guides our work.
12. The Circle Project Children's Christmas Party as part of the 25th anniversary, where the Board presented a young fiddle player with a brand new beautiful fiddle and seeing the look of gratitude on his face, then hearing him play it proudly for the first time.
13. The first NAD that I was given the opportunity to play a leadership role as committee chairperson, feeling so proud of all that we accomplished and the joy experienced by the community.
14. The very first time Circle Project's tipi was raised at the Infant & Toddler Centre.
15. The time when our Executive Director let us throw furniture off the fire escape.
16. Paying off the mortgage at the Children's Centre early.
17. The teachings of the founding elders.
18. Circle Project's very first round dance.
19. The outpouring of love, support and help that was extended to me on the passing of my brother.
20. The round dance! My first experience. WOW!
21. Attending Circle Project's ABE program, successfully completing and then moving on to be employed at the Project for over 10 years now.
22. Being asked and honoured to sit on Circle Project's Board of Directors
23. Composing a pow wow song for the Children's Centre
24. The human foosball fundraiser for the children's Centre & Tony Merchant going in the dunk tank.
25. All the fun work getting sponsorships to build the Children's Centre.
26. All the opportunities for Lone Creek to sing at Circle Project events over the years.
27. Oh the sound of hammering in the never ending renovations and the terrifying sight of red runners.
28. The teachings shared by Circle Project Elder about the eagle staff and learning how it will guide us.
29. The atmosphere and sense of family which envelopes all who become a part of the Project.
30. What's yours? _____

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Anger is something that no one is exempt from, it is how we choose to deal with our anger that matters. The Family Violence program assists and supports individuals/families learn how to identify any frustrations, situations and triggers that may lead to aggressive behaviour. By helping people develop strategies that will result in increased self-respect and respect for others, we can work towards breaking the cycles of violence.

Since its creation in 1998, the Circle Project's Family Violence Anger Resolution Techniques (ART) program continues to be a leader in the community in prevention and intervention of domestic, family and interpersonal violence. As a community based agency, we take our role very seriously as we work to reduce the high levels of violence that unfortunately occurs in our communities. With Saskatchewan leading the provinces in family violence statistics, our ART program is vital in reducing these numbers and helping to build strong communities free of violence. This twenty hour program is a free community service supported by SK Justice. Upon completion, program participants receive certificates to acknowledge their hard work and dedication to making positive changes in their lifestyle.

The Circle Project Family Violence program is a part of an Operational Planning Team (OPT) that offers Domestic Violence Treatment Options (DVTO). Other OPT committee members include other community agencies and government departments. The DVTO is voluntary and offers treatment programming and a lighter sentence for people who successfully complete the program.

We are grateful to do our part in creating safer homes and safer communities each day in our work. It has been an honour to be a part of the Circle Project's Family Violence program; providing program participants positive opportunities to promote healthier lifestyles and make better choices for themselves and their families. We would also like to thank our funders, Circle Project Elders, Council and Staff for their support throughout the year; it has been a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Pratt, Family Violence Coordinator
Brandy Churchill, Family Violence Co-Facilitator

ART program participants are walked through the cycle of violence and asked to identify what takes place during each phase. This helps individuals to recognize and take responsibility for their role in the cycle.



Allan Pratt, addressing the crowd at the 2017 Hearts in the Park event; promoting the Moose Hide Campaign, a campaign that promotes men standing up against violence against woman and children.

"I trust the program and what I am doing to help myself. I trust someone in the program. I believe I have a higher power within me that helps guide me in my recovery. I believe there's a strong force inside me to become a better person."

LIFESTYLES & COUNSELLING

“I am coming for your help because I can’t solve a problem I don’t understand.”

The mission for the Circle Project addictions counseling service is to increase clientele self-awareness and build an understanding of how prolonged substance abuse and dependence are negatively permeating their lives. Substance use isn’t an isolated process that is disconnected from the rest of one’s life. Alcohol/drug addiction and the opioid crisis demand a treatment response that addresses holistic healing along the multiple dimensions impacted.

To begin the healing process to promote recovery from this personal crisis, one to one counselling is a good place to start. Confidential and non-judgemental private sessions provide an opportunity to engage in initial assessment and establish the intent to assist, guide, empower and motivate client discussion to help them understand the presenting problem. The Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI-3) is a valuable screening tool in identifying treatment recommendations for clients.

Lifestyles & Counselling service also provides community outreach that focuses on Personal Boundaries; Healthy Relationships and Addiction. In addition to working closely with the Circle Project ART program, eleven community presentations were delivered at addiction treatment facilities in 2017/18 with an average of fifteen people at each one.

Community support is essential in the fight to offer positive alternatives to promote recovery from the addictions that plague individuals, families, communities and our nation. Transformation and inner tranquillity requires faith in sobriety, sobriety not as mere abstinence from substance abuse, but as progressive recovery in every facet of life.

Grace & Peace, Deanna Keewatin, Addictions Counsellor

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Indigenous people continue to be severely overrepresented in Regina’s homeless population. For Indigenous people being homeless is not just a lack of housing; it is a loss of connection with who they are, their spirituality, kinship and culture. Through the Circle Project’s Cultural Connections program we were able to work to address the spiritual homelessness Indigenous people face and provide an essential service to addressing Indigenous homelessness in our city.

Throughout 2017-18 year the program successfully assisted individuals, recently housed through one of Regina’s Housing First initiatives, to make Cultural Connections with their Aboriginal ancestry. We were able to work with individuals to help them build a stronger cultural identity through traditional healing practices and spirituality.

“We depend on places like the Circle Project to help us on our healing journeys.”

The starting point for addressing this loss of connection was to provide opportunities for program members to break the social isolation they far too often face. By planning weekly and special activities individuals were invited, included and supported to attend. The program also held Elder and knowledge keeper teachings on a monthly basis to help program members to learn more about cultural practices and protocols. Other services included providing access to and support for access to traditional medicines, one-to one elder counselling and providing direct access to cultural ceremonies to promote health and wellness. To improve a sense of spiritual connection, daily smudging circles became an essential part of our programming and were expanded to include a talking circle after the smudge to assist program members on their healing journey on a daily basis. A special thank you to our Elders and knowledge keepers who shared their wisdom, guidance and teachings with us throughout the year! We couldn’t have done it without you!

Respectfully submitted, Natasha Wesaquate, Program Coordinator

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Circle Project Infant and Toddler Centre and the Circle Project Children's Centre are licensed by the Ministry of Education, Early Learning Child Care Branch.

Our childcare centres are designed to create a home-like atmosphere providing an aesthetically pleasing environment for the children in our care. Culturally sensitive programming is both age appropriate and designed for healthy and holistic development for each child physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It is a combination of the Medicine Wheel, cultural awareness and play and exploration. All activities are designed to make sure that each child receives the best early learning experience possible, both age and developmentally appropriate and based on the children's interests and abilities.



An integral part of our childcare philosophy is our commitment to provide as many new experiences as possible for the children. Play is the major way that children learn and develop; therefore, with few exceptions during each day, children are encouraged to play when and as they like. Our centres are enriched by the skill of professionals whose daily goals are to assist children in their healthy growth and development.

All childcare staff are certified Early Childhood Educators; ranging from Orientation to Child Care to Early Childhood Diplomas and beyond. The staffs commitment to their own personal development and education is evident through the participation in available staff training opportunities including Circle Project's very own Building Cultural Competency Training. This commitment goes hand in hand to ensure the highest standard of care is available on a daily basis for our future leaders. Some staff continue to enroll in part-time classes to further their Early Childhood Education. All staff have completed the Phase 1 Play and Exploration training and will continue the training as new phases are offered.

It has been another great year at the Centres; a huge thanks to all the staff for their hard work, dedication and the patience they bring to work each day. Thank you for the continued support from Ann Perry and the Circle Project's Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Anderson
Director of Children's Services



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS

In 2016, Circle Project undertook a process to gather information from the parents of children accessing childcare services through the Children's Centre or the Infant & Toddler Centre. It was determined that there was a need for programming with an increased Indigenous focus and with more opportunities for parent inclusion. Through the information gathered, it became apparent that there was a real disconnect between the families and their culture. This was summed up perfectly by one parent who said, *"My skin is brown, but I don't know what that means. How am I supposed to teach my children about their Indigenous culture?"* The information was shared with Circle Project's Council who quickly agreed that this needed to be addressed with additional resources. A development committee was created and through their work, the Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program was born.



Toddlers practicing pow wow in their jingle dresses

CCK was designed to provide opportunities for children to connect with their Indigenous culture. The program would go beyond simply working with children and would engage parents and the community as well. Through this approach, we work towards the development of long term solutions for improved school results for Indigenous children, who are among the most vulnerable in our community. Moving far past the basic activities of reading and math, CCK works to build strong, resilient and successful children through the use of their own culture. The program also provides greater learning opportunities and extended exposure to positive Indigenous role models thus, creating new opportunities for families to build supportive relationships. Included in the development and delivery of the CCK program are cultural people including Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.



Executive Director sharing the story of the jingle dress

Brandon Harder/Regina Leader-Post, June 3, 2018

One example of how this program works is what happened when we began teaching the children about pow wow. The process started with staff sharing photos, videos and stories. They held discussions with the children on the different aspects of regalia, music and dance. We then engaged instructors from the community to come into the centres weekly to work with the children on different dance techniques as well as drumming for the boys. When the instructors recommended the addition of jingle skirts for the girls and bell cuffs for the boy's wrists and ankles as aids in helping children learn the beat of the steps, a parent night was held. This allowed the parents to share a meal together and exchange stories as they worked together with staff and volunteers to make regalia pieces for the children; creating the ever growing community we had hoped for during the planning of the program.

Thank you to all those who have helped us in the initial test of the program. We are very excited to move forward with the Cultural Connections for Kids program into 2018/19 and beyond.

Participant Quotes

"It's always nice to come here. I find the people friendly. I feel at ease and not so anxious nor afraid."

"If I am to make positive changes in my life, the choice is mine. No one else lives my life but me."

"The old drug habit no longer has the right or power to control or drive me because I deal with it one day at a time."

"I have never seen it like that before. I like how you explain things. Your voice is calm and gentle."

"My thoughts about anger has changed. I've been able to forgive people easier than I used to."

"I have been happier, with a cleaner house, my babies are happier along with my wife. I also quit drinking."

"I'm able to recognize the signs of abuse, anger and boundaries."

"There will be no more abuse - verbal, physical or mental."

"I have learned that I cannot go through life angry."

"I have a better understanding and continue to grow and learn."

"This program helped me to look at myself in a positive way."

"Think first before you act."

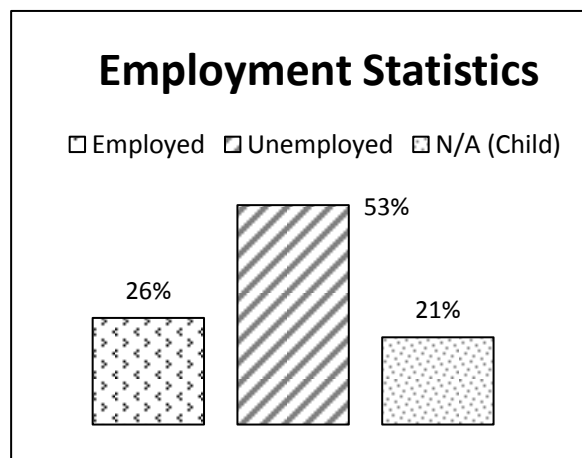
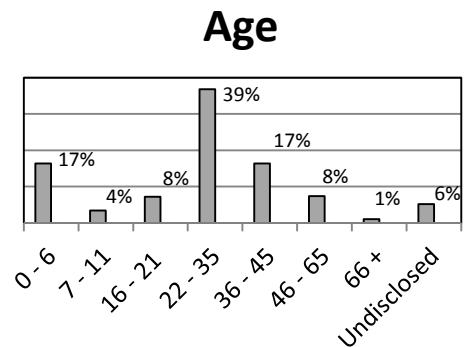
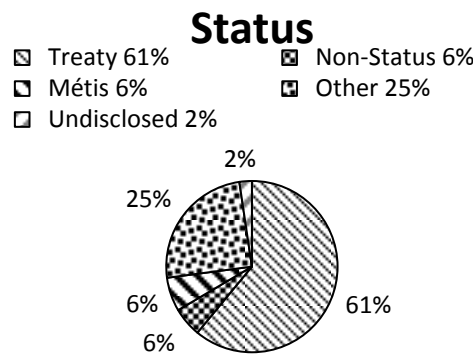
HOW IT ALL WORKS TOGETHER

Circle Project is an Aboriginal organization that focuses on the positive self- development of individuals and families needing support. The organization is a part of the community, and is always listening to what the community needs are. Individuals and families come to the Circle Project in need of encouragement and support and are often faced with multiple and complex issues and barriers that require immediate attention. In response to this, Circle Project has a variety of programs available in its service delivery model which includes satellite programming that are designed to work together. As an example, the Healthy Lifestyles program works with the Family Violence program to provide balanced and holistic services by delivering educational modules to the participants of those programs.

This wraparound service delivery model is very effective in addressing complex issues that individuals and families face. Circle Project strongly believes in the community partnership approach as a cost effective and cost saving method of service delivery.

STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS

The following charts show data about the status, age and employment statistics for the nearly 500 participants of the Healthy Lifestyles, Family Violence, Cultural Connections Program and the Children's Centre and



POINTS OF CONTACT

Children & Family Quotes & memorable Moments

"She loves the cultural program." (her daughter came home saying animals in Cree and mom had to look the words up on the internet).

"So what Cree words are we going to learn today?" (Just arrived; walking in the door into the daycare.)

"I enjoy listening to my son when he comes home and counts in Cree."

Playing outside a child was collecting rocks, counting "peyak, niso, nisto, newo" After counting her rocks she said "I don't throw them, cause that's hurting mother earth, right teacher."

"Does she speak English?" (Talking about a younger child just learning to talk.)

Boys Powwow Dancing (one boy holding his stomach) "oh man that hurts my guts."

Teacher to child; "what did your grandma/kokum give you?" Child; "my grandma gave me my mom."

"I made a new powwow dance move; it's called the Star Wars."

Teacher to child; "What do I have in my teeth?" (thinking it may have been spinach), child; "Ummm, you have cavities."

"api" (toddler pointing, telling another child to sit down in Cree at circle time).

Points of contact continue to be a valuable tool for our organization. Through its use we are able to gain a more accurate picture of the impact that Circle Project has on the lives of our participants and the community we serve. It also helps us to identify emerging trends in different areas of service.

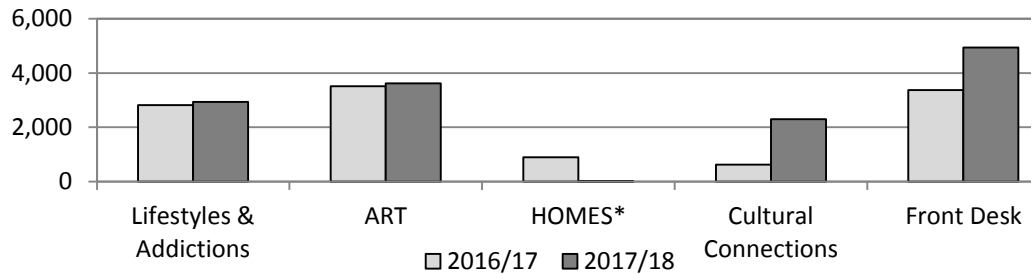
Programming Points of Contact: During the 2017/18 year we had a combined total of 115,343 points of contact, an increase of 41% from the previous year. Taking into account the individuals who participated in Circle Project programs, and the significantly high average of points of contact per person, we are able to measure service intensity in individual program areas. Additionally, we are now able to compare yearly totals.

Special Events Points of Contact: With the increase in popularity of our special events, we have had an increase of over 40% in points of contact.

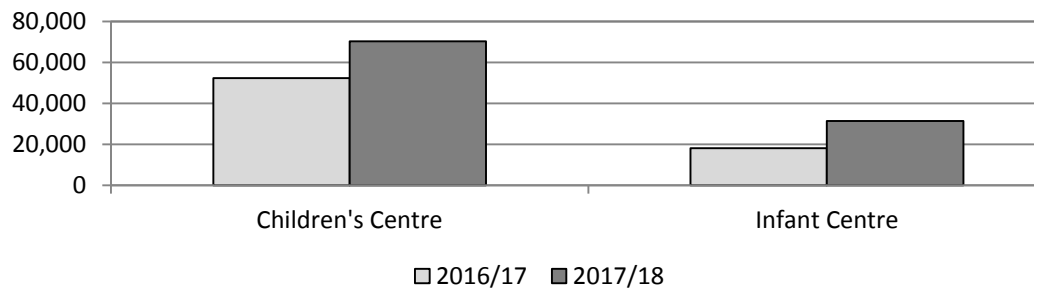
Provided below are the points of contact for each of our programs, services and special events for 2017/18.

Points of Contact 2016/17 and 2017/18 Comparison

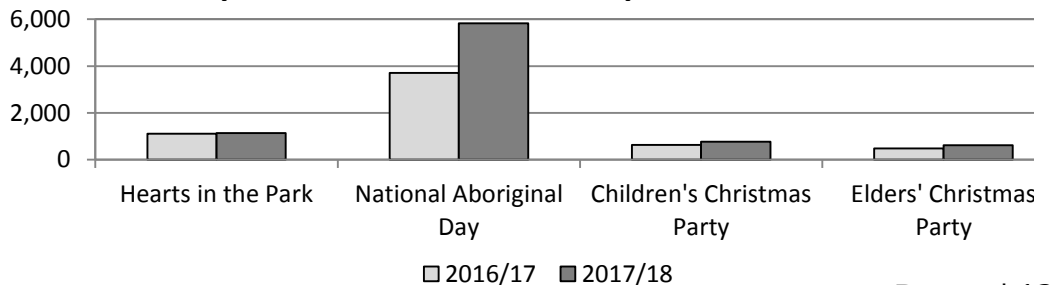
Main Office - 13,643 total points of contact



Child Care Centres - 101,543 total points of contact



Special Events - 8,347 total points of contact



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

This year we celebrated our 20th year hosting our Annual National Aboriginal Day Community Celebration with our community partners. The celebration was one for the record books. This amazing celebration of Indigenous culture was an opportunity to highlight some of the remarkable talent we have in our community and provide opportunities for individuals to learn more about Indigenous culture through first hand experiences. From the singing of O' Kanata (the Cree version of O' Canada), to the Grand Entry ceremony and traditional dance demonstrations, the celebration was filled with many amazing talents, especially through our local youth. To celebrate the 20 year milestone we hosted fireworks at dusk to commemorate this special occasion and bring a special kind of joy to the community. Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who helped make this day so special.



Grand Entry Flag Bearers

HEARTS IN THE PARK

Set against the backdrop of Victoria Park in Downtown Regina and a bright blue sky stood 2 tipis. With smiles shining brightly as the sun, volunteers in purple t-shirts were preparing for the 2nd annual community awareness event "Hearts in the Park". The event was an opportunity for a diverse community partnership to come together and plan and host this event - Circle Project, U of S Nursing College-Regina Campus, SOFIA House and Regina Police Service.

The event serves to raise the level of awareness and works to reduce the stigma attached to domestic, family and interpersonal violence. Each partner talked about the direct impacts that violence has in our community from a different perspective and in some cases, recommendations were made for what a person can do to help remove the stigma associated with reporting violence. This event successfully achieved the intended outcome; to raise the level of awareness of impacts and costs of violence on our community.

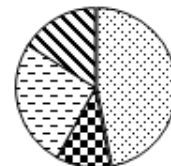
During the event, a short 4 question survey was administered to the crowd and individuals were also encouraged to write the relationship of someone they know who has been affected by violence.

Of the individuals who completed the Hearts in the Park 2017 Survey;

- 93% either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement "Violence in our community is high"
- 78% strongly agreed with the statement "Events such as Hearts in the Park are important to raise awareness about violence"

Of the hearts filled out respondents gave replies from the following categories:

- ☐ Immediate Family 47%
- ☑ Extended Family 11%
- ☑ Associated Relationships 26%
- ☑ Multiple Responses 16%



2017/2018
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Circle Project performed well financially in 2017/18 and successfully managed risk and challenges as they arose. In spite of ending the year in a deficit position, after showing a surplus in 2016/17, the expenses incurred to create the deficit were directly linked to making improvements to the childcare services. Cuts to grants and program funding in other areas this year were manageable but will continue to have future implications as fewer resources are available, thus creating greater competition for available funds. Overall, Circle Project showed stability in financial risk planning and management through careful financial management. The 2017/18 year brought with it some exciting new opportunities that opened the door for new partnerships and new programs. One of the most significant financial accomplishments of the year was the securing of multi-year funding to support the ongoing building of capacity to serve the community. The Circle Project is once again well positioned to engage in continued growth and partnership development in the upcoming fiscal year.

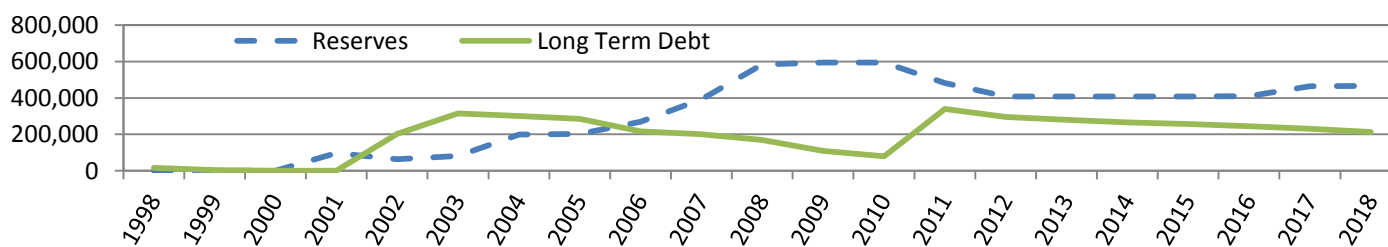
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Assets increased slightly in restricted reserve funds while cash balances showed a decrease consistent with the activities conducted and the changes that occurred throughout the year. The significant decrease in accounts receivables was due to the funds being received by the fiscal yearend reducing the outstanding contract payments owing in comparison to the previous fiscal year. The long term debt decreased as monthly payments for the mortgage included principal payments to reduce the overall debt. Changes in cash were consistent with financial activities in the year.

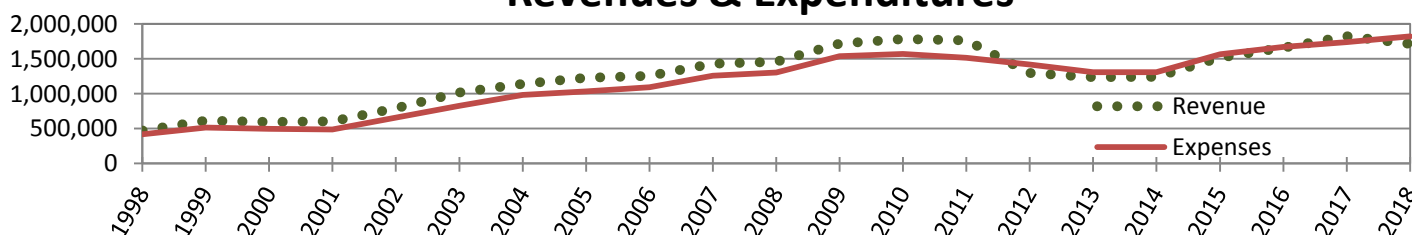
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

In the 2017/18 fiscal year there was an overall seven per cent decrease in revenues from the previous year, reflective of the current funding challenges that are ongoing and widespread in the sector. The largest decrease in revenue originated from a shift in eligibility for one of the major funding sources. Successfully securing new core multi-year funding helped to offset the decrease considerably. Contributions from sponsors to support special and community events were stable and there was a slight increase in donations for the year. Expenditures for the year increased significantly from the previous year, due to one-time expenditures linked to the costs of restructuring and program development. Expenditures exceeded revenues this year resulting in ending the year in a deficit position.

Restricted Reserves & Debt



Revenues & Expenditures



Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.:

The accompanying summarized financial statements, which comprise the summarized statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the summarized statement of operations for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of The Circle Project Inc. for the year ended March 31, 2018. I expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in my report dated June 7, 2018.

The summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations. Reading the summarized financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these summarized financial statements.

Auditors' Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarized financial statements based on my procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Opinion

In my opinion, the summarized financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of The Circle Project Assoc. Inc. for the year ended March 31, 2018 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Regina, Saskatchewan

June 7, 2018



Chartered Professional Accountant

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2018

	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>
Assets		
Current		
Cash	557,429	597,466
Investments	417,239	414,069
Accounts receivable	176,436	253,903
Prepaid expenses	-	1,250
	1,151,104	1,266,688
Capital assets	484,681	536,709
	1,635,785	1,803,397
 Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	148,034	173,511
Deferred contributions	-	19,900
Current portion of long-term debt	16,234	13,213
	164,268	206,624
Long-term debt	213,904	230,907
	378,172	437,531
 Net Assets		
Equity in capital assets	254,543	292,589
Reserves	517,239	514,069
Unrestricted net assets	485,831	559,208
	1,257,613	1,365,866
	1,635,785	1,803,397

Approved on behalf of the Board



 Director



 Director

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs	63,700	-
Justice Canada - Hearts	8,000	-
Ministry of Economy	8,700	20,300
Ministry of Social Services	371,590	422,644
Ministry of Justice	133,925	133,925
City of Regina	38,400	32,000
United Way of Regina	77,965	100,600
HPS/YMCA	190,166	136,276
REACH	23,700	23,700
Summer student grant	4,175	4,118
Aboriginal Friendship Centre of SK	7,144	184,783
Canada Heritage	10,000	-
Saskatchewan Culture	8,000	-
Community Initiative Fund	25,000	5,000
Transfer to deferred contributions	-	13,750
Administration fees	172,628	173,846
Daycare fees	523,081	478,125
Sponsorships	18,100	18,169
Donations	2,883	2,550
Memberships	54	60
Other self-generated	24,991	75,277
	1,712,202	1,825,123
Expenditures		
Activities - special	71,827	45,085
- cultural/community	39,515	32,901
Administration and contracts	148,970	146,249
Advertising	4,485	4,993
Amortization	58,413	58,663
Audit	6,799	6,286
Bad debts	13,566	12,489
Cultural program development	40,344	-
Equipment rental & photocopying	9,600	12,600
Equipment and furnishings	3,956	5,978
Grant repayment	5,500	7,144
Groceries	31,104	31,689
Hospitality	2,799	3,314
Insurance	15,356	16,023
Interest and bank charges	8,661	7,155
Interest on long-term debt	9,084	10,927
Purchased services	50,228	79,688
Materials and supplies	21,913	32,368
Rent	88,574	88,574
Repairs and maintenance	19,194	22,467
Property taxes	21,925	18,596
Telephone and postage	22,330	17,723
Training	1,805	8,464
Meetings and travel	14,058	11,676
Utilities	20,391	19,760
Vehicles	3,120	4,365
Wages and benefits	1,077,882	1,027,232
Workers' compensation	9,056	6,312
	1,820,455	1,738,721
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(108,253)	86,402

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

To the Membership;

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc. Council have read and approved all of the submitted Circle Project financial statements for the year April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 on a regular basis throughout the fiscal year. An annual audit has been conducted and the Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues and Expenditures is included in the 2018 Annual Report.

In addition to maintaining best practices including the approval and signature of Council Meeting Minutes, the Circle Project is:

- ✓ current on all of its statutory deductions for its employees and has made all of the required remittances to Canada Revenue Agency;
- ✓ current on wage payments to all employees;
- ✓ current on all required tax payments;
- ✓ registered and a member in good standing with the Non-Profits Corporation Branch of Saskatchewan;
- ✓ in good standing with Canada Revenue Agency as a registered charity;
- ✓ current in all licensing requirements;
- ✓ has sufficient cash resources to operate in an efficient manner.

FUNDERS



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada



United Way
Regina



Government
of Canada

SPONSORS

Indigenous Christian Fellowship
Knight Archer Insurance
K+S Potash
Rawlco Radio
Regina Police Services

SaskEnergy
SOFIA House
U of S College of Nursing
UNIFOR Local 1-S

FRIENDS

1320840 Alberta Ltd.
Anonymous
Brian Sklar
Candace Hill
Chistina Blair
CUPE 3967
Farm Credit Corporation
Fred Clipsham
Harvard Developments
Loraas Disposal
Luther College

Noble Johnston & Assoc. – Eric Miller
North Central Community Association
Regina Downtown Business Improvement
District
Regina High Noon Optimist Club
Sâkêwêwak Artist's Collective
Sask Workers Compensation Board
Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
Shelly Kainz
Street Culture Project
Tom Kraemer

*Sincere thanks to all others who have donated their time
and resources to help us do our community work.*

For further information about
our organization, programs or services
please call:

The “Big Circle”

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc. office at
1102 8th Ave. S4R 1C9
(306) 347-7515

The “Little Circle”

Circle Project Children’s Centre at
1115 Pasqua St. S4T 4L1
(306) 569-3988

The “Baby House”

Circle Project Infant Centre at
4401 Dewdney Ave. S4T 1B3
(306) 949-4911