



...serving the community since 1988

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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www.circleproject.ca



Torch Awards Winner

Trust • Performance • Integrity

The 2021 Circle Project
ANNUAL REPORT

is dedicated to:

Our respected colleague & friend

Allan Pratt

(January 1, 1964 – July 8, 2020)

*“I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow;
I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle Autumn rain.
I am the soft stars that shine at night, I am the quiet birds of circled flight –
Do not think of me as gone, I am with you still in each new dawn...”*

Excerpt from Native American grief poem

His love for the community will live
on in our hearts today and always!

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
Receptionist: April Redwood

Programs

Family Violence:
Brandy Churchill
Building Cultural
Competencies: Chanel Daniels

Children's Centre

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

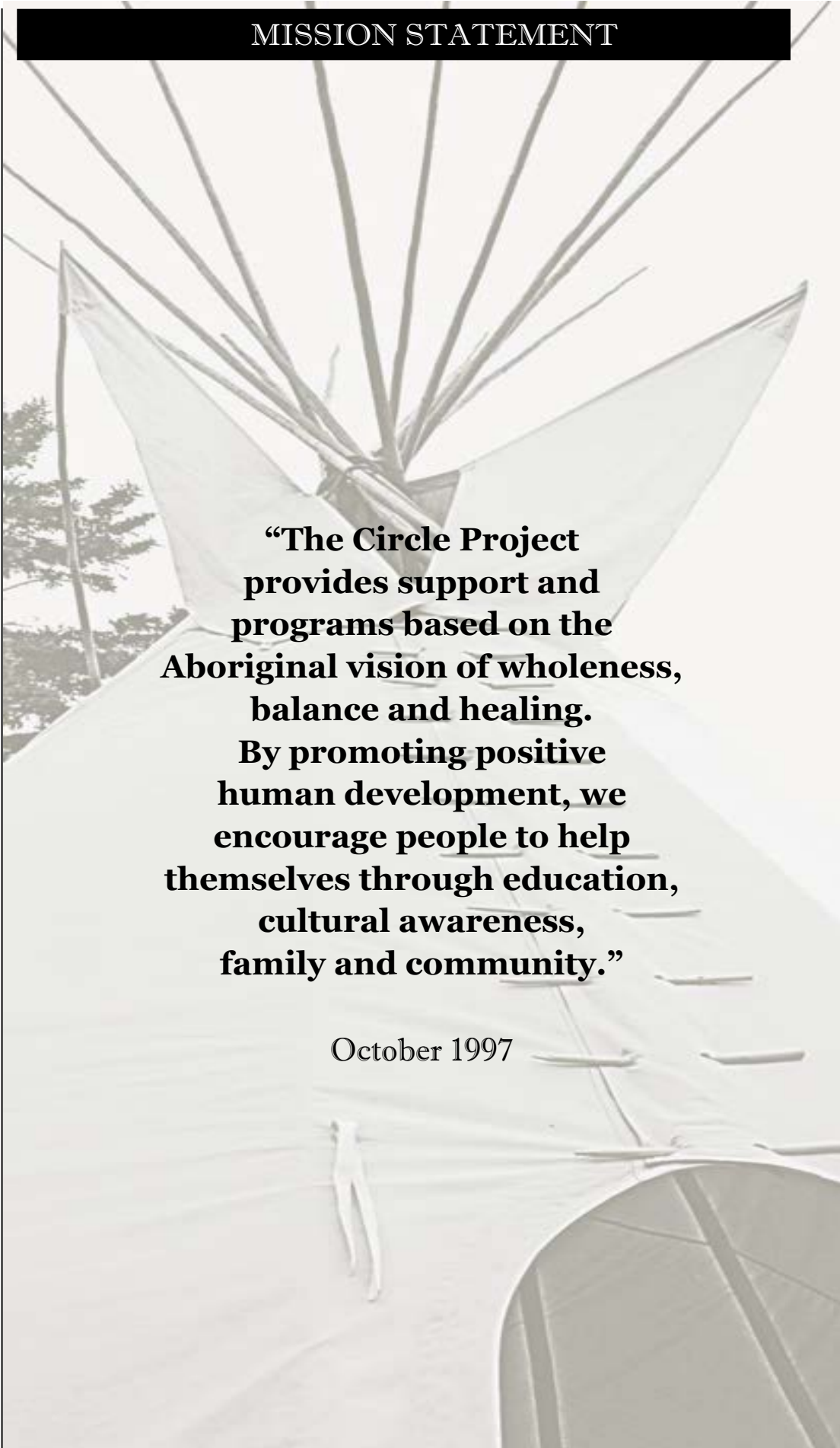
Infant Toddler Centre

Assistant Director:
Tyrah Kaiswatum
Early Childhood Educators:
Danielle Bastock
Natasha Kennedy
Shaela Munday
Nasheeka Bird

Thank you!

A special thank you Brandy
and Ann for the excellent work
on producing the 2021 Annual
Report.

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

"The Circle Project is a vital Indigenous community-based organization that has served our most vulnerable citizens for more than 30 years. I am committed to the vision of hope for the Indigenous community in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation"

Her Worship, Mayor Sandra Masters, 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 Nations people in our community. We see first-hand the true added value they provide for our Indigenous community."

Evan Bray, Chief of Police, Regina Police Service

"I have worked extensively within the program and have seen a positive change in the children, staff and community members."

Margaret Rockthunder, Circle Project Elder

Thank You For Your Service!

We would like to take a moment to thank Joyce Smith for her more than 20 years of service as Circle Project's bookkeeper. Our organization works hard to provide programs and services to vulnerable individuals in Regina. It is the unsung heroes like Joyce that enable us to do this. She has always been there with a smile on her face and a cheerful attitude that makes working with her a wonderful experience. We wish her well as she moves into semi-retirement. Thank you Joyce!

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

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit"

Nelson Henderson

This year was like no other, for us as individuals, our organization and the community. With the continued onslaught of the impacts from the worldwide pandemic we, along with so many others, struggled at times to find or create our own new normal. The pandemic tested our resiliency to its core as we pivoted and turned, sometimes on a daily basis, to try and figure out new ways to move forward and continue our work. We were not able to host our large special events and community activities this year, turning instead to reaching out whenever and however we could. Throughout the summer, our vacant (and waiting for renovations) building on 5th Avenue and Elphinstone St. was used as a Good Food Box depot and we were able to distribute "care packages" to families. We were also able to reach out to Elders and with the help of our friends in the community, provide gift bags to keep in touch and let them know they are not forgotten.

We were faced with some difficult decisions around whether or not to proceed with the renovation and construction of the Community and Cultural Hub because of all of the unknowns we faced. Relying on the wisdom of our founding Elder Louis Whiteman who said "do the right thing for the right reason and a way will always be made for Circle Project", we moved forward in faith. And now we know that a way was truly made. In a few short months we will be moving to our new home at the Hub and we can hardly wait to be closer to the community we serve. The new Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub will be there to help fill the current gap in services in the area and build new opportunities in and with the community for many years to come.

All of the staff did an incredible job throughout the year, in spite of the enormous challenges we faced, proving once again that they truly are the backbone of the organization. With broken hearts we said goodbye to our long-time colleague, co-worker and dear friend, Allan Pratt who will always remain an important part of Circle Project and will stay in our hearts in the days and years ahead. We saw some retirements this year and we welcomed new staff as we continued to manage what seemed like a year of continuous change. The Council, steadfast in their commitment to serving the community, found new ways of working together to overcome the challenges of trying to promote the creation of the Hub and raise much needed funds in the midst of a pandemic.

Thank you to our program participants, membership and the community for giving us the privilege of providing service and support this year. To our funders, supporters, sponsors we couldn't have made it through this very difficult year without your support and encouragement. And last but not least to the very special people that are at the core of our organization, our Council and staff. Your efforts, diligence and perseverance was what helped us get through the difficulties of this extraordinarily challenging year. As we bring our annual message to a close, it is with this thought in mind. Our success is not measured merely by numbers, it is also measured by our ability to touch lives and continue to move forward on the path that has been chosen...working with and in the community. It is our distinct honour and privilege to present the Circle Project's 2021 Annual Report.



Bob Cantin, President



Ann Perry, Executive Director

Participant Quotes

"I learned to tell people what my boundaries are/what hurts me, not to suffer through situations that can turn toxic and how to communicate what I am feeling instead of just getting mad with next to no explanation." – A.T.

"I learned so much about myself and think everyone should have the opportunity to participate in the program. This should be taught in high school." – T.M.

"I really appreciated how this program helped me to remember to take time for myself. I work and worry too much and this causes me to lose control at times, but not anymore!" – M.T.

"I am attending because it is court ordered, however I want to learn more about myself, how inter-generational patterns have affected me and how to break the cycle for my children and future generations." – T.M.

"The most important thing that I learned is that you do not have to be perfect. You can feel angry and have bad days, what matters is how we deal with it." – D.

"I learned how to resolve conflicts in non-violent ways and also how to communicate my emotions more efficiently." – D.S.

"I learned to recognize all forms of abuse. I learned that my role as a rescuer is a form of abuse and it is my responsibility to my children, my spouse and society to break that cycle." – T.M.

"I have already recommended this program to others and continue to because it truly has helped me." – R.H.

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. Participants register, then must participate in the two – 1 hour prerequisite orientations, prior to participating in the 2 hour, once a week program. The ART program assists in developing techniques to help individuals identify anger that can lead to outbursts or aggressive behaviours that could lead to violent situations. Participants are guided to develop ways to control these emotions.

This program year, there were 114 registered participants in the Family Violence program. Of those who attended the ART program, 91% completed. A total of 64 modules were delivered in house and an additional 28 make up modules were provided to those participants that had an occasional missed module due to other commitments or illness.

This has been the most challenging year that the Family Violence program has faced since it began over 20 years ago, marked by the passing of our friend and co-worker, Allan Pratt, and the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very thankful that we have been able to continue to facilitate groups this year and provide individuals the opportunity to learn a healthier way of living. In spite of the challenges we faced, we were able to expand the Family Violence program through the development of a new and exciting program called "Bringing Peace to Relationships". This new program will be tested with females referred through Regina Domestic Violence Court (RDVC) in 2021.

The Circle Project staff is a part of a networking group in the RDVC. In this court people charged of domestic assault and domestic related offences and who accept responsibility for their offences have the option to participate in the Domestic Violence Treatment Option (DVTTO). This can lead to a lighter sentence for those who successfully complete the program. In 2020/21 the Family Violence program had 12 females referred from the RDVC and 67% of these participants successfully completed the ART program.

It has been an honour to be a part of the Circle Project staff that continues to provide leadership in our community. I would also like to thank the funders, community partners, agencies, Circle Project Elders, Council and Staff for its ongoing support throughout the year; it has been a blessing especially this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Churchill, Acting Family Violence Coordinator
Chanel Daniels, Family Violence Co-Facilitator

BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Thank you to the City of Regina – Innovations Grant & Regina Work Prep

The Building Cultural Competency (BCC) program is an educational based learning opportunity that engages both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to start making connections between Canada's history and reconciliation. This is accomplished through presentations and activities that create learning opportunities. Doing this, we begin to understand the true meaning of reconciliation and the positive impact it can have on our community. Reconciliation promotes healing. Once we begin to heal as a community, we can begin to bridge the gap and move towards unity, together.

The BCC program was developed to provide assistance and support to individuals as they build or rebuild a connection to the Indigenous culture. The program serves to assist individuals in regaining self-identity, building a sense of belonging, reducing social isolation and reconnecting with the community.

New this year was our work in the Youth on Their Way to Work (YOWW) program. This program provides cultural assistance and support to individuals through a formal community partnership. Our goal is to engage participants in cultural understanding based on traditional teachings for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth ages 18 to 30 years old. Participants can utilize traditional teachings to increase opportunities for inclusiveness, education and cultural experiences all contributing to a higher self-esteem level, cultural identity and spirituality.

This year 80% (24/30) of participants successfully completed the program. The remaining six participants discontinued due to securing employment or moving to other programming. For the six modules in the program, the participants visited Circle Project for the first and last modules. The remaining four modules were held at Regina Work Prep.

The students had access to our program Elder Margret Rockthunder for the opening and closing talking circles hosted at Circle Project. A total of 51.5 hours of program service were delivered in year one. We are excited to work with the YOWW program for the next 2 years through our community partnership agreement with Regina Work Prep.

We look forward to new opportunities in the 2021/2022 year to share culture awareness and reconciliation as we bridge the gaps in our community through building cultural understanding.

Thank you to Ann Perry, our Executive Director for your guidance with this important program. Because of your continued support we have been able to provide opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to increase their cultural knowledge and understanding.

Respectfully submitted,
Chanel Daniels, Cultural Coordinator

Participant Quotes

"Circle Project is a safe place to share and communicate with others." – C.I.

"The most important thing I learned was remembering my First Nations roots." – T.M.

"The talking circle was my favourite part and the traditional teaching, were good too." – R.T.

"It's encouraging, educating, and empowering." – T.W.

"It was a very enriching, spiritual experience that, I don't normally get." – S.R.

"This program helped me understand, be thankful and to have a good attitude." – R.B.

"This program helps a lot and it would be amazing for many people." – D.J.

"This was a very insightful experience that helps me see a more positive mindset." – K.B.

"I found this program to be an insightful experience that provides important life lessons" – A.T.

"This program is very helpful and I know people could use this support." – A.D.

"I learned that if I stay in one place I won't go forward and learn new things. I want to take that step forward." – T.A.

"I like that it's integrated and I learned how to have a positive mindset and have balance." – K.S.

"I learned that the medicine wheel is actually a big part of who I am deep down." – D.M.

From the Mouths of Babes

One day the power went out during snack time and it was dark inside the daycare.

B.B.K. said, *"Larissa I want to wake up, can you please turn the lights back on."*

Outside, the children were running and playing. One child tripped and said, *"Teacher he push me!"* The other child stated *"I didn't push you, you were speeding."*

All the children know Shameela takes care of the fish. She was on holidays for the week.

One of the children took Amanda down the hallway and said, *"Awwwww, let's give him some food okay 'cus he looks really hungry."*

"I can't believe L.D. can say all those words, wow!" – J.D., an older child talking about one of the smaller children.

"Dawn you're the most awesomest cooker lady." – M.O.

L.M says, *"I loooooovvvveeee bannock"*. The other children from the Pre-K classroom, *"No you say you love Pahkwesikan"*, (bannock in Cree).

R.S. came back from school and said, *"Don't even say it, I had a bad day!"*



Time to carve those pumpkins

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

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

Licensed by the Ministry of Education, Early Learning Child Care Branch the Circle Project Children's Centre, located at 1115 Pasqua St., is one of a very few Indigenous childcare centres in the city of Regina. We provide quality childcare for the community we serve, focusing on early childhood education for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.

This was our first official year of providing infant care at this location. The transition flowed very well as all the staff and families adjusted to this change. The newly converted infant space provides a soothing environment that has its own defined areas for sleeping, playing, changing and eating. The educators provide quality care based on each child's individual age and stage of development. This helps them achieve milestones that are right for each child at their own pace. An important part of the infant program is the exposure to Indigenous culture from a very early age.

Our toddler and preschool programs are play based and provide culturally relevant and age appropriate programming designed to promote healthy and holistic development for each child physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. We also provide the Cultural Connections for Kids program (*see page 8*) which is designed for children ages 3 and up.

In March 2020 we, along with the world, were faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and the many barriers and challenges that came along with it. Extensive measures were put in place for the safety of our children, families and staff at the centre. Our enrollment decreased considerably and we were faced with many changes as the pandemic restrictions constantly shifted. In spite of everything I am very thankful we were able to keep all our staff employed throughout the year.

It was another great year with the staff, children and the families. I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff; everyone worked well as a team and were all hands in with the many changes that occurred throughout the year. To their credit, the staff did not allow this to negatively impact their daily programming and quality of care provided for the children.

Thank you to the Circle Project's Board of Directors as this year was challenging for everyone. A special thank you to Ann Perry, our Executive Director. The ongoing and extra support you provided our centre is always greatly appreciated, especially this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Anderson
Director of Child Care Services



Kookum Margaret greeting children before their Cree lesson.

INFANT & TODDLER CENTRE

Parent Quotes

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

The Infant and Toddler Centre located at 4401 Dewdney provides quality childcare and is licensed by the Ministry of Education, Early Learning Child Care Branch for children aged 6 weeks to 4 years old.

When you enter our Infant and Toddler Centre you walk into a home like environment that has natural lighting and spaces designed for younger children. Programming is based on the age and developmental stage of each of the children, who are mostly Infant and Toddlers. We have two separate yards allowing more than one group to go outside at a time and enjoy the outdoors.

The Centre has had many upgrades in the past couple of years. These range from the redesigned outdoor play space, to a newly renovated infant area. The newest upgrade is one that has been high on our wish list for many years; a brand new spacious entrance. This new space was carefully and thoughtfully designed. It includes an office space that allows for parents or staff to sit comfortably with the Director, making these interactions more inviting. There is also a locker room as well as plenty of room for families coming and going. One of our main goals with this addition was to increase accessibility in our facility. As an added bonus, the new addition has also provided more play space for the children upstairs which they cheerfully approve of!

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the staff and the families for the commitment and understanding for everything we all had to go through over this past year. It was a true testament of how we can all overcome anything and work together in spite of a pandemic and still continue to provide the best quality care for our future leaders.

I would also like to mention a special thanks to Ann and Larissa for their continued support, guidance and opportunities they have provided me with.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyrah Kaiswatum
Assistant Director of Children Services



Our new entrance added some much needed space at the Infant & Toddler Centre.

Kokum Margaret speaks with children from the Infant & Toddler Centre before their Cree language teaching. They all love when she comes to visit with them and shares her teachings!



"I am so happy I found this place, it's my daughters second home. She has amazing teachers and has learned so much." - M.C.

"My baby loves the ladies and loves the daycare, she's always so excited when we pull up to the daycare. The ladies take such good care of her." - D.P.

"I truly appreciate the staff and all they do for my child, you girls treat him like your own." - T.K.

"Thank you for everything Circle Project does, I appreciate you guys" - J.K.



We love circle time! Our favorite song is slippery fish, we know all the actions.



Make believe dinner for two coming up!

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS

Thank you to the Sask Knights of Columbus & Rotary Club of Regina

The Cultural Connection for Kids Program (CCK) is designed for children 3 years of age and up. This program was implemented in 2017 after gathering extensive information from parents and children that were accessing our child care services. With the information gathered, we were able to determine that there was a need in our centres for Indigenous focused programming not only for the children but for the families as a whole.

This value added program ensures that each family receives a new cultural opportunity when they are enrolled at our child care centres. It is designed to help children to connect with their culture by teaching and delivering programming that is reflective of the Indigenous culture. We engage with Knowledge Keepers from the Community as well as Elders to teach Cree language and legends.

Our Himama app is provided to each family as they enroll and helps us stay engaged and connected with our families. This has proven to be a great way to communicate and share individual or group progress of the day to day learning in the CCK program.

We would like to thank the funders for the support as it allows us the opportunity to provide a richer early childhood experience for the children and families that participate. A big thanks to Ann Perry, our Executive Director and our Board of Directors for holding this program close to their hearts and always providing the guidance and support for this important cultural program.

Respectfully yours,
Tyrah Kaiswatum
Assistant Director of Children Services

Caring for Mother Earth

This year, as a part of the cultural teachings, the children learned the importance of caring for Mother Earth. They learned about plants and how they grow. They also had the opportunity to plant a garden, care for it and harvest the vegetables. They were treated to meals made with their produce. Some of the children had never had the opportunity to grow their own food and were amazed at the process.

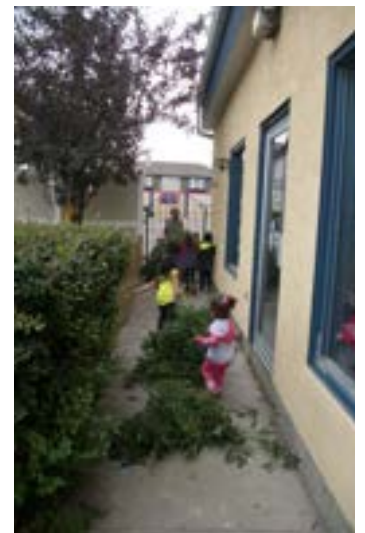
One day the children were playing in the backyard at the Children's Centre while landscaping was in progress. One of the landscapers was going to dig into the ground when one of the children ran over to him and told him to *"be very careful because we don't want to hurt Mother Earth!"*



Harvesting Time - The children have been helping out with the garden all summer and it seems like we had a great year!



When the growing season is over the children learned how to clean up. When you take care of our Mother Earth, she will take care of you!



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

And the story continues. In last year's report, we shared our excitement and hope for our vision of creating the Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub right in the heart of North Central Regina. We wanted to create a safe place where people can come to be "a part of the community" instead of "apart from it".

For many years we have talked about "bridging the gaps in our community" and worked hard to create opportunities to help make reconciliation possible in our community. 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 where the Indigenous culture can be shared. One of the most important aspects of the Community and Cultural Hub is that it can become a place where new and healthy relationships are built between the Indigenous community and all other people.

Excitement is building as we watch the construction and renovation progress. Each day we move a little closer to the completion of the new building which is slated for the fall 2021. Anticipation and enthusiasm continues to build with old and new friends, sponsors, supporters and in the neighbourhood. We are grateful for all of the donations from the community, the grants from funders, the help from our friends in the corporate and business sector and from the donations from individuals across the country.

Because of the Hub, we can all come together as a community and leave something good behind. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub so far. Without you, our vision for the future would not be possible.

THANK YOU!!

An Anonymous Donor



De Lint & Edwards
Architects



Lorne & Evelyn
Johnson Foundation



Thank you to our many friends, supporters, contributors and private donors!

Interested in contributing to our organization? Please contact us for sponsorship information.

A LOOK BACK AT 2020

BEFORE

The Conexus building on 5th Avenue and Elphinstone Street has been used as a financial institution for many years. It is still in great shape and is structurally sound. This provided us the opportunity to go beyond a renovation to include an expansion of usable square footage. Thank you Conexus for donating your building to Circle Project!



AFTER

Artists Rendition of Our New Home!

In order to make the building work for us, we have added a second story to house the Circle Project's Administration. The main floor will house offices of program staff, private counseling rooms, a drop-in lounge area and a large multipurpose room to share with our community partners.

Circle Project has committed to fundraising a portion of the funds needed to build the Community and Cultural Hub.

Our first 50/50 draw was a success. Congratulations to Kyrsten Saulteaux on her win!

If you would like to support this exciting new project, there is still time to purchase a ticket for one of our 50/50 fundraisers, please go to www.circleproject5050.ca for more information.

Follow us on our socials to get the most up to date information on our fundraising opportunities;
Facebook - @circleproject2017
Instagram - [instagram.com/thecircleprojectsk](https://www.instagram.com/thecircleprojectsk)
Website - www.circleproject.ca



SEVEN EASY STEPS TO A SECOND FLOOR

Step 1: Plan, plan, plan!
Spend some time on the roof pretending you are the second floor.



Step 2: Remove the roof. The open concept was great... until it snowed!



Step 3: Plan for stairs. Most Elders aren't big fans of ladders (and neither are we).



Step 4: Count the lumber. Quick, you better get those walls up before the lumber pirates find it!

Step 5: Build walls and ceiling. Nature is great... but one pigeon incident in 2020 was enough!
(See page 12)



Step 6: Install new roof. Highly recommended to keep out the weather... and the pigeons!



Step 7: Drywall and duct work. We've got a small window of opportunity to get this right, because it will be a real "pane" to start over!



And presto, magic just like that we've got a second floor!
Thank you Westridge!

Many community members are slowing as they pass or stopping by to see the progress that has been made. One individual shared with us, "When I step outside I always look to see what you've got going on now. It's looking good. I can't wait for my new neighbours!"

WHAT ELSE HAPPENED THIS YEAR?



Aware House Books are selling Red Dress pins to raise awareness around MMIWG. All proceeds are donated to help support the creation of Circle Project's new Community and Cultural Hub.



Members of Regina Police Service Community Engagement Unit delivered chili made by Indigenous Christian Fellowship in place of the Annual Chili Competition. Don't worry, we will keep the trophy warm until next year.



And regarding Pigeons... they chose not to work from home in April of 2020!!! Well, at least these visitors can follow instructions.



At Circle Project, we are very proud of the strength of our leadership. In this photo we have a combined 93 years of leadership experience. This has been vital to the ongoing success of our organization during times like these.

Photo from top left: Heather Cote-Soop (Community Fundraising), Keon Flamont (Fundraising Committee Chair), Tyrah Kaiswatum (Asst. Director Child Care Services), Bob Cantin (Board President), Ann Perry (Executive Director) and Larissa Anderson (Director Child Care Services).



Circle Project's staff preparing comfort bags for our community Elders. (see page 13)

CIRCLE PROJECT SOCIAL MEDIA

Up until this year, Circle Project's social media mainly focused on special events and activities. This year that all changed. With the excitement of the renovation & the upcoming move to the new location we saw social media as an ideal way to keep the public informed about our progress. When we relocate, we will share information about our programs and services with the community!

And it worked! We have increased our social media presence dramatically. Here are some other metrics from Facebook and Instagram:

Impressions
60,812  75.7%

Engagement
6,033  100.1%

New Followers
896  321%

Elder's Quotes

Thank you all so much for the gift that was delivered to me by one of your dear Angels. It was a wonderful reminder of the goodness and caring you have always extended to us seniors. The tea was symbolic of the welcoming ways of long ago as well as the delightful treats and goodies. The blanket wrapped it all up in your generosity and kindness.

May God bless you all with his love and peace for Christmas and the New Year. Keep safe and keep smiling.
Sincerely, D.B.

"I knew it, I knew it! I knew Circle Project would not forget about us!" - L.K.

"Thank you very much for the package, I really appreciate this. It is nice to be thought of." - B.F.

"Oh I wish I could give you a hug, but this whole COVID stuff right now!" - R.R.

"Oh, thank you very much." - L.S.



A mom and child with their gifts and treat bags.

Children with their stuffed animals.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Over the years, Circle Project has had the pleasure of hosting and celebrating many special events. Through our mission and philosophy we understand the importance of these endeavors. For us, this means to serve, to be present and to be involved in the community. In spite of the new realities we are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the unexpected challenges that this has created in our daily operations, we continued to promote the benefits of working together, especially through the hard times. Our work shifted from a focus on programming, events and education to activities that help secure basic human needs. Because of COVID there were many things that we could not do... however there were some things that we knew we had to do.

In the spring of 2020 we were very concerned about our Indigenous Elders. For the over 100 Elders on our Elders list, we contacted each and every one of them by phone because we knew that the pandemic was leaving them alone and lonely, much like they probably felt as children in Residential School. Something as simple as a phone call and a chat was enough to lift their spirits. To provide further support we secured a special grant from the United Way to fill our Elder's comfort bags with hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, a few fun activities to help pass the time, a cloth mask donated by Dean Renwick Design Studio and of course some treats. The bags were delivered by Circle Project staff and were greatly appreciated by the Elders.

Something unexpected that came up after this was that some of the Elders started calling in about once a month to check in with us, to say hello and let us know how they are doing. This has become an incredibly important lifeline to our vulnerable Elders.

Considering the overwhelmingly positive response from our Elders we did the same thing for Christmas with the help of Mosaic Potash (phone call, Christmas bag, blanket, gift card and treats) Please read the quotes on this page to see what our Elders had to say.

With the support of Unifor Local 1-S, this Christmas we gifted the children at our daycare centres goody bags and gifts for them and their siblings. Each family also received a turkey and a box of oranges. Our children received some extra



surprises as well. This year McKercher LLP selected Circle Project as their Charity of Choice for 2020 and they provided treats and other useful items for the children. Additionally, SWAP shared from a donation they received, a stuffed animal for each child. We were so excited to share in all of this Christmas cheer!



Children with their gift bags.

Service Milestones

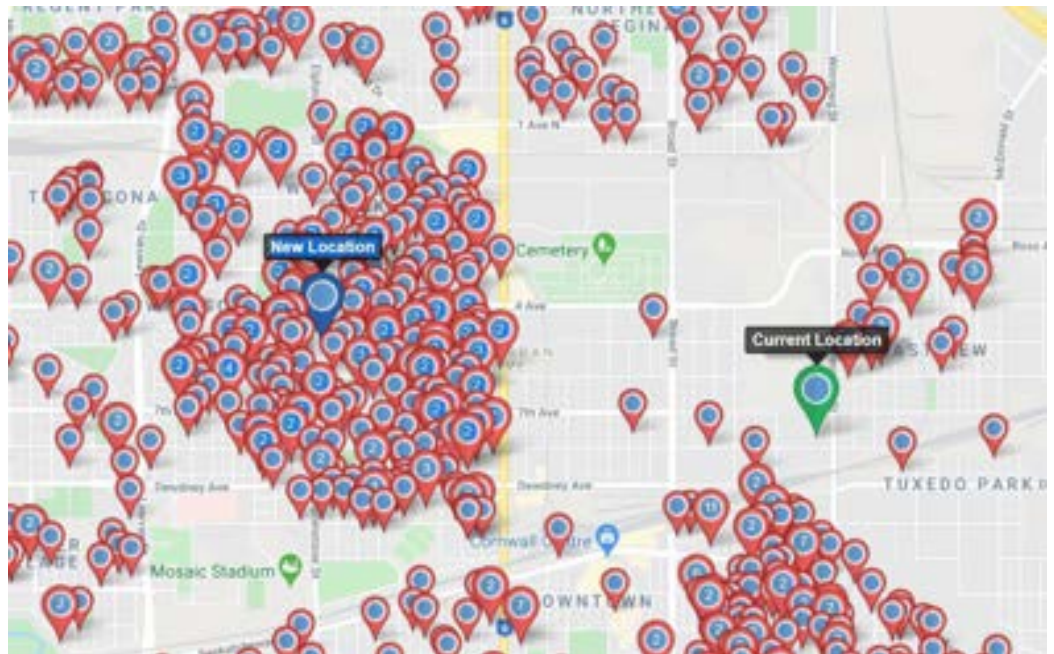
Our ability to honour and recognize our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication was also affected by the pandemic this year. Normally, the staff and Council gather with our Elders and Knowledge Keepers to recognize these special service milestones.

It is our sincere hope that when the restrictions are lifted we will honour and celebrate Bob Cantin and Ann Perry for 25 years of service. Congratulations Bob and Ann! Through your hard work and dedication, you have been instrumental in bringing the Circle Project to where it is today.

Lifestyles & Counselling

Circle Project subsidized the delivery of the Lifestyles & Counseling program for many years after program funding ended. We saw this as an important community service to do our part in helping to fight addiction in Regina. Sadly with the changes that have occurred due to the pandemic and the retirement of our counselor, the service was placed on hiatus. We are very hopeful that with the renewed recognition that addiction is a pandemic in our community, we will be able to access sufficient funds to support the program in our new location. In the meantime we are working closely with our community partners to ensure we are providing referrals to services for people affected by drug and alcohol use. Thank you to Deanna Keewatin for her many years of service to this important program. Best wishes and may you be blessed in retirement with good health and new adventures Deanna!

WHY OUR RELOCATION TO NORTH CENTRAL REGINA IS IMPORTANT?



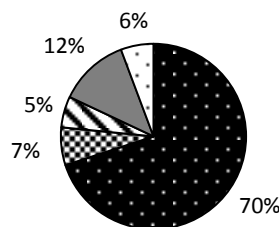
The above mapping is based on five years (2015-2019) of data collected from participant's registration forms in the Family Violence and Counselling programs. Our move to the new location will enable us to serve the community better and will help reduce transportation barriers for participants.

STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS

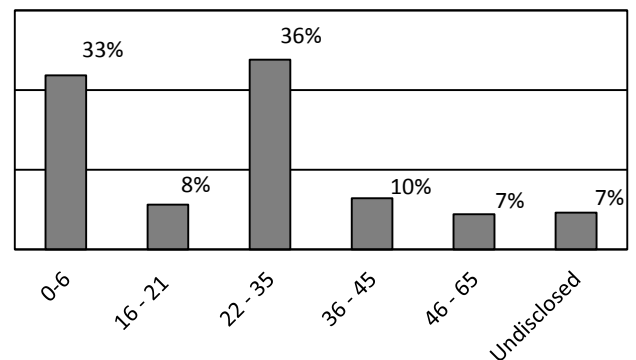
The following charts show data about the status, age and employment statistics for the 333 participants in the 2020/21 year.

Status

- Status 70%
- ▣ Métis 5%
- Undisclosed 6%
- ▣ Non-Status 7%
- Other 12%



Age



Residential School

Of the active participants in Circle Project programming this year, 82% have identified as Indigenous.

Of these participants, 75% 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%.

2020/2021
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

This year was a difficult one in many areas and trying in many ways. In a year like no other, navigating the organization and managing risks through changes that occurred due to COVID was a challenge. Coupled with the demands of the construction and renovation of the Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub, which proceeded in spite of the pandemic, the organization dealt with a far more complicated and complex set of problems to solve and issues to address. In spite of uncertainty and challenges that 2020/21 presented, the Circle Project successfully managed its financial affairs and displaying a high level of accountability and transparency in the day to day operations and in the ongoing stewardship of the organization. The ongoing best practices of setting aside reasonable reserves assisted the Circle Project to successfully maneuver through the significant challenges presented throughout the year. Reserves were augmented by federal funds that were made available to charities and non-profits during the year. The Circle Project is well positioned to engage in continued growth and partnership development in the upcoming year.

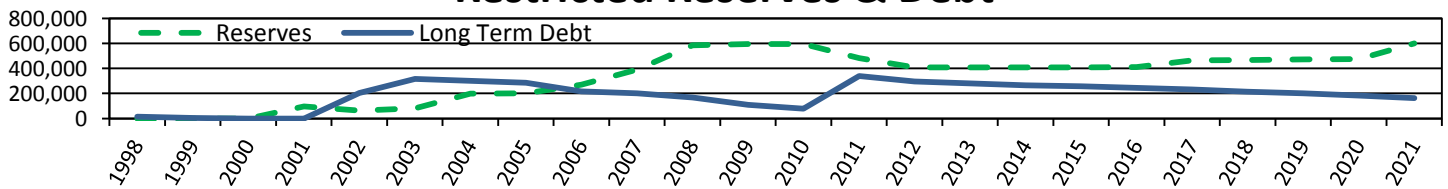
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Capital assets increased again this year. The capital renovations at the two childcare centers contributed to the increase. However, the largest increase in capital assets was due to construction and renovation of the building on 5th Avenue and Elphinstone St. - the future home of the Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub. The Capital Fund showed an increase while the Restricted Reserve Fund almost doubled in size from the previous year. This was largely due to the availability of additional federal funds and special grants. Cash balances also increased significantly due to resources secured through sponsorships and grants to support the construction of the Hub. Special one-time grants to help the childcare centers through the challenges of the pandemic contributed to the unexpected and dramatic increases in cash balances. 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.

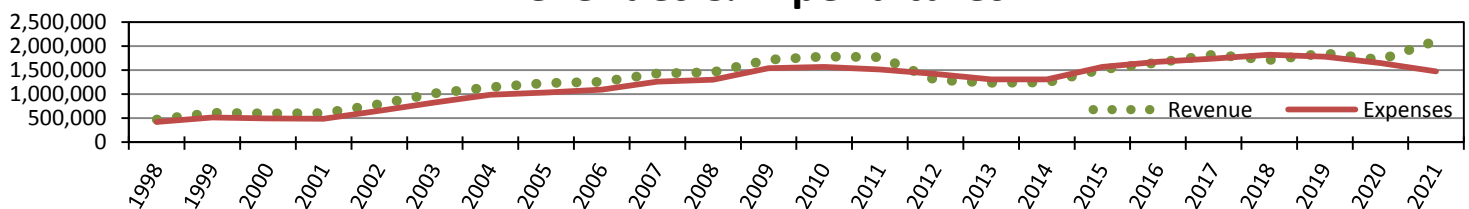
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

In the 2020/21 fiscal year there was a 25% increase in revenues which contributed to the increased cash balances held by the Circle Project in both restricted and unrestricted funds. Hardest hit by the pandemic was the revenues at both childcare centers as enrollments dropped dramatically. At the same time and due to the impacts of COVID, the expenditures for the year dropped by 11% resulting in a significant surplus at year end. The pandemic has affected charities and non-profit organizations across the country in a variety of ways including producing unusual and unexpected financial implications both positive and negative.

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, 2021, 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, 2021. I expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in my report dated June 3, 2021.

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, 2021 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Regina, Saskatchewan

June 3, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert D. Spauton'.

Chartered Professional Accountant

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Assets		
Current		
Cash	1,426,179	800,016
Investments	300,322	425,909
Accounts receivable	321,380	133,733
Prepaid expenses	-	22,007
	2,047,881	1,381,665
Capital assets	1,302,716	1,105,792
	3,350,597	2,487,457
 Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	150,442	126,793
Deferred contributions	-	158,858
Current portion of long-term debt	16,416	15,647
	166,858	301,298
Deferred contributions – capital assets	758,669	439,675
Canada Emergency Benefit Account	60,000	-
Long-term debt	164,141	183,251
	1,149,668	924,224
 Net Assets		
Equity in capital assets	363,490	360,820
Reserves	750,322	525,909
Unrestricted net assets	1,087,117	676,504
	2,200,929	1,563,233
	3,350,597	2,487,457

Approved on behalf of the Board



 Director



 Director

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs	130,914	128,698
Justice Canada - Hearts	-	9,000
Ministry of Education – Early Learning	443,993	392,570
Ministry of Justice	138,061	134,856
Gov of Saskatchewan	293,062	-
City of Regina	26,400	63,420
United Way of Regina	72,466	70,420
REACH	23,700	23,700
Regina Work Prep	25,000	-
Summer student grant	8,281	7,049
Literacy grant	-	3,000
Canada Heritage	-	12,175
Saskatchewan Culture	-	5,000
Community Initiative Fund	-	30,000
Wage subsidy (CEWS)	320,399	-
Canadian Women's Foundation	25,000	-
Transfer from deferred contributions	22,449	1,839
Transfer to deferred contributions	-	(17,129)
Administration fees	162,792	165,118
Daycare fees	313,721	583,270
Sponsorships	-	20,200
Donations – in kind	-	6,750
Donations	60,322	7,298
Donations – capital assets	22,384	11,325
Memberships	16	71
Other self-generated	22,665	55,231
	2,111,625	1,713,861
Expenditures		
Activities - special	15,203	53,089
- cultural/community	6,172	19,469
Administration and contracts	172,498	165,557
Advertising	3,369	4,020
Amortization	94,913	74,064
Audit	7,281	6,622
Bad debts	26,863	9,062
Communications	18,115	-
Equipment rental & photocopying	3,600	6,900
Equipment and furnishings	600	600
Groceries	11,271	26,821
Hospitality	1,295	3,526
Insurance	24,079	19,190
Interest and bank charges	6,644	8,407
Interest on long-term debt	7,348	7,994
Purchased services	14,850	27,725
Materials and supplies	23,848	21,075
Rent	88,981	90,100
Repairs and maintenance	9,373	31,625
Property taxes	24,948	21,157
Telephone and postage	16,934	16,755
Training	1,905	7,889
Meetings and travel	5,770	8,400
Utilities	19,924	26,776
Vehicles	1,200	1,071
Wages and benefits	861,859	981,663
Workers' compensation	5,086	7,048
	1,473,929	1,646,605
Surplus for the year	637,696	67,256

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, 2020 to March 31, 2021 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 2021 Annual Report.

In addition to maintaining best practices including the approval of monthly Financial Statements 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



Government
of
Saskatchewan



United Way
Regina



Canada



SPONSORS

Aware House Books
Camp Wolf Willow
CanadaHelps – Partner Giving
Conexus Credit Union
Dean Renwick Design Studio
Knight Archer Insurance

Loraas Disposal
McKercher LLP
MOSIAC CANADA ULC
SWAP
UNIFOR Local 1-S

FRIENDS

Amy Quickfall
Andrew Stevens
Blackbird Security
Brent Tkachuk
Christina Blair
Dana Folkerson
Donald Slaney
Donna Woloshyn
Dylan Nash
Edward Walter
Erica Gress
Fred Clipsham

Hillary From
Indigenous Christian
Fellowship
Joni Adamcewicz
Katherine Gosselin
Kaylea Lax
Keon Flamont
Lisa Watson
Lone Creek Cultural Club
Michael O'Donnel
Pam Bristol
PR Investments

Regina Police Services
Robert Guthrie
Ron Thompson
Ruby Kaur
SOFIA House
Susan McKay
Tom Kraemer
U of R Education
U of S College of
Nursing
Vernon Linklater
Warren McCall

*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