



...serving the community since 1988

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

1102 -8th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4R 1C9
(306) 347 - 7515
www.circleproject.ca



Torch Awards Winner

Trust • Performance • Integrity

The 2019 Circle Project

ANNUAL REPORT

is dedicated to:

Our Elder, Advisor,
Mentor and Friend!

Noel Starblanket

Who went to the Spirit World

April 15, 2019

Circle Project Council

Executive

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

Council Members

Jenny Strongeagle
Heather Cote-Soop
Elder: Vacant

Circle Project Staff

Administration

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

Programs

Counseling: Deanna Keewatin
Family Violence:
Allan Pratt
Brandy Churchill

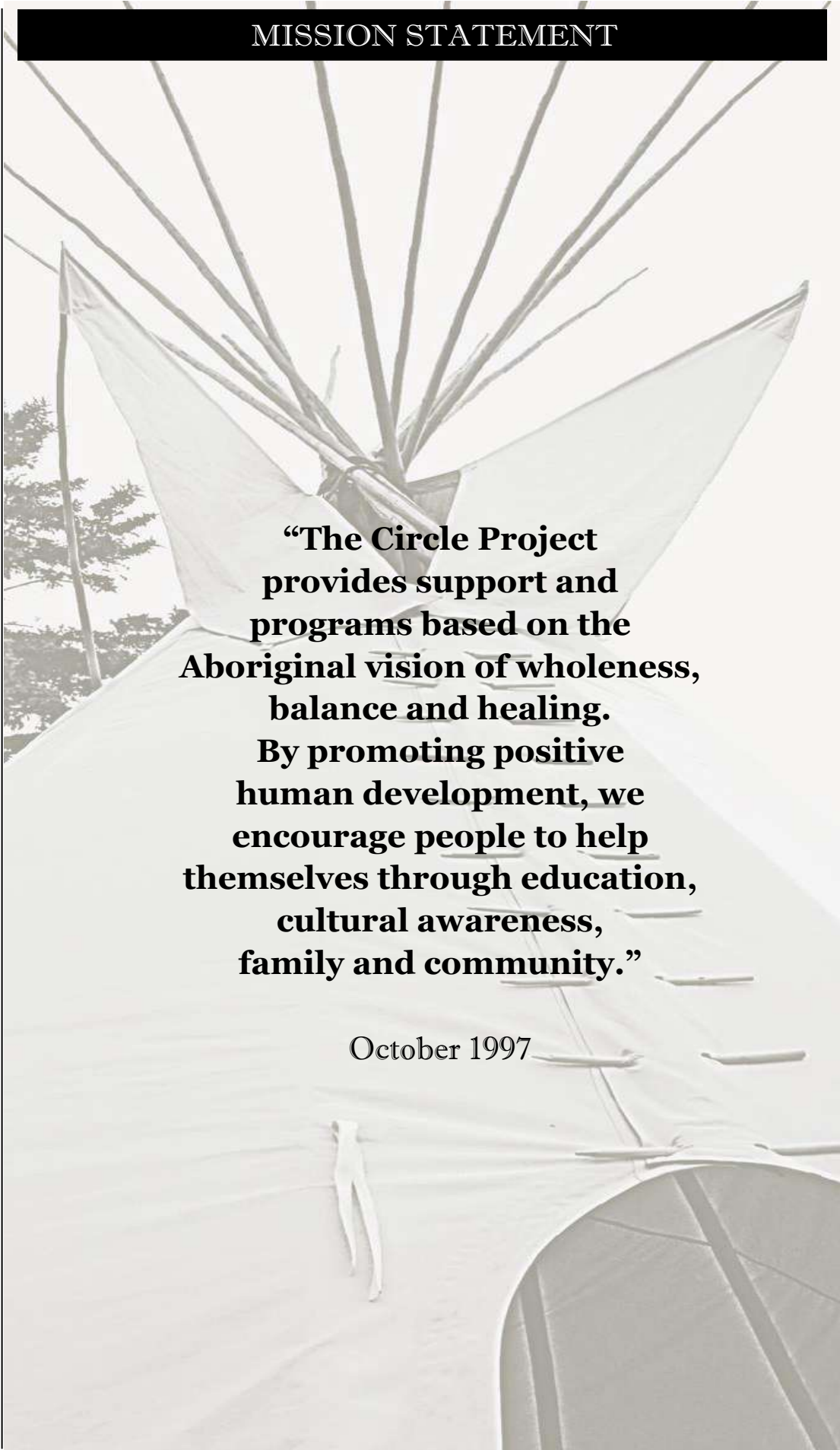
Children's Centre

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

Infant Toddler Centre

Director: Tyrah Morris
Early Childhood Educators:
Kyra Stonechild
Ebony Britton
Megan McPhail
Danielle Bastock
Natasha Kennedy
Shania Jordan

MISSION STATEMENT



**“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

Community Partner Quotes

"Unique in its position as an entirely-Indigenous organization, its focus on family, culture, and counselling allows people of all backgrounds to improve their lives and circumstances. The City of Regina appreciates the Circle Project's more than 30 years of community support and development."

His Worship Michael Fougere,
Mayor, City of Regina

"The Circle Project has been making a true, positive difference in our community for over 30 years. The work Circle Project does greatly improves the quality of life and social conditions of First Nation people in our community. We see firsthand, the true added value they provide for our Indigenous community."

Evan J. Bray,
Chief of Police, RPS

"Circle Project has a strong record of accountability, reliability transparency and governance. As a partner, they work with us to improve the quality of life for the most at risk in our community."

Dana Folkersen,
Executive Director, REACH

"I have worked extensively within the program and have seen a positive change in the children, staff and community members resulting in a need for such a program to be offered in an urban setting."

Margaret Rockthunder,
Circle Project Elder

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

Welcome friends as we have the pleasure, once again, to invite you to join us in taking a look back at Circle Project's year! To our program participants, membership and the community at large, you have our heartfelt thanks for allowing us the privilege of providing service to you. Sincere appreciation to our community partners, funders and sponsors for your ongoing support and encouragement. Please take the time to read the entire report as it reflects on the day to day operations and activities of the organization in a unique way.

This year had a challenging start as we continued the restructuring of childcare services and made difficult but necessary changes in preparation for the future. An unexpected opportunity emerged late in the year that would allow for a shift in services for the provision of infant care at both centers in response to community need. The decision to convert the center to focus on preschool programming was made, and was consistent with our both the vision and the strategic plan. This year also came with changes in other areas as we continued to manage services with available resources. The long awaited opportunity to deliver specialized cultural training in the community emerged this year as well. We have included some of the feedback from participants as we moved forward toward building a new understanding in our efforts towards reconciliation. In spite of the changes, Circle Project once again demonstrated a high level of competence, maturity and resiliency in managing the risks involved and moving forward in a positive way.

The organization worked hard this year to maintain and expand the community partnerships that are so important to the way we work in the community, including hosting community activities and events. This year, in spite of fewer resources, we successfully hosted the same number of special events as the previous year. Each event and special time in the year provided us with an opportunity to add to our collection of good memories of working in and for the community. In addition to the events we were engaged in an external evaluation for one of our new programs, had greater involvement with the Domestic Violence Court and participated in our annual strategic planning.

Overall, excellent progress was made this year in all program delivery areas. To the special group of people who make up the Council and Staff, thank you for your ongoing hard work in making this another successful year. Through it all we continued forward with optimism and hope. Optimism that by strengthening community partnerships and building new relationships we can continue to bridge the gaps in our community, particularly as it relates to Indigenous people. And hope, that together we can build a better and safer community for all.

It gives us great pleasure to present the Circle Project's 2019 Annual Report.



Bob Cantin, President



Ann Perry, Executive Director



OUR BELOVED ELDER

Some very special and gifted people come into our lives and make a very big impact in a relatively short period of time. And so it was with our mentor, advisor and Elder Noel Starblanket who left us for the Spirit world on April 15, 2019.

The first time we approached Noel was to assist us for the 2014 National Aboriginal Day we were hosting with our community partners. We asked him to do the opening prayer for the event and prayers for all the people in attendance. In the past, the prayer Elder would stay for a short while after the prayer and then depart. With Noel it was different. Not only did he stay for the whole event, he participated in helping with the draws, helped judge and give away prizes for the jigging contest and took great pleasure in being with us and with the community. With his amazing quick wit and ability to engage with both young and old, the first time we worked with him we knew Creator had sent someone very special to help us.

It took us almost a year of getting to know him and working with him before we asked him if he would serve as an Elder for Circle Project. He often joked that while "we were checking him out, he was also checking us out and we passed the test". Over the next few years, he served as one of our most respected Elders; sharing his knowledge and cultural teachings in such a way that it greatly influenced the way we worked, thought and lived.

For us, Noel was an inspiring mentor and advisor who always provided us with the right guidance as we moved into developing new cultural programming to move closer to what he called "true reconciliation". He worked with us as an Elder and Knowledge Keeper, sharing his lived experience to enlighten us about the impacts and intergenerational trauma of Indigenous people. He taught us about the importance of culture in our daily work of serving the community and wasn't afraid to speak his mind in his own special way. On more than one occasion he stated that "the TRC Calls to Action were just that, calls to action; not calls to more talking". It was because of his influence that we engaged in helping young children and families connect with their Indigenous culture at our childcare centres. He was instrumental in helping us reach out to our non-Indigenous community partners, who worked with large numbers of Indigenous people, to begin the important work of building understanding as a pathway to true reconciliation through the workshops we had developed and were testing with community partners.

When we wanted to create a lasting memory to close the year of celebration of our 30th Anniversary we went to Noel for guidance and advice about painting the Circle Project tipi. And once again, he gave us both permission and instruction about this. Little did we know that the painting of the tipi would be a legacy to him and all of the other important Circle Project Elders who had also passed. These special Elders were so instrumental in our lives and in the life of the Circle Project. Sadly, Noel passed before the work on the tipi was completed and we hope that from the Spirit world he is looking at the newly painted tipi knowing he was honoured, loved by us and the community.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Anger is a natural, though sometimes an unwanted or irrational emotion that everybody experiences from time to time which can affect the home, workplace and community. Since 1998, the Family Violence's Anger Resolution Techniques (ART) program has helped participants develop strategies to positively influence better choices for healthy boundaries, self-respect and respect for others by interrupting the cycle of violence in their lives.

Through our work with offenders, the Circle Project's ART program continues to lead the way in implementing strategies for prevention of violence in the community. This program is free for all participants and focuses on identifying, reducing and controlling anger issues that have resulted in serious incidents of angry or violent outbursts. Once participants have completed the twenty hour program they are presented with a certificate that acknowledges their progress in making positive choices to live a healthier lifestyle. Upon exiting the program, participants have shared how the program has made a big difference in how they express their anger and how they communicate with their families, friends and the community. Most are filled with hope for a future free of uncontrolled anger.

This year there were 169 registered participants in the Family Violence ART program. A total of 90 modules were delivered in-house or at a satellite location. An additional 60 makeup modules were also provided to assist individuals with attendance issues. The ART program provides an average of 25 hours of service per participant.

The Family Violence program is also a part of the Domestic Violence Court that offers Domestic Violence Treatment Options (DVTO). The DVTO is voluntary and offers treatment programming and a lighter sentence for people who successfully complete the program. Services in this area have increased and over the year with 23 females and two males participating in and successfully completing the ART program. Service provision also includes attendance at court and interfacing with other agencies and departments.

It has been an honour to be a part of the Circle Project's Family Violence program and to continue providing program participants positive opportunities to promote healthier lifestyles and make better choices for themselves, their families and in the community. We would like to thank the funders, community partners, Circle Project Elders, Council and Staff for its ongoing support throughout the year; it has been a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Pratt, Family Violence Coordinator

Brandy Churchill, Family Violence Co-Facilitator

Participant Quotes

"To love myself, I am the only one in control of myself and the way I feel." - J.

"I learned how to deal with my anger, how to put it away in a safe space and deal with it appropriately." - G.B.

"I learned about myself, I actually looked into myself and wanted to change." - R.L.

"That to be angry is ok, how you handle that anger is what matters and to have a healthy outlet." - G.I.

"The violence abuse, cycle of an abusive relationship, and realizing my cycle and that I wanted an out." - S.B.

"Changing my cycle by removing myself from my current abusive relationship and bettering me and my children." - S.B.

"I know where my anger comes from and I also know my boundaries. I have the power over myself, my own happiness and reacting to others." - C.R.

"I no longer make permanent decisions from temporary situations." - A.D.

"It's a good learning experience - it opened my eyes to a lot of issues that I have." - M.R.

"Because it's exactly what I need to move forward past my anger issues towards a new life!" - D.B.

LIFESTYLES & COUNSELLING

The Addictions/Outreach counseling service uses a holistic approach to help individuals restore personal health, balance and harmony in the mind, spirit, soul and body. For people working to break free of an addiction; it's a journey of change, which begins from the inside and work its way outward. An addiction free-life can lead to personal improvement, a healthier lifestyle, and freedom to enjoy what life can offer not only for individuals but for the family and for the community.

This year over one hundred individuals have taken advantage of our free counselling service. Services ranged from the administration of the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI-3), helping individuals better understand and discuss their optimal treatment plan, to individual counselling sessions and follow-up in support of ongoing recovery.

The Addiction counseling service also works closely with the Circle Project's Anger Resolution Techniques (ART) program in delivering educational orientations which focus on Healthy Relationships and Healthy Lifestyles. The ART orientations are a valuable starting point where individuals can begin to accept and then gradually increase their understanding of the impact of family violence throughout the ART modules which follow. This year there were twenty orientations presented and 10 completion modules delivered; 5 of which were satellites at a community partner location.

Individuals who seek help need to feel supported and safe if they are to begin to break the negative cycles they are in. At Circle Project, each day we have the opportunity to serve others which emphasises the need for us to work in unity, in and for the community.

Grace and peace, Deanna Keewatin

BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Circle Project through its consultation with Elders, engagement with community partners, involvement with the community and our own strategic planning and data collection recognized a significant gap in services. Identified was an urgent need for a broad-based, educational experience for community reconciliation, designed to build understanding and promote healing; and delivered by a well-established, experienced and trusted Indigenous community organization, like Circle Project.

The Building Cultural Competency (BCC) training was developed as a unique learning opportunity to engage both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community to promote understanding as a positive way forward in our community and an important step in reconciliation. Through the building of this understanding, Indigenous people have new knowledge about their own history and culture. Non-Indigenous people are able to start making the connections between the history and current circumstances that the Indigenous community is still in today including the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma.

This year, we had the opportunity to test the BCC program with some of our important community partners, who in turn shared how the training has served to build a greater understanding for their staff and board. By increasing individual and organizational understanding about Indigenous people in our community, we can begin to build stronger relationships through shifts in thinking around the issues that Indigenous people face today which are linked to their history.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured funding and we will now have the opportunity to make a positive difference in our community by piloting the BCC program in the 2019/20 year.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Circle Project Children's Centre located at 1115 Pasqua Street and the Infant/Toddler Centre located at 4401 Dewdney Avenue are both subsidized child care facilities licensed by the Ministry of Education; Early Learning and Child Care Branch.

Upon entering our Centres, children and parents are welcomed by a positive home like atmosphere and the environment is a reflection of our Indigenous culture. The staff is always welcoming and convey a sense of a warm, nurturing feeling upon entering each area. We provide culturally appropriate early childhood programming designed for healthy and holistic development for each individual child. Our curriculum promotes development by creating relationships and providing culturally reflected learning through play environments.

Our newest program, Culture Connections for Kids, (CCK) is a reflection of what makes our centres different from other centres. The program focuses on teaching the children Indigenous culture, traditions, powwow and language.

All of our Educators are motivated and inspiring; they are all specially trained, and have both skill and knowledge in Early Childhood Education. The staff are all committed to their own personal development and are continuously taking part time classes and or attending workshops and seminars that further their knowledge in this area of work.

It has been great year at the Centres. For the first time in many years the Children's Centre was at full enrollment by the late spring. Efforts continued on updating both the center and the Early Childhood programming. The changes made to staffing and the environment proved to be beneficial as was evidenced by the steady enrollment numbers. In spite of the changes occurring, disruptions to services and activities were kept to a minimum to ensure there was no unnecessary impact on the children and families. This was a year of transition in both childcare centres as the young Indigenous leaders, previously identified as part of our leadership development strategy, were now charged with the responsibility of the day to day operations.

I want to thank all the staff for their continued commitment to hard work in our Centres. Their abilities to work as a team and their dedication to their classrooms and children don't go unnoticed. I would like to thank Ann Perry for her continued guidance and the Board for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa Anderson

Director of Child Care Services

Children's and Parent's Quotes

"I love how much she has learnt in the program; she comes home and counts in Cree."

M.L. (Parent)

A 4 year old boy wore his watch to daycare one day. Teacher; *"What time is it?"* Boy - *"Ummm it says it's time NOT to have a nap."*

N.W. 4 year old

(Playing Cree Matching Game)

"I like playing the matching game.....I'm pretty good."

L.P. 5 year old

"Grandma makes good food but so does Dawn."

A.S. 4 year old

"The program is so great; you should consider running a summer program."

L.A. (Parent)

Walking out of the center one day; named all the animals printed on our welcome sign in Cree. His mother was very impressed.

D.A. 4 year old

"Fanta, I'm the biggest in the toddler room; but I still wear pull ups" then starts laughing to himself.

S.D. 3 year old

"I'm very impressed with the school kids reading. They have improved so much when we play musical chairs, they can pick up the card and read it out loud themselves in full sentences."

Morgan our Music Therapist

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS

This year was our first full year for the delivery of the Cultural Connection for Kids (CCK) program. Designed to provide opportunities for children to connect with their Indigenous culture; CCK builds self-confidence, self-esteem, and a good sense of cultural identity for the children enrolled.

Measurable outcomes this year included children increasing their knowledge and understanding of traditional values, cultural teachings and the Cree language. The children continue to grow with the program, are always eager to learn and take pride in their Indigenous culture.



Tipi making

The parents are also provided with the opportunity to learn through CCK. The once a month parent nights were created to promote individual growth, strengthen family bonds and build a sense of community. Each parent night was designed to expose the parents to what their children were learning in the program, in the hope that this would encourage learning at home.

One of the key elements of CCK is community engagement. This allows the program to access Indigenous knowledge and traditions from community members that are knowledge keepers. The CCK program has its own Elder who teaches the Cree to the children and is a important resource for the staff. Positive relationships were built with our community members, children and staff through this on-going engagement.

This past year our staff also expanded their knowledge and increased their confidence in their abilities with the program. Their willingness to learn and embrace the culture has also been a key factor in CCK's program success. We are very encouraged about the program's positive impact in the community and look forward to a bright future for this very important community program.

I would like to thank all our Elder Margaret Rockthunder, community Knowledge Keepers Elvie Stonechild, Russell Paskimen and Chasity Delorme, community members and our Early Childhood educators for their commitment to the program. Thanks also to Ann Perry for her vision for the CCK program and the Board for believing in the importance of building strong children.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa Anderson

Director of Child Care Services



Boys drumming practice



Learning Cree from Kokum Margaret



Traditional teaching during sharing circle and child holding the sweet grass while sharing her story

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS EVALUATION

Circle Project has implemented a culturally affirming program in its day cares. Circle Project Council, management and staff strongly believe that a positive future for all children is linked to experiences in their early years. The Cultural Connections for Kids Program has the knowledge, attitudes, resources and actions to mature into an effective program contributing to the well-being of the children it serves and, by extension, improve family and community well-being. Frankie Jordon, Jordon Consulting

It is very important to Circle Project to understand and monitor the outcomes and impacts of program and service delivery to ensure that activities will lead to the desired measurable outcomes. Broad-based program evaluation is one of the best ways to accomplish this particularly with new programs and activities. Circle Project has been using a variety of evaluation tools for many years to make program improvements and to use as a basis for new program development and delivery. From time to time we are fortunate enough to secure resources to have an independent, external evaluations conducted, as was the case with our Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program in 2018.

Through the support of the funder for this program, the Circle Project engaged an internationally recognized evaluator to develop a framework and conduct an evaluation on this very important new Early Childhood Education; the CCK program. The intent was to ensure the evaluation was broad-based and included the program Elder, community Knowledge Keepers, parents, staff and yes even the kids. The key findings of the evaluation were based on the comparison to nine descriptors that form a basket of effective practices identified from work done in Ontario in cultural learning for First Nations children.

We are pleased to report that our newly developed and piloted CCK program met or exceed 6/9 benchmarks identified and was making significant progress in an additional 2/9. In the case of the final 1/9 benchmark and because of the evaluation, we are now able to focus our resources on key areas for future development to ensure that this program continues to help children and their families connect with their Indigenous culture.

SERVICE MILESTONES

Staff and volunteer turnover can significantly impact the effectiveness and capacity of an organization. At Circle Project we have been very fortunate in building solid tenure with both staff and volunteers. We are so grateful for the commitment shown and show our gratitude through service awards.

This was a very special year as there were three (3) long-term service awards to be handed out!

The award ceremony took place at the Annual Staff and Council Christmas brunch. After the brunch, the event began with the presentation of 10 years of service award to our awesome cook - Dawn Gordon (Little Circle) who received a leather jacket with the new Circle Project logo on it.

This was followed by a Starblanket Ceremony led by Allan Pratt, to honour Fred Clipsham for his 20 years of dedicated service to Circle Project in his role of Treasurer.

To celebrate her 25 years of service Fanta Sanith (Little Circle) received a beautiful pair of handmade beaded moccasins.

The Staff and Council award recipients are very deserving as they each bring their own unique talents to the organization and we are so very lucky to have them on The Circle Project team!!

A LOOK BACK AT 2018

New Logo Unveiled!!!



2019 Anniversary Round Dance

Back Row: Tyrah Kaiswatum, Larissa Anderson, Thomasa Morrisseau, Shelly Desnomie, Allan Pratt, Amanda Pratt, Lyndell Poitras, Brandy Churchill

Front Row: Natasha Kennedy, Amanda Froh, Ebony Brittan, Fanta Sanith, Ann Perry, Kerri Quangtakoune, Megan McPhail, Kyra Stonechild, Danielle Bastock, Shameela Saidmeeri, Dawn Gordon



Rhonda Bird, Council Vice President and Ann Perry, Executive Director of Circle Project



Onlookers reading hearts at the 3rd Annual Hearts in the Park



Elders Christmas Party Quiz Last Place Winners



Grand Entry is set to begin at the 22nd Annual National Indigenous Peoples Day Community Celebration



Bob Cantin, Council President Circle Project, The Honourable Ralph Goodale Minister of Public Safety, Ann Perry, Executive Director Circle Project and Chief Evan Bray Regina Police Service



Bob Cantin, Council President,
Bernie Cantin, Volunteer,
Joni Adamcewicz, Volunteer and
Deanna Keewatin, Lifestyles and
Addictions Counsellor



2018 Hearts in the
Park Community
Partners speaking at
3rd annual event

2018 Service Awards – Ann Perry,
Executive Director, Dawn Gordon,
Fred Clipsham, Fanta Smith and
Bob Cantin, Council President



Mayor Michael Fougere,
City of Regina,
Ann Perry, Executive
Director and Bob
Cantin, Council
President Circle Project



Ann Perry, Executive Director, Elders Alma Poitras,
Harold Lavallee, Margaret Rockthunder, and Bob Cantin,
Council President



2018 Children's
Christmas Party –
Special
entertainment was
provided by the
Children from our
Cultural Connections
for Kids program as
they sang Jingle Bells
in Cree

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. With the arrival of spring, we host a Round Dance (this year was year two of four) in celebration of our 30 years of working in the community!! We then host "HEARTS in the Park", during Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. Summer is time to celebrate our agency and accomplishments at our Annual General Meeting. In June, we host our biggest annual event, National Indigenous People's Day (NIPD) Celebration with our community partners. One of the highlights of the year is our Annual Christmas Parties, one for our community Elders and one for all the wonderful children and families we had the pleasure of working with during the year.

CHILI COOK-OFF

The two time repeating champs, Circle Project returned to defend their title at the Annual Inter-Agency Chili Cook-Off hosted by Indigenous Christian Fellowship (ICF). Using our much sought after chili recipe and an additional touch of a mini heart shaped bannock, our staff arrived confident that their pot was the award winning chili! 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?

In a new twist, a change in the rules allowed voting in the competition including the ability to "buy" extra votes. Circle Project was edged out of the win and had to hand over our much loved trophy to the new champions, ICF! Thank you to ICF for once hosting a great community event filled with fun, laughter and friendly competition. We will see you again next year at the competitors table and this time we are bringing extra cash!

2nd ANNUAL FEAST AND ROUND DANCE

On March 15th, 2019, Circle Project was honoured to host our 2nd Pipe Ceremony, Feast and Round Dance at Regina's mamaweyatitan centre in North Central. The day began with food preparation by staff and community volunteers. Circle Project staff and Council, along with members of the community, brought their own personal contributions to the Feast and giveaway in observation of traditional protocols and in appreciation for the organization; making the day a true community celebration.

Executive Director, Ann Perry and President, Bob Cantin welcomed everyone to the Circle Project's 2nd Annual Round Dance celebration and unveiled Circle Project's newly designed logo in commemoration of Circle Project's 30th Anniversary. The guests in attendance danced to the Round Dance songs and socialized, it was amazing to look around and see the community celebrate with us, including many children and youth.

Thank you to Circle Project Elder Harold Lavallee and Elder Sam Isaac and their helpers, as well as the Master of Ceremonies, and Stickman, for all the work that they did to help make this an amazing evening. Special thanks goes to the many singers that participated and to the staff, Council and volunteers who made this another memorable event. Our appreciation and gratitude goes out to the community for coming out and celebrating with us. We look forward to our 3rd Annual Round Dance in 2020; as we continue working to serve the needs of our community.



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

Cultural activities have always been the highlight of our important annual community celebration for National Indigenous People's Day.

The 21st Annual National Indigenous People's Day Community Celebration was a tremendous success. From the singing of O' Kanata (Cree version of O' Canada) to the Grand Entry ceremony and free community BBQ which served over 1,200 people, it was truly a special day.

This year other activities included powwow/Metis dance demonstrations, Metis jigging instruction, lacrosse demonstrations, traditional Indigenous storytelling and Cree BINGO for the elders. Indigenous/Metis cultural story boards were on display and participants used the story boards to find the answers for the trivia questions that they were given.

Family activities included traditional hand game demonstrations, Indigenous themed arts and crafts, face painting, inflatable bouncers and the family photo tent which is always popular with the families.

This year to promote young Indigenous artists we hosted our first ever Indigenous Battle of the Bands. Four bands performed throughout the evening as they competed for the title of best Indigenous Band! There was a special performance by Circle Project's Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program. The children drummed and sang for the crowd. The entertainment finished off with a special performance by Errol Kinistino, a crowd favourite.

As the evening drew to a close the community gathered to participate in a round dance as we thanked our funders, sponsors, the committee, volunteers, entertainers and community members for another amazing National Indigenous People's Day event.

HEARTS IN THE PARK

For the third consecutive year, Circle Project along with partners, U of S College of Nursing - Regina Campus, Regina Police Service and SOFIA House, came together to host the community awareness event "HEARTS in the Park". This event was held in honour of "Victims and Survivors of Crime Week" and was held in Victoria Park in downtown Regina. This year's theme was "Putting our HEARTS on the line."

HEARTS in the Park serves to raise the level of awareness and works to reduce the stigma attached to domestic, family and interpersonal violence. From the unique perspective of each organization, the partners talked about the impacts that violence has on our community. Individuals were encouraged to write the relationship of someone they know who has been affected by violence on a heart and hang it in the park. Of the hearts filled out almost 50% identified an immediate family member. This event successfully achieved the intended outcome; to raise the level of awareness of impacts and costs of violence in our community. More information about the event is available at www.circleproject.ca including a video of the first three years of HEARTS in the Park.

Building Cultural Competency Training Quotes

"We are grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with Circle Project, in the important work of truth and reconciliation and are pleased to recommend them to other organizations and community partners."

Corey Hadden
Regional Director, SaskAbilities

"I felt it was a privilege to participate in an act of reconciliation we were honoured to be included in."

"I believe this will give me a much greater understanding of Indigenous history and culture."

"Hearing accounts first hand from the Elders during the sharing circle increased my (and others) understanding and empathy."

"Insight into 'the why' behind where some of our clients are at and where they are coming from."

"It was different from other cultural workshops, and that is a good thing."

"Aboriginal people are still healing and may not always be ready to forgive and move forward as we think they should be moving forward."

"It's a powerful reminder of what was and what is. Thank you."

"I learnt more about the history and why reconciliation is necessary."

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.

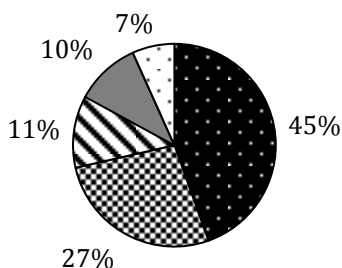
This wraparound service delivery model is very effective in addressing complex issues that individuals and families face. Circle Project strongly believes in the community partnership approach as a cost effective and cost saving method of service delivery.

STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS

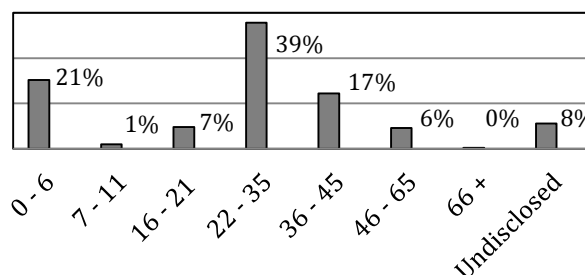
The following charts show data about the status, age and employment statistics for the nearly 360 participants of the Healthy Lifestyles, Family Violence, Cultural Connections Program and the Children's Centre and Infant & Toddlers Centre in 2018/19.

Status

■ Treaty 45% ▣ Métis 27%
▢ Non-Status 11% ■ Undisclosed 10%
□ Other 7%



Age



Residential School

Of all the active participants in Circle Project programming this year, 68% of the Indigenous participants stated they were either survivors or intergenerational survivors of Residential Schools. In the case of our children's services the number rises to almost 80% of participants.

2018/2019
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Overall, the Circle Project performed very well financially in 2018/19 successfully managing the risks involved with both the restructuring of services and reducing other program costs to reflect new fiscal realities. Cuts to grants and program funding continued this year marking an ongoing trend that will continue to impact the organization and likely have future implications as fewer resources are available, thus creating greater competition for available funds. In spite of this, the organization managed to show growth in several areas, indicating sound fiscal management. The year brought with it some exciting new opportunities that opened the door for new partnerships and new programs all made possible by the multi-year capacity building funding, secured last year. This multi-year funding provided much need stabilization for the organization 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.

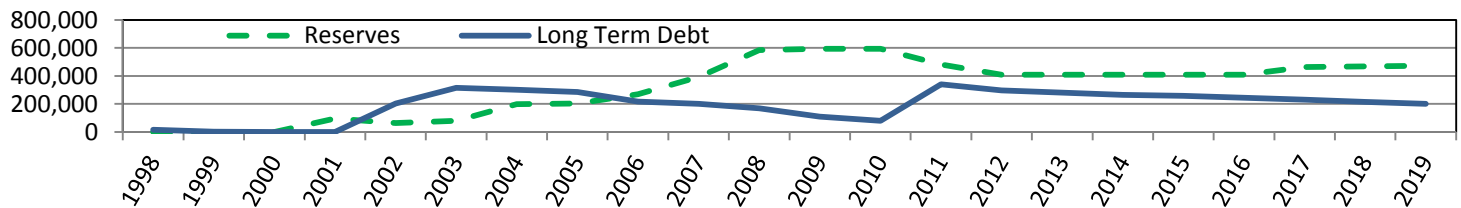
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Assets increased slightly in restricted reserve funds as did cash balances which showed a significant increase due to the securement of special capital grants. The changes in assets are consistent with the activities conducted and the changes that occurred throughout the year. The significant decrease again this year in accounts receivable 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.

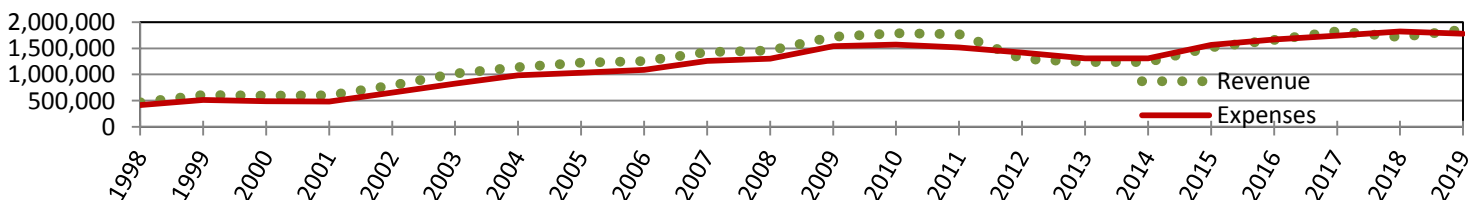
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

In the 2018/19 fiscal year there was an overall 8 percent increase of revenues compared to 2017/18 overall 7 percent decrease in revenues from the previous year. The largest increase in revenues originated from the capital grants secured for future projects. Contributions from sponsors to support special and community events were stable however there was a slight decrease in donations and sponsorships for the year. Expenditures for the year decreased from the previous year, due to slight reduction in services and the adjustments made to bring expenses under confirmed income levels for the year. Revenues exceeded expenditures this year resulting in ending the year in a positive cash balance 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, 2019, 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, 2019. I expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in my report dated May 31, 2019.

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, 2019 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Regina, Saskatchewan

May 31, 2019



Chartered Professional Accountant

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Assets		
Current		
Cash	791,375	557,429
Investments	421,823	417,239
Accounts receivable	120,355	176,436
Prepaid expenses	17,769	-
	1,351,322	1,151,104
Capital assets	446,218	484,681
	1,797,540	1,635,785
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	106,193	148,034
Deferred contributions	143,758	-
Current portion of long-term debt	15,093	16,234
	265,044	164,268
Long-term debt	200,519	213,904
	465,563	378,172
Net Assets		
Equity in capital assets	230,606	254,543
Reserves	521,823	517,239
Unrestricted net assets	579,548	485,831
	1,331,977	1,257,613
	1,797,540	1,635,785

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs	127,528	63,700
Justice Canada - Hearts	7,000	8,000
Ministry of Economy	-	8,700
Ministry of Education – Early Learning	358,540	371,590
Ministry of Justice	133,924	133,925
Gov of Saskatchewan – Play/Exploration grants	126,248	-
City of Regina	66,800	38,400
United Way of Regina	70,420	77,965
HPS/YMCA	-	190,166
REACH	23,700	23,700
NIB Trust Fund	117,000	-
Summer student grant	3,802	4,175
Aboriginal Friendship Centre of SK	-	7,144
Canada Heritage	10,000	10,000
Saskatchewan Culture	7,000	8,000
Community Initiative Fund	45,000	25,000
Transfer to deferred contributions	(142,638)	-
Administration fees	196,374	172,628
Daycare fees	635,623	523,081
Sponsorships	16,850	18,100
Donations	2,527	2,883
Memberships	73	54
Other self-generated	45,327	24,991
	1,851,098	1,712,202
Expenditures		
Activities - special	66,425	71,827
- cultural/community	30,038	39,515
Administration and contracts	171,319	148,970
Advertising	3,422	4,485
Amortization	56,020	58,413
Audit	6,710	6,799
Bad debts	21,939	13,566
Cultural program development	-	40,344
Equipment rental & photocopying	6,000	9,600
Equipment and furnishings	1,200	3,956
Grant repayment	-	5,500
Grant Active Play expenses	6,549	-
Grant Exploration expenses	8,510	-
Groceries	29,498	31,104
Hospitality	3,616	2,799
Insurance	17,929	15,356
Interest and bank charges	7,663	8,661
Interest on long-term debt	8,540	9,084
Purchased services	29,938	50,228
Materials and supplies	27,315	21,913
Rent	88,574	88,574
Repairs and maintenance	17,649	19,194
Property taxes	23,431	21,925
Telephone and postage	19,521	22,330
Training	10,779	1,805
Meetings and travel	9,478	14,058
Utilities	21,038	20,391
Vehicles	2,179	3,120
Wages and benefits	1,074,001	1,077,882
Workers' compensation	7,453	9,056
	1,776,734	1,820,455
Surplus (deficit) for the year	74,364	(108,253)

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, 2018 to March 31, 2019 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 2019 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
MOSIAC CANADA ULC
Rawlco Radio

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

FRIENDS

Joni Adamcewicz
Chistina Blair
CUPE 3967
Father Anthony Dizy
Elk Dog Equine Assisted
Therapy Ltd.
Fred Clipsham
Harvard Developments
Father Gary Kuntz
Loraas Disposal
Roland Kay

Frankie Jordan, Jordan Consulting
Lone Creek Cultural Club
Music Performance Trust Fund
Pine Lodge
Regina Downtown Business Improvement
District
Regina High Noon Optimist Club
Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
Brian Sklar
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 Avenue S4R 1C9
(306) 347-7515

The “Little Circle”

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

The “Baby House”

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

www.circleproject.ca