



...serving the community since 1988

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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



Torch Awards Winner

Trust • Performance • Integrity

The 2020 Circle Project

ANNUAL REPORT

is dedicated to:

Conexus Credit Union

in sharing our vision of hope

for the Indigenous

community in the spirit of

Truth and Reconciliation

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:
April Redwood

Programs

Counselling:
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
Shaelynn Bruce-Anaskan
Shania Stonechild
Support Staff/Cook:
Dawn Gordon

Infant Toddler Centre

Director: Tyrah Kaiswatum
Early Childhood Educators:
Ebony Britton
Danielle Bastock
Natasha Kennedy

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 Quotes

"Circle Project has responded to the many needs of our most marginalized in our community through multiple programming streams. They work hard to provide supports for people that are dealing with layers of socio-economic issues..."

Hon. Mark Docherty,
MLA Regina Coronation Park

"We see firsthand, the true added value they provide for our Indigenous community. With community generosity through funding, Circle Project will continue the incredible work in our city and more importantly, have a positive impact in minimizing risk to individuals while strengthening families."

Evan J. Bray,
Chief of Police, RPS

"Thank you for your unbreakable commitment to improving the wellbeing of communities."

Joel Mowchenko,
Chair, Conexus Credit Union

"United Way Regina evaluates all program investments annually so we are confident in reporting this organization is results orientated, adapts well to changing conditions and demonstrates excellence in the delivery of effective and efficient programs."

Robyn Edwards-Bentz,
CEO, United Way Regina

"Congratulations on the success of your organization as you continue to be a force serving the objective of Truth & Reconciliation."

Harvey Granatier, Pres. & CEO,
Sask K of C Charitable Foundation

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 Indigenous 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 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 services within a cultural framework that has proven comfortable and acceptable for Indigenous 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, Indigenous organization that provides programs and services in Regina and surrounding areas. Although our program participants are both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, our main focus is working with Indigenous people in a community based setting. The Council (Board of Directors) maintains an Indigenous 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, businesses and the community.

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

Welcome friends! Once again, it is our pleasure to share with you another year in the life of the Circle Project. Without a doubt the world has changed in recent months, in ways that most of us could not imagine. What started off as a year of great excitement and anticipation for us, ended abruptly with the unexpected impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. Thankfully, the pandemic emerged at the end of our program and fiscal year and did not overshadow the many of the important things that happened during the course of the year.

This past year was probably one of the most exciting and memorable in the recent history of the organization. For the past three years, in our annual strategic planning, finding a new home for Circle Project's programs, services and main office was the number one priority. In preparation for this (and before we shifted our focus to relocating), we committed to investing considerable time and resources in making some overdue interior and exterior improvements at the two facilities that house our childrens' services. Fortunately, we had already secured new special capital grants to help convert school-aged spaces to welcome infants at our Children's Centre and to increase accessibility at our Infant Center by adding a front vestibule. The redevelopment of the backyards at our daycares was of particular importance to us because many of our families live in apartments or in rental housing which don't necessarily provide an abundance of green space for children to play in. Work was progressing nicely and then it happened.

In mid-July, one of the biggest opportunities Circle Project has ever had emerged. The opportunity to buy a building, in the exact spot we wanted to relocate presented itself through a Request for Offers released by Conexus. We were successful in our bid (see *story on page 4*) and we are now on a new path forward as we continue in our efforts of "helping people, help themselves", right in the heart of North Central! This brings us a giant step forward in making the vision of a Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub a reality for the organization and the people we serve. We are truly grateful and humbled by this gift. Through this generosity, we will continue to make a positive difference for the Indigenous community for many years to come.

To our program participants, membership and the community at large, we extend our heartfelt thanks for allowing us the privilege of providing service again this year. Please take the time to read the program reports and participant quotes, as they reflect on the day to day operations and activities of the organization. Sincere appreciation to our community partners, funders and sponsors for your ongoing support and encouragement. Please take the time to read our list of supporters, friends and partners as they are essential to the ongoing operations of the Circle Project. And finally to our Council, staff and volunteers, thanks for your continued loyalty, faith and commitment to the important work of Circle Project... and to each other.

It gives us great pleasure to present the Circle Project's 2020 Annual Report.



Bob Cantin, President



Ann Perry, Executive Director

BUILDING COMMUNITY, BUILDING HOPE

"All Canadians must now demonstrate the same level of courage and determination, as we commit to an ongoing process of reconciliation. By establishing a new and respectful relationship between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, we will restore what must be restored and repair what must be repaired..."

Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair
Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Circle Project has a vision for the future. Our vision is to create and develop a community-based cultural hub where people can engage in meaningful and life changing personal development through wholistic and culturally based programs and services. We also want to create a safe place where people can be "a part of the community" instead of "apart from it". Early on we realized that one of the best ways to realize our vision is by relocating our proven programs and services (including our administrative operations), to the heart of the North Central area. It also brings us much closer to the community we serve. The former Conexus building at 5th Avenue and Elphinstone Street will now be the location for a new home for Circle Project, its current services and its new ideas, thanks to the generous donation from Conexus Credit Union. *(see mapping on page 14)*

The community-based cultural hub will be a place of restored hope and healing for Indigenous people through culturally based programs and services. It will also be a safe place the culture is shared. One of the most important aspects of a community and cultural hub is that it becomes a place where new and healthy relationships are built between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

The new centre will also bring excitement to the neighbourhood and to the city. North Central will have something to be proud of and to call their own. This location will be a place that provides new, exciting and innovative opportunities for corporate interest and sponsorship which helps bring the community together and build community pride.

Besides being a safe place to go, the neighbourhood needs a place where people can come and get the kind of help they need to overcome current problems and challenges. Many other major cities in Canada, have successfully created neighbourhood hubs through Indigenous agencies, like Circle Project. This is an innovative approach to community development, key to helping build stronger, healthier and safer communities for all to enjoy. Circle Project has a solid reputation, community support and the organizational maturity needed to develop a community-based, cultural hub in North Central Regina.

In the coming months, as we work hard to fundraise and secure support to make this vision a reality, we will be counting on community support. We invite you to share our vision and be "a part" of this important community initiative by supporting our efforts.



Bob Cantin, Circle Project Council President, Dallas Revenko, Manager, Enterprise Initiatives Conexus, Jacque DeCorby, Executive Vice President, Retail Banking Conexus, Ann Perry, Circle Project Executive Director



Circle Project's Ann Perry, Executive Director and Jenny Strongeagle, Council Member
<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/money-in-the-bank-regina-groups-get-former-credit-union-branches>

Photo credit: TROY FLEECE / Regina Leader-Post



Demolition crew from SIIT, Charles Zielke (Instructor) and students: Tania Alexson, Tara Goodpipe, Carter Alexson, David Desjarlais, Kean Arseneault, Francis Bird, Matthew Strongeagle, Darren Crowe Buffalo, Danny Bunn, Robert Gambler and Duane Myran

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Thank you to the Victims Services Branch - Ministry of Justice

Since 1998, the Circle Project's Family Violence program has been actively participating in leading the way to prevention and intervention of violence in the community.

The Anger Resolution Techniques (ART) is a twenty hour program that runs over nine weeks. Included in the program are two prerequisite Orientation sessions. Working exclusively with offenders, the program assists individuals in developing techniques to identifying anger that can lead to any outburst or aggressive behaviours that could lead up to a violent situation. Participants develop new strategies and ways to control these emotions.

Over the years we have come to understand that in order to break or interrupt the cycle of violence, work with offenders is key. We have also come to know that interpersonal violence is a complex issue that requires patience, support and compassion for all involved. Research shows that the vast majority of people labeled as "offenders" were victims at some point in their life. For most, this occurred in childhood as a child witnessing or experiencing violence in the home or in the community.

In the 2019/20 program year there were 213 registered participants in the Family Violence program. A total of 86 sessions were delivered, which included 43 in-house and 43 satellite sessions. Also included were 93 make-up sessions that was made available to those participants that had an occasional missed session due to other commitments or illness. At the end of the year, 108 participants successfully completed the ART program. The 105 remaining participants were either discontinued due to attendance issues, or they need to make-up one to two sessions or they were carried forward into the new programming year. Unfortunately in mid-March the program was temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

The Circle Project staff is a part of a networking group in the Regina Domestic Violence Court (RDVC). In this court, people who are accused of domestic assault and offences and accept responsibility for their offences have the option to participate in the Domestic Violence Treatment Option (DVTO). This can end in a lighter sentence for those who successfully complete the program. In 2019/20 the Family Violence program had 27 females referred from the DVC with 25 successfully completing the ART program and only two incompletes.

It has been an honour to be a part of the Circle Project staff that continues to provide leadership in our community. I would like to thank the funders, community partners, agencies, Circle Project Elders, Council and Staff for their 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

"I always wanted to get help but I did not do it before because most places you go to you have to pay. I never knew about this program. Thanks." - B.L.

"I learned to change overall, and I have learned life is worth living without alcohol or anger." - Anonymous

"I've learned to forgive myself, to stop the cycle of abuse, to live a happy, loving life and negativity is not an option." - J.C.

"My thoughts have become more positive. I'm able to handle the negative aspects of my life in a healthy way, without conflict. It saved me." - R.T.

"If you cannot take control of yourself the courts will do it for you. I don't always have the right to be angry. I needed help to break my toxic patterns and toxic relationships." - T.M.

"Attending these modules helped me feel empowered. I feel hopeful that I will learn helpful things that I can use in everyday life." - C.D.

"My anger is way better than it used to be. I learned that I am worth fixing for myself, my son, my family and friends; it's not too late to change." - B.S.

"I learned that substance abuse and chaos go hand in hand." - L.S.

"I want my daughters growing up in a good house, without abuse and yelling." - R.S.

LIFESTYLES & COUNSELLING

Thank you to the Community Initiatives Fund

The Addictions/Outreach counselling 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 also for their family and the community.

This year 86 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 with follow-up in support of their 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-one orientations presented and ten completion modules delivered; five of which were satellites at a community partner location.

Serving the people who are most in need is challenging but also rewarding. At Circle Project, we have the opportunity to serve others which emphasises the need for us to work in unity, in and for the community.

BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Thank you to the City of Regina - Innovations Grant

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

This year, we had the opportunity to further develop and pilot the BCC program. As an Indigenous community based organization we have an important and unique role to play in assisting other agencies by providing opportunities to help them increase their understanding of Indigenous people and their history. This is of particular importance for those working in community agencies that work with a large number of Indigenous people. We are encouraged by the early successes and the impact that this service has had on those who have participated. We attribute the impact to the content of the program material, the inclusion of Elders, Knowledge Keepers and including those with lived experience in the delivery of the training.

New this year, are the requests we are receiving from community organizations and groups for us to deliver presentations. This is very encouraging as it is another opportunity to share important information locally. We look forward to more opportunities in the 2020/21 year to "bridge the gaps in our community" through building cultural understanding (*see participants quotes on page 14*).

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Thank you to the Ministry of Education – Early Learning and Child Care Service Delivery and REACH

This year, both our Children's Centre and Infant & Toddler's Centre have been very busy thanks to the provision of two special grants from the Ministry of Education – Early Learning and Child Care Service Delivery for converting spaces and increasing accessibility at both our Childcare locations.

At the Children's Centre we converted our space to create an Infant room and to develop a Toddler room. Both rooms were beautifully designed and constructed with little ones in mind. We also took the opportunity to upgrade our bathrooms, add new flooring, install new countertops and touch up the paint throughout the building to freshen things up.

In the spring of 2020, our Infant & Toddler's Centre will be getting an addition in front of the main entrance to provide adequate and accessible space for our families when entering and exiting the Centre. While we were waiting for the approvals and permissions to clear on the addition, we took the opportunity to upgrade our Infant space. The walls and flooring were insulated, new carpet was installed and we added fresh paint throughout the basement. This will give the babies a cozy space to play.

Both our locations received extensive work to their outdoor play spaces as well. They were both beautifully redesigned with pathways, quiet spaces, music areas and gardens featuring flower beds and native gardens. Artificial grass was installed for our infants to enjoy and our sand pits were also upgraded. In addition to these changes, we had painting done on our exterior fence and deck at the Infant & Toddler Centre. The most impressive additions are the two murals that were added to our Children's Centre by a group of young volunteers (*see story on page 9*).

These improvements required significant investments; however the upgrades will ensure that our centres will continue to warmly welcome the children and families we work with for many years to come! Our new spaces will encourage play-based learning and will also provide an excellent opportunity for the children to continue their cultural development through our Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program.

In spite of the many upgrades and changes, everything continued to run very smoothly and our daily programming was not interrupted. It was great to see the parents so excited to see the changes we were making for the enjoyment and well-being of their children. I would like to thank the staff for their creativity, patience and dedication to our children and families that we work with. Because of this commitment we had another successful year. Thank you for the continued support from Ann Perry, Executive Director and the Circle Project's Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Anderson
Director of Child Care Services

From the Mouths of Babes

"I want to have four kids and I want to be a kokum when I grow up." – E.S. (4)

"I went fishing with my dad and he caught a fish and let it go back to the water to be free." - J.S. (4)

We were working in the garden when C.D. came and started to pick the dirt out. He was asked to stop and then E.F. said, "Yeah you better stop or we won't have any dirt for our vegetables!"

"I love going to powwows and seeing the dancers." - K.L. (4)

"I'm sonic and my shoes are real fast and make me go fast." - M.S. (4)

We were outside talking when M.O. asked Kerri, "Kerri what do you want to do when you grow up?"

At movie time, D.M. asked, "When did you change the movie to color?" Later I asked his dad and he said they watch movies in black and white at home.

While we were serving lunch, I accidentally dropped some food. B.B. gave me a quick glare and said, "You're making a mess!"

At naptime one of the staff was helping a child go to sleep by rubbing his forehead. She accidentally rubbed his hair and he said, "You're messing up my hair!"

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS

Thank you to the Community Initiatives Fund

The Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) Program was developed to provide children with the opportunity to learn and gain knowledge about their Indigenous culture. The children are provided with culturally appropriate programming each day which includes having Elders, Knowledge Keepers and traditional community helpers come share with the children traditional teachings, protocols, kinship, powwow dance, singing and the Cree language.

Each morning, the children kakisimo (pray) and then sing Oh Canada in Cree. The children are provided with a different teaching and/or an activity each day, developed and delivered by one of our Early Childhood Educators. Twice a week, we have Knowledge Keepers and traditional community helpers who come to our centres to share traditional teachings and activities with the children.

Our program Elder, Kokum Margaret Rockthunder, comes to the centres once a week to visit with the children. Her presence has made a huge impact on both the children and staff. With her wonderful storytelling and language teachings, they love to sit, listen and learn from her. The children have learned the importance of respecting Elders and she has helped our educators gain a better understanding of Indigenous culture.

To ensure the success of our program, we developed a communication plan for interacting with parents. We started using the HiMama app to share the children's progress through video, photographs and messages with their parents. We also share upcoming events and activities which the parents can participate in. Parents have the ability to communicate with the Educators through the app on an ongoing basis. Overall, this new communication tool has been a welcome addition for staff and parents.

The program has been a significant addition to our specialized childcare programs. Each day we are helping to build the cultural identity of the children we work with so that they can move forward into the school system with the confidence to be proud of who they are and what they can achieve.

Respectfully yours,

Tyrah Kaiswatum
Assistant Director of
Children Services

Children colouring turtles during a traditional teaching.



Children reading cultural story books.



Learning Cree from Kokum Margaret Rockthunder.



Child painting a clay bear paw during a traditional teaching.

NEW MURALS ADDED TO CHILDREN'S CENTRE

This year, we had an exciting opportunity to partner with the North Central Community Assoc. and the Gentle Road Church of Christ to paint murals at our Children's Centre. The youth volunteers from Kansas, Texas, Arkansas and Regina rolled up their sleeves and got to work creating beautiful murals at the Children's Centre and refreshing the paint at our Infant & Toddler's Centre yard. Circle Project Council and Staff would like to send a huge thank you to the North Central Community Assoc., the Gentle Road Church and the youth volunteers for their wonderful work!



BEFORE



AFTER



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 another special year as there were four (4) long-term service awards to be handed out!

The award ceremony took place at the Annual Staff and Council Christmas Brunch. Immediately following the brunch, the event began with the presentation of the 10 years of service awards to Keon Flamont (Council Secretary), Rhonda Bird (Council Vice-President) and Shelly Desnomie (Executive Assistant) who all received beautiful jackets with the new Circle Project logo on them.

To celebrate her 25 years of service, Deanna Keewatin (Addictions Counsellor) received a beautiful pair of handmade, beaded moccasins.

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

A LOOK BACK AT 2019

In honour of Circle Project's 30th Anniversary, and with permission from our Elders, we commissioned Keith Bird to have our tipi painted with Circle Project's new logo. We were happy to unveil it for the first time at our Annual General Meeting in June 2019



2019 Service Awards – Shelly Desnomie, Deanna Keewatin, Keon Flamont and Rhonda Bird.



2019 Elder's Christmas Party – Allan Pratt, Family Violence Coordinator, Elder Alma Poitras, Ann Perry, Executive Director, Elder Margaret Rockthunder, Jenny Strongeagle, Council Member and Rhonda Bird, Council Vice-President.



Circle Project's Keon Flamont, Secretary, Bob Cantin, President and Conexus Credit Union's Richard Corley signing the official paperwork for our newly donated building.



2019 Hearts in the Park – Community Partners speaking at 4th Annual Event.



Grand Entry is underway at the 23rd Annual National Indigenous Peoples Day Community Celebration which was held indoors at the māmawēyatitān centre due to the rainy day.



Circle Project Families enjoying brunch at the 2019 Children's Christmas Party.



Thank you gifts – Ann Perry, Executive Director Circle Project with three youth volunteers from Kansas, Texas and Arkansas.

The Regina Police Service Community Engagement Unit reading to children at the Circle Project Children's Centre supporting United Way's Building Ready Readers program launch.





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 role. For us, this means to serve, to be present and to be involved in the community. 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 designed to work together.

We strongly believe in the community partnership approach as a cost effective and cost saving method of service delivery.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Well the time arrived for the Annual Interagency Chili Cook Off hosted by Indigenous Christian Fellowship (ICF) who pulled out all the stops to defend their title as the Chili Champions.

Recipes were pulled out and dusted off as the community teams gathered their ingredients in preparation for another epic battle to the finish. This year did not disappoint! Once again, we experienced a hot and spicy competition for top spot. While there were many cheers and a few light hearted jeers, ultimately only one team could take home the prize for the best chili... and it was Circle Project!

Thank you to ICF for once again hosting this fun event and a special thanks to Don from Bird Song Communications for the wonderful video he created and posted to YouTube! Check out the video at <https://youtu.be/9SKf0zDuGUw>.

3RD ANNUAL PIPE CEREMONY, FEAST AND ROUND DANCE

Work was well underway for our 3rd Annual Pipe Ceremony, Feast and Round Dance that was to be held on March 20, 2020. We were heading out to do some final shopping and then news reports of COVID-19 worsened. After careful consideration of the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Saskatchewan, the event was cancelled. This was quite unfortunate, as this would have been year three of four in celebration of our 30th Anniversary. We would like to thank everyone who was planning to attend and we are looking forward to the day when we can all gather together as a community. In the meantime, we are sending prayers to the Creator for the good health of our community and beyond.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

In spite of many hours of careful planning and the community excitement about this wonderful community event, Mother Nature had other plans... rain, and plenty of it! With heavy rains on June 20th, 2019 and more predicted for the following day, the committee moved quickly and made changes to the event. Considering the extensive work necessary and with only 30 hours to make all the necessary changes, the 22nd Annual National Indigenous People's Day Community Celebration was a tremendous success. From the opening prayer to the Grand Entry ceremony and free community BBQ which served almost 600 very wet people, it was truly a special day.

The event began with the grand entry, Pow Wow and Metis dance demonstrations which were held indoors at the māmawéyatitân centre. We then moved to Grassick Playground where scaled back activities were held. To promote a focus on culture, Indigenous cultural story boards were on display which participants used to find the answers for the trivia quiz. Family activities included Indigenous themed arts & crafts such as beading and tipi making and the always popular, face painting along with many giveaways. We were all very thankful for the tents to house the activities.

To promote young Indigenous artists, we hosted our 2nd Indigenous Battle of the Bands. Four bands competed; two from Regina, one from Saskatoon and one from Turtleford. This was followed by entertainment from local talent Shannon Rae who opened for our headliner Jarrod Lee Poitras.

Thank you to our funders, sponsors, the committee, volunteers, entertainers and community members for another amazing National Indigenous People's Day event in spite of the rain. Congratulations to the band Reckless Famous who once again captured the title.

HEARTS IN THE PARK

Circle Project along with our partners, Regina Police Service, U of S College of Nursing - Regina Campus and SOFIA House, hosted the 2019 community awareness event "HEARTS in the Park" (HITP) for the fourth year. The event was held in honour of "Victims and Survivors of Crime Week" in Victoria Park in downtown Regina. From the unique perspective of each organization, the partners talked about the importance of "The Power of Collaboration" in raising the level of awareness and reducing the stigma attached to domestic, family and interpersonal violence.

Additionally, a new partnership was formed with Scott Collegiate where HITP committee representatives attended a school assembly to speak about the annual event. To highlight the impact of violence on youth, blue hearts were created acknowledging Scott Collegiate school colours. Students filled out hearts with the relationship of someone they know who has been affected by violence. A group of students and teachers attended the event. The hearts were also made available to youth under 24 years old at the event and hung alongside the red hearts which were filled out by the community. Once again, this event successfully achieved the intended outcome; to raise the level of awareness of impacts and costs of violence in our community.



Building Cultural Competency Training Quotes

"This training has really opened my eyes and has made me interested in learning more about Indigenous practices."

"The info given and the visual explanation were exceptional."

"Thank you so much! I strongly think everyone needs to experience this."

"Very informative. Definitely the beginning of learning about the history, backgrounds and personal stories."

"I learned more here than I did in high school, this is very powerful content and I'm glad I was able to attend."

"I didn't know what to expect when I came in but throughout the day I ended up learning more than expected."

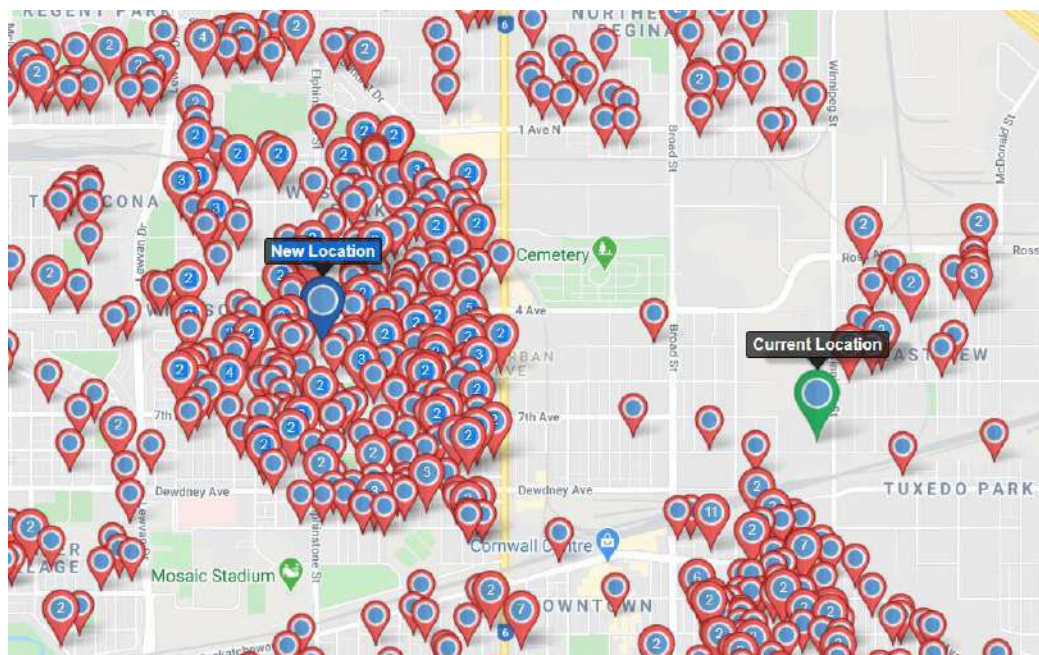
"This training has really opened my eyes and has made me interested in learning more about Indigenous practices."

"Great information. Impactful delivery, great visuals."

Thank you!

A special thank you Brandy, Shelly and Ann for the excellent work on producing the 2020 Annual Report.

WHY OUR RELOCATION TO NORTH CENTRAL REGINA IS IMPORTANT?



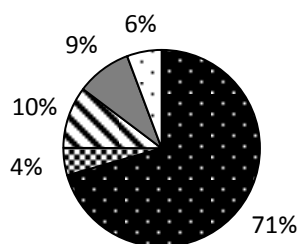
The above mapping is based on five years (2015-2019) of data collected from participant's registration forms in the Family Violence and Counselling programs. Our move to the new location will enable us to serve the community better and will help reduce transportation barriers for participants.

STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS

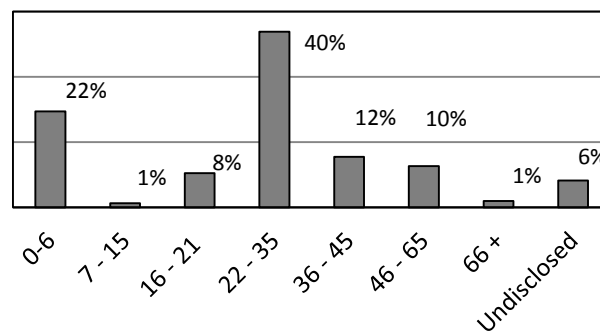
The following charts show data about the status, age and employment statistics for the 421 participants in the 2019/20 year.

Status

- Treaty 71%
- Non-Status 10%
- Undisclosed 6%
- Métis 4%
- Other 9%



Age



Residential School

Of the active participants in Circle Project programming this year, 85% have identified as Indigenous.

Of these participants, 74% stated they were either survivors or intergenerational survivors of Residential Schools. In the case of our children's services the number rises to almost 82%.

2019/2020

FINANCIAL

INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

During the past 12 months, Circle Project successfully managed its financial affairs, displaying a high level of accountability and transparency in the day to day operations and the ongoing stewardship of the organization. For many years, the organization has strived to engage in best practices in dealing with the business of the Circle Project, including having reserve funds set aside. This year there were some very good examples why the observation and maintenance of these best practices in financial affairs is not only important to the sustainability of the organization, it is essential. As an example, a considerable investment was made in upgrading the childcare facilities currently owned by Circle Project, as part of our strategic direction. This was done to insure that potential risks, to the planning and preparation for future activities around the relocation, were identified and minimized. Reserve funds were used for this purpose. When the opportunity arose to secure a facility (and because of the reserve funds), we had the ability to present a fair and reasonable offer. This fair and reasonable offer resulted in the largest donation the organization has ever received, a building and the land it sits on. Now in the general uncertainty caused by a worldwide pandemic and the risks that we will undoubtedly face in the upcoming months and years, the practice of setting aside reasonable reserves will assist the Circle Project continue to manage current and future risks. In spite of the unexpected changes that have occurred, the Circle Project is well positioned to engage in continued growth and partnership development in the upcoming year.

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Capital assets increased a dramatic 38% in this fiscal year, the largest increase in the history of the organization due to the donation of a building and land. Cash balances remained steady in spite of funding decreases and only moderate changes occurred in investments and accounts. The movements in assets are consistent with the activities conducted and reflect the changes that occurred throughout the year. The long term debt decreased as monthly payments for the Infant & Toddler Centre mortgage included principal payments to reduce the overall debt. Changes in cash were consistent with financial activities in the year.

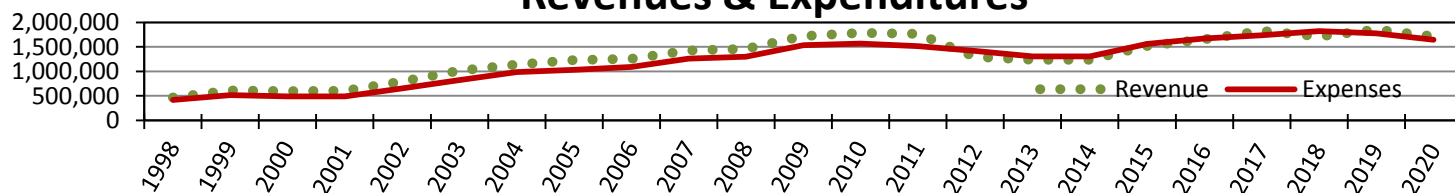
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

In the 2019/20 fiscal year there was an overall 8% decrease of revenues compared to the revenues of the previous year. This continues to reflect the ongoing trend of cuts to grants and program funding in the shifting funding landscape that has affected charities and non-profit organizations across the country. The planned reduced enrollments at both the childcare centres were necessary to complete the improvements and capital projects, also contributed to the decrease in revenues. However, the revenue levels remain consistently higher than prior to the restructuring of the centres which took place in 2017. The ability to successfully reduce expenses to show an overall 7% decrease in overall expenses resulted in a modest surplus this year.

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, 2020, 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, 2020. I expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in my report dated June 17, 2020.

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, 2020 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Regina, Saskatchewan

June 17, 2020



Chartered Professional Accountant

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2020

	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
Assets		
Current		
Cash	800,016	791,375
Investments	425,909	421,823
Accounts receivable	133,733	120,355
Prepaid expenses	22,007	17,769
	1,381,665	1,351,322
Capital assets	1,105,792	446,218
	2,487,457	1,797,540
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	126,793	106,193
Deferred contributions	158,858	143,758
Current portion of long-term debt	15,647	15,093
	301,298	265,044
Deferred contributions – capital assets	439,675	-
Long-term debt	183,251	200,519
	924,224	465,563
Net Assets		
Equity in capital assets	360,820	230,606
Reserves	525,909	521,823
Unrestricted net assets	676,504	579,548
	1,563,233	1,331,977
	2,487,457	1,797,540

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs	128,698	127,528
Justice Canada - Hearts	9,000	7,000
Ministry of Education – Early Learning	392,570	358,540
Ministry of Justice	134,856	133,924
Gov of Saskatchewan – Play/Exploration grants	-	126,248
City of Regina	63,420	66,800
United Way of Regina	70,420	70,420
REACH	23,700	23,700
NIB Trust Fund	-	117,000
Summer student grant	7,049	3,802
Literacy grant	3,000	-
Canada Heritage	12,175	10,000
Saskatchewan Culture	5,000	7,000
Community Initiative Fund	30,000	45,000
Transfer from deferred contributions	1,839	-
Transfer to deferred contributions	(17,129)	(142,638)
Administration fees	165,118	196,374
Daycare fees	583,270	635,623
Sponsorships	20,200	16,850
Donations – in kind	6,750	-
Donations	7,298	2,527
Donations – capital assets	11,325	-
Memberships	71	73
Other self-generated	55,231	45,327
	1,713,861	1,851,098
Expenditures		
Activities - special	53,089	66,425
- cultural/community	19,469	30,038
Administration and contracts	165,557	171,319
Advertising	4,020	3,422
Amortization	74,064	56,020
Audit	6,622	6,710
Bad debts	9,062	21,939
Equipment rental & photocopying	6,900	6,000
Equipment and furnishings	600	1,200
Grant Active Play expenses	-	6,549
Grant Exploration expenses	-	8,510
Groceries	26,821	29,498
Hospitality	3,526	3,616
Insurance	19,190	17,929
Interest and bank charges	8,407	7,663
Interest on long-term debt	7,994	8,540
Purchased services	27,725	29,938
Materials and supplies	21,075	27,315
Rent	90,100	88,574
Repairs and maintenance	31,625	17,649
Property taxes	21,157	23,431
Telephone and postage	16,755	19,521
Training	7,889	10,779
Meetings and travel	8,400	9,478
Utilities	26,776	21,038
Vehicles	1,071	2,179
Wages and benefits	981,663	1,074,001
Workers' compensation	7,048	7,453
	1,646,605	1,776,734
Surplus for the year	67,256	74,364

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, 2019 to March 31, 2020 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 2020 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.
- ✓ registered and in good standing with CanadaHelps to receive donations.

FUNDERS



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada



United Way
Regina



Government
of Canada

SUPPORTERS



Lorne & Evelyn
Johnson Foundation

SPONSORS

Indigenous Christian Fellowship
Knight Archer Insurance
K+S Potash
MOSIAC CANADA ULC
Regina Police Services

SaskEnergy
SOFIA House
U of S College of Nursing
UNIFOR Local 1-S
Sask K of C Charitable Foundation

FRIENDS

Joni Adamcewicz
Christina Blair
Hannah Dove
Father Anthony Dizy
Fred Clipsham
Father Gary Kuntz
Loraas Disposal
Roland Kay
Lone Creek Cultural Club
Music Performance Trust Fund
Regina High Noon Optimist Club

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
Brian Sklar
Street Culture Project
Tom Kraemer
Farm Credit Canada
A-1 Rent-Alls
Steel Mace Valkyrie
PR Investments
CanadaHelps
ALP Program – Statistics Canada
Dean Renwick Design Studio

*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 & Toddler Centre at
4401 Dewdney Avenue S4T 1B3
(306) 949-4911

Please visit us at

www.circleproject.ca

All donations to support our community work
are welcome and appreciated!!

Find us on – CanadaHelps