



...serving the community since 1988

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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www.circleproject.ca



Torch Awards Winner

Trust • Performance • Integrity

The 2022 Circle Project

ANNUAL REPORT

is dedicated to:

**Our Community &
Cultural Hub
Funders, Sponsors
and Friends**

Thank you for sharing our vision of hope for the
Indigenous community in the true spirit of
reconciliation through action.

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
Operations Manager:
Larissa Anderson
Receptionist: April Redwood

Programs

Family Violence:
Brandy Churchill
Building Cultural
Competencies: Chanel Daniels
Housing Matters: Haley Runns

Children's Centre

Manager of Child Care
Services: Tyrah Kaiswatum
Assistant Director:
Kerri Quangtakoune
Early Childhood Educators:
Fanta Sanith
Shameela Saidmeeri
Lyndell Poitras
Shaelynne Bruce-Anaskan
Shania Stonechild
Charity Longman
Jennifer Lavallee
Support Staff/Cook:
Dawn Gordon

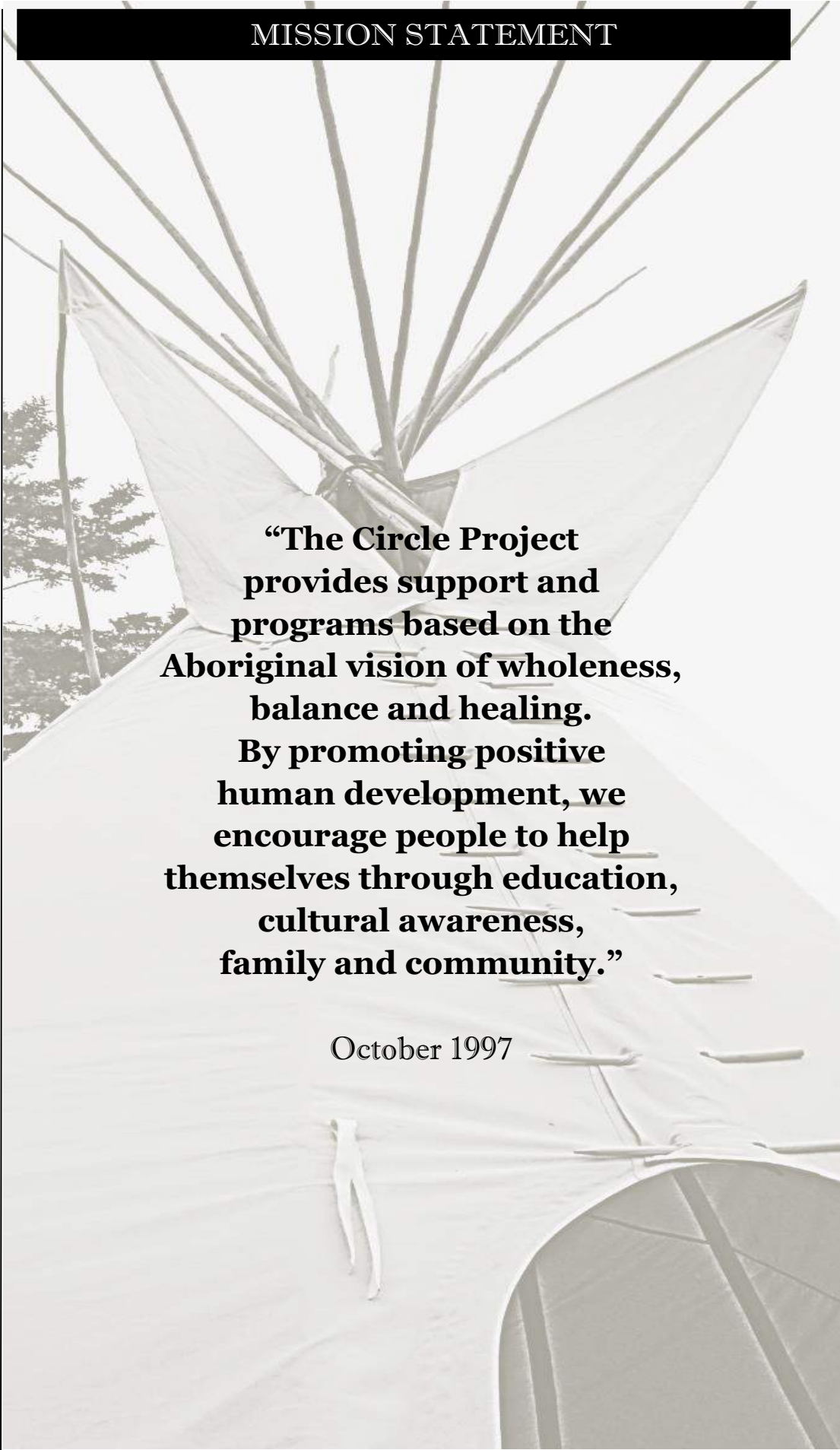
Infant Toddler Centre

Assistant Director:
Amanda Froh
Early Childhood Educators:
Natasha Kennedy
Jessica Mantee
Shirley Stonechild
Mariah Walker
Faith Gillespie

Thank you!

A special thank you Brandy and Ann for the excellent work on producing the 2022 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

"Keep up the amazing work you do in our Community!"
Councillor Andrew Stevens,
City of Regina

"Circle Project has had a positive impact in minimizing risk to individuals while strengthening families through its wraparound program and services model. These are culturally relevant and effective, and designed to assist people with breaking down the barriers to education and employment. The Regina Police Service supports Circle Project's expansion into the North Central."

Evan Bray, Chief of Police,
Regina Police Service

"Circle Project grounds their philosophy in Aboriginal culture and teachings, thousands of individuals and families have benefited from services which empower and build self-confidence during a critical period in their lives. By providing outstanding care to people with diverse and often complex needs, Circle Project has earned our trust and respect. Through strong leadership, good governance and financial accountability, Circle Project continues to flourish at a time of uncertainty for many in the charitable sector."

Robyn Edwards-Bentz,
CEO United Way

"I opened my first bank account in this building 55 years ago. I am so happy to see it being repurposed to support the well-being of Indigenous community members."

Community Donor

"Thank you for the important work you are doing."

Community Donor

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

Thank you to United Way, City of Regina and Indigenous Services Canada

Last year, we shared our excitement about moving forward with the building of the Circle Project Community & Cultural Hub right in the heart of North Central Regina, in spite of the pandemic. We took this measured risk because we knew that our programs and services would be even more needed in the community - post pandemic. Here it is, one year later and we are exactly where we wanted to be...closer to the community we serve. We are thrilled to report that we have succeeded in accomplishing our goal of creating the kind of welcoming community space that meets people "where they are at". In our new location at 5th Avenue and Elphinstone St. at "The Hub" we are delivering even more programs and providing even more street services for the community just as was planned when we started down this path.

Right now, we could spend a significant amount of time talking about how bumpy the road to get here was or how challenging (and sometimes downright scary) the journey was, however we would rather talk about the other things that are of greater importance to us. Things like how the challenges of the last year provided us with plenty of opportunities for organizational growth and capacity building. It also provided us exciting new opportunities to attract new funders, sponsors and supporters to help us move to the next phase of our organizational development. In the new Hub, we now have the ability and responsibility to develop new programs and services for individuals and families to either start or continue on their journey of personal growth and development as an important part of helping the community... one individual, one family at a time. The new Circle Project Community & 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.

Thank you to our program participants, membership and the community for giving us the privilege of providing service and support this year. The staff did an outstanding job this year especially, proving once again that they truly are the backbone of the organization. Our thanks and respect to this dedicated group of people who we are honoured to call our staff. Thank you to our Council who were willing to roll up their sleeves and put in the extra time and energy needed to move forward in creating the Hub. 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 cultural core of our organization, our Elders Sam Isaac and Margaret Rockthunder, our knowledge keepers Roland Kay and Jeff Cappo and a special thank you to all of those that came before them and now watch over us from the spirit world. Our appreciation and thanks for your prayers, support and assistance in helping us this year goes beyond what words can express.

We look forward to what the future has in store for the Circle Project and the community we serve. It is with the greatest of confidence that through our continued implementation of putting our community development experience to good use and continued engagement in outcome-based evaluation the transparency, accountability and good reputation of Circle Project will remain strong. This, coupled with our unwavering belief that solutions lie within the community makes us confident that the Circle Project is on the brink of a new era of hope and healing in the community. We are ready to do the work! It is our distinct honour to present the Circle Project's 2022 Annual Report.



Bob Cantin, President



Ann Perry, Executive Director

DEDICATION OF THE “HUB”

On November 1st, 2021, exactly two years to the day of receiving the title to our donated building on the corner of 5th Avenue and Elphinstone Street the dedication ceremony for the Circle Project Community & Cultural Hub was held. The purpose of this long standing traditional practice was to have our Elders conduct a ceremony to dedicate the building and the work of the Circle Project to the community; just as we did for our Children’s Centre in the year 2000 and the Infant & Toddler Centre in 2011.

In keeping with past practices and cultural protocols this was not a public event. Instead it was a gathering of invitees who had made significant contribution to the new building, including the carpenters, plumbers and tradespeople who actually built the Hub. Joining our council and staff were two special guests from Conexus who were instrumental in selecting Circle Project as the recipient of donated building, from the many applicants that responded to the ad they placed for the use of the former branch. To acknowledge the contributions made by the leadership at Conexus, special gifts of a ribbon shirt and a ribbon skirt were presented.

Lone Creek Drum group, led by Jeff Cappel, was on hand to help us with traditional songs just as they had done before for the building dedications we held in the past. A meal was shared and some in attendance were treated to their first taste of bannock. Following the meal, tours of the building were provided for our guests. Even the newly elected City of Regina – Mayor Sandra Masters stopped in to say hi and see the new facility. Everyone was very impressed with the facility and many commented on how important the Hub is for the community.

All in attendance received a small gift of beautiful art work by Simone McLeod as a memento of this important day.

THANK YOU TO HUB SPONSORS!!



An Anonymous
Donor



MNP Community
Fund

Lorne & Evelyn
Johnson Foundation



Fred
Clipsham

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

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

DEDICATION OF THE “HUB”



*Elder Sam Isaac
sharing teachings.*



*Attendees during the
tour of Circle Project's
Community &
Cultural Hub.*



*Circle Project Board President, Bob Cantin
with Jeff Cappo, Lone Creek Drum Group.*



*Circle Project cake being cut
for dessert.*



*Sandra Masters, Mayor, City of Regina and
Ann Perry, Executive Director, Circle Project.*



The gathering at the Dedication.



*Ann Perry speaking about the
importance of the Community &
Cultural Hub during the tour.*



*Guests listening to the special Circle Project
song in the Community Room.*

Participant Quotes

"I learned how to control my anger and be more vocal. I used to be afraid of the word no. I would be embarrassed or shy to ask or even talk to someone." - R.E.

"I believe access to programs like this broadens the community's ability to communicate and avoid harm." - T.

"I learned better alternatives to conflict. We have so many choices in life and the choice to engage in conflict isn't what I want." - J.L.

"I like the orientation; the instructors are amazing. I never felt like I was off topic. Loved it. I honestly think this orientation will help me a lot." - R.E.

"The content made a lot of sense to me as some boundaries and relationship issues discussed were similar to how everything is with me in my life." - K.C.

"I plan on using what I learned to help me to identify my primary emotion before it leads to anger. Instead, I will deal with it first by using breathing techniques and/or going for a walk." - L.R.

"I learned about the drama triangle and that I am responsible for my actions and thoughts – no one else is." - J.B.

"I learned the psychological symptoms that I feel before I lose my temper and better strategies for interacting with people whether in a confrontation or not." - C.T.

"I learned how to express what I am feeling, when I am feeling it using words and not by getting physical." - D.A.

"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.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Thank you to the Victims Services Branch - Ministry of Justice

This year, the Family Violence program continued to face challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic. As the year progressed and restrictions were lifted, we were thankfully able to get back to business delivering the Anger Resolution Techniques (ART) program. We also had the opportunity to develop and deliver a new domestic violence test program for women offenders (see following page). The most exciting part of our year, however, was the move to our new location. It was a lot of extra work in the months leading up to the move... cleaning, organizing, packing and unpacking, but in the end, it was worth it! We are so incredibly proud of our new building and love that we will be able to deliver programming here. All the participants who have seen our previous location and our new building have shared that the new building is beautiful, warm and inviting.

We served 200 participants this year, 76% were new participants and 24% were continuing from the previous year. By year end, over 70 people successfully completed, over 80 participants were carried into the new year and 37 participants discontinued due to attendance issues or inactivity. This year we delivered almost 200 programming hours in house. Another almost 50 hours was provided as additional sessions for participants that had an occasional missed session due to other commitments or illness, ensuring they would complete the program.

The ART program is a twenty-hour program that is delivered over nine weeks. After registration, participants are required to participate in the two, one-hour prerequisite orientations prior to their participation in the once a week ART program. The program assists in developing techniques to identify anger that can lead to any outburst/aggressive behaviours that could lead up to a violent situation and develop ways to control these emotions. The Circle Project's Family Violence program has been actively participating in leading the way to prevention and intervention of violence in the community.

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 its ongoing support throughout the year; it has been a blessing. Also, a big thank you to the North Central Community for welcoming us!

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

95% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with the ART program as either Excellent or Good.

FAMILY VIOLENCE – WOMEN’S PROGRAM

Thank you to the Canadian Women’s Foundation

This year, the Family Violence program delivered the test of a new program for female perpetrators of domestic violence. This program was a continuous intake, peer lead approach that was exclusive to women offenders. The program was twenty-one weeks in duration, held once a week for a total of over forty hours per participant. The women who participated in the test all reported through the evaluation process that they believed this new program really helped them to learn how to make better choices and learn new strategies to deal with conflict that reflects the values of creating peaceful relationships.

Over the years, the Circle Project has worked as a part of the Regina Domestic Violence Court Treatment Option (RDVCTO) team. During this time of working with the RDVCTO and in the community, it has become more apparent that for female offenders their underlying issues, including histories of past victimization, were having a deeper impact on their circumstances than what we had previously accounted for. When we were encouraged by one of the RDVCTO judges to participate in training for a new program, we saw this as a new possibility for a continuous intake, female specific program.

We are excited to share that our completion rate with female offenders has increased from 75% to 92% in one year! We attribute this to the success of the female-specific group, knowing that many women have experienced abuse in their past relationships and knowing that this has directly contributed to their current circumstance. This new program allows the participants a better opportunity to share the full picture of their experiences, optimising their chances for healing in an environment that stresses honesty and accountability regarding the actions that led them to the program.

We would like to thank the Canadian Women’s Foundation for funding the test program. We would also like to thank the Regina Drug Treatment Court (RDTC) for mentoring our staff in the delivery of the test program. Through this support we were able to successfully deliver this test and respond to community need through partnership. Thank you to our Executive Director, Ann Perry for her continued support of this vital community program and for taking a real interest in helping celebrate the participants’ successes.

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

100% of the women in the new program rated their overall satisfaction with the program as either Excellent or Good.

“The women’s program participants demonstrate a deeper level of accountability and commitment to the process. They appear much more engaged and seemingly have the desire and skills to make significant changes in their behaviours.”

**Judge Marylynne T. Beaton,
Administrative Judge
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan**

Participant Quotes

“I enjoyed myself. I loved going every Monday. At first it was hard to accept, that I had to go there, but as we moved on and we got to know the ladies it got better. I also appreciate the support for myself.” - B.B.

“The most important thing that I learned in the program was being able to control my anger in a healthy manner and having a clearer understanding of my triggers. It honestly was a great experience. Thank you for the opportunity.” - E.L.

“I have a deeper understanding of my past behaviours, especially with men. I know I have to make changes. I now know what healthy is and I try to share what I learned with my family.” - C.B.

“I learned how to resolve conflicts in non-violent ways, also how to communicate my emotions more efficiently.” - B.B.

Drug & Alcohol Harm Reduction Program

*Ka Wasenakwan
(It Will be Bright)*

"It's a social issue that we have. Adding more first responders is not going to be the solution. It has to be a community-involved approach, where the individuals that are addicted to drugs get the help they need."

**Sgt. Donna Wall,
Regina Police Service**

Building on our strengths in personal development programming, Circle Project will be offering a new addiction program in 2022. The program is designed to help individuals caught in the cycle of addiction break negative cycles. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with their culture and the community as a wholistic approach towards developing a new healthy lifestyle.

Circle Project has provided addictions counselling in the past, however the services were limited to individual counselling and additional work in the area of family violence. Because of COVID and the interruption to our in-house counselling services, we took the opportunity to rethink the services we were providing. The needs of the community have become even more urgent as we are faced with an overdose epidemic that we know historically has a larger impact on the Indigenous community.

Based on the knowledge that the availability of community-based drug and alcohol counselling in an open, easily accessible and respectful environment is a very effective harm reduction strategy, the Circle Project will make these services more accessible and readily available in the community.

HOUSING MATTERS

***Thank you to Reaching Home – Regina Community Advisory Board
and Community Entity – Namerind Housing Corporation***

Our Housing Matters Program was created to help the homeless population within Regina. We aim to be a part of the solution of change while reducing the number of homeless members in our community. Housing Matters works primarily with Indigenous individuals to address the risk of homelessness they are facing.

Program staff work to rehome those facing homelessness and/or to help stabilize those at risk of homelessness. They also offer continued support and access to further programming as needed. Participants can access a range of supports including access to housing lists and getting help in finding housing. Staff help participants to create long term plans in a safe, judgment free zone.

Our goals include developing strategies and modules to help our clients secure stable housing and increase their knowledge about housing and the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants, as well as financial literacy. We hope to have the participants of the Housing Matters program begin to attend cultural events and community programs this year.

We provide a safe place for individuals to access informal drop-in services such as a place to warm up/cool down, a cup of coffee, a place to make a phone call or get a bite to eat from our bagged lunch program. This allows us to get to know people better, build relationships and build trust. Once this is accomplished, most individuals begin to share more openly and honestly about their current situations. This is when we offer a transition to the more formal intake and program delivery process offered in the Housing Matters program.

One of the most important things to happen to us over the past year include our move to the new building. Since our move we have seen an increased number of walk-ins with issues around housing. This is why building trust is vital to the success of the Housing Matters program.

As we move into a new year, we are very excited to continue our work in the community. Thank you to our funders, community partners and our Executive Director Ann Perry for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Haley Runns, Housing Matters Program Coordinator

***In the 2021 Regina Homelessness Count 79% of respondents
identified as Indigenous.***

BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY

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

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 to promote kinship, self-identity and healing. In doing this, we begin to understand the impact this can have on our community and how we can grow as a community.

The BCC program was developed to provide assistance and support to individuals as they build or rebuild a connection to their Indigenous culture. The program assists individuals in cultural knowledge, building a sense of belonging and reducing social isolation. Modules include traditional teachings that increase opportunities for inclusiveness and cultural experience.

This was our second year working in the Youth on Their Way to Work (YOWW) program. This program provides cultural assistance and support to young individuals through a formal community partnership with the Regina Work Preparation Centre (Work Prep). Our goal is to engage participants in cultural understanding based on traditional teachings for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth ages 16 to 30 years of age.

This year BCC served 37 participants, with over 60% self-identifying as Indigenous. Of the participants we worked with, almost 80% successfully completed the program. The remaining 20% discontinued due to securing employment or moving to other programming. We delivered 5 weeks of programming for 4 different groups of youths registered in the program.

Since our move, BCC is hosting the program exclusively at the Community & Cultural Hub. We are pleased to now be able to deliver the cultural teaching modules in our culturally safe & culturally comfortable space at our new facility. The students have access and continuous support from our Elder who is a Residential School Survivor.

The Elder played a huge role in the talking circles as an important part of the program. Participants found a sense of belonging as they moved forward in their employment journey. Most of the BCC programming takes place in our Circle Room, a sacred space where many of the students have begun their healing journey.

Our hope for the BCC program is that young participants learn new skills and knowledge to make healthier choices as they move forward in their lives. We look forward to new opportunities in the 2022/2023 year as we spread cultural awareness and work towards reconciliation.

Respectfully submitted,
Chanel Daniels
Community and Cultural Outreach

Photo of paintings created by BCC participants.
This activity is done as a way for the youth to sum up what the Medicine Wheel means to them.

Participant Quotes

"I always love when Circle Project comes to visit us for group. The stories inspire me to push through and do good things. I loved painting and I loved learning. Thank you very much." – S.O.

"The most important thing I learned at Circle Project is that I DO belong in this world, and no one can tell me otherwise." – A.K.

"I appreciate all you guys do. You all made me feel important. Thank you so much." – A.L.

"I learned that no matter what your past is, you can make a decision to do better for yourself." – S.U.

"Most important thing I learned is how to be more open with my story." – J.C.

"I learned that I have the ability to make positive changes in my life." – D.C.

"We all need the wisdom and knowledge that this program gave me." – M.K.

"I learned to have balance in my life and not to give up my dreams, no matter what people say." – C.H.

"It was an amazing experience to learn about my culture." – F.G.

"I plan on utilizing the Grandfather Teachings and I will learn to be more courageous, daily." – L.P.



From the Mouths of Babes

During circle time we were listening to the color song. A staff member asked the children what color the bear was and he replied "It's brown like me!" – O.B.K.

"These are so good! Did you get these fries from McDonalds?" – M.P.

Child was singing "Pimpahta Apisci Waposis" (run little rabbit run), when his mom asked the teacher what he was singing. He cut in and said, "Don't you know mom, the Cree talk." – J.R.

One of our staff was going on an airplane. "Hey! I want to go on the pimihaikan (air plane) with you." – K.A.I.

"I like Dawn's pahkwesikan (bannock), it's better than my kokum's." – M.P.

"I like drumming to powwow music at daycare with my friends." – A.M.

"You know how I knew my mom loved me when I was a baby? When she gave me a baba." – B.R.



The children enjoying time outside with some sidewalk chalk.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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 and the Circle Project Infant & Toddler Centre are among the very few Indigenous childcare centres in Regina that provide both quality and culturally based childcare for children aged 6 weeks – 5 years. At our centres, children experience a variety of daily activities, including story/circle time and crafts in a culturally immersive environment. Our preschool children participate in additional Indigenous cultural programming at no extra cost through our Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program.

This past year COVID-19 continued to impact our centres, however through careful planning we were able to keep both locations operating and all staff employed. The enrollment at both the locations was lower due to our efforts in keeping the children, their families and our staff safe. This lower enrollment allowed for the continued upgrading of the outdoor spaces at both locations. Both centres now have beautifully landscaped flower beds and vegetable gardens. The children enjoy some of their lunch and snack times outdoors and also help in the care of these spaces.

As we moved forward into the new year, the enrollment at both locations increased to nearly full. This was due not only to the pandemic slowly nearing an end, but also to the parent fee reduction provided by the Ministry of Education. This is the first step towards the \$10.00 per day childcare plan for Saskatchewan that will be in place by 2025.

In our continued efforts to improve our services for the community and to better serve our families, we promoted the Director of Childcare Services to Operations Manager at the Circle Project Community & Cultural Hub. The Assistant Director at the Infant & Toddler Centre assumed the leadership role for Children's Services and one of our Early Childhood Educators assumed the leadership role at the Infant & Toddler Centre. This change has been a great opportunity to encourage our young Indigenous leaders and help them move forward.

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all the staff at both our childcare centres. This year they had to adapt to the continued changes from the pandemic, the increased enrollment and new management at both centres. Their response has been a true reflection of the strong team we have. Their dedication to the centres does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. I also want to extend my thank you to the Board and Ann for their continued support and the leadership opportunities they have provided this year to the childcare centres.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Anderson
Operations Manager

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS

Thank you to the Sask Knights of Columbus and Circle Project

Tansi! The Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program supports children in gaining a strong sense of belonging. Our goal is to build cultural awareness in children in their early years. Learning about their culture plays an important role in helping young children develop a positive sense of identity, helps to build self-esteem and promotes a positive self-image.

The program also builds relationships with community members and knowledge keepers that help support the program and assist in its success. We are so thankful for our Elder. Her patience with our preschool children has helped guide them in their Cree language and the children enjoy her weekly visits. Kokum is definitely one of the highlights in the program as the children admire her wisdom, stories and the knowledge she shares. Because of her teachings, the children use Cree words during play, meals times and when interacting with each other.

The past two years created challenges in the delivery of the program, mainly when it came to our outside community helpers. These challenges forced us to make some changes to ensure the program continued to be delivered safely. For example, we incorporated learning tools like YouTube to help with our Pow Wow dance demonstrations and language apps for Cree. Everyone adapted to these changes very well. On their own, some of our Early Childhood Educators took the additional steps needed to learn Cree language. The Early Childhood Educators continued to deliver the needed daily teachings, showing their commitment to the program. We look forward to the new year and to providing opportunities for the children and their families to connect to the culture through cultural programming, Parent Nights and increased community engagement.

I would like to thank our funders for their continued support of this important program, Kokum Margaret Rockthunder for her wisdom and support and Circle Project's Board and Ann for their continued support of this program. Having the recognition of how important culture is for the children in our childcare programs is vital to its continued success.

Hiy Hiy,
Tyrah Kaiswatum
Manager of Childcare Services

Our Elder teaches our children about culture, language, traditions and about the vision of life that is contained in First Nations philosophies. These teachings have been handed down through ceremonies and traditional teachings. We believe, and have seen, that teaching children at a young age to respect our elders has many benefits. The children at Circle Project have developed a very close connection with our Elder. They thoroughly enjoy her weekly visits. Having an elder accessible to Circle Project has been a blessing as she is there for not only the children but to guide and support our staff as well.



The day before Kokum's first visit to the centre since COVID-19 began, Tyrah told the children that they were going to have a special visitor the next day. One of the children, B.R. said, "I hope it's a Kokum, I love Kokums!"

Parent Quotes

"This daycare feels so much like home and it is comfy. I like bringing my granddaughter here". – C.M.

"My child came home from daycare and is now trying to teach his little siblings Cree." – M.J.

"Thank you all for the pictures of J. Those really made me happy. He loves his daycare and everyone in it so much and I appreciate everything that all of you do!" – V.S.

"My oldest used to come here and I really liked having him here, now my youngest son is here." – C.M.

"My kids keep saying Cree words to me at home. I love hearing them even though I don't know what it is they are saying." – S.D.

"When my son started he used to cry and be so sad. I'm very happy he's become so comfortable here and I don't have to worry about him." – C.O.

"Thank you for the support with my daughter." – S.R.

Quotes From Operation Warm Recipients

"Thank you for the jackets for my grandkids. You've made their Christmas that much better."

"Oh this will keep me warm, all I have is this old sweater right now."

"Nice, I can match my toque to my brand-new coat."

An older woman was excited to get her new coat as she was just wearing a fleece jacket with a broken zipper. She got even more excited when she realized we had toques and scarves. *"I'm going to be really warm now!"*

"Thank you for this coat. I never have enough money to pay my bills, forget buying a new jacket."

One little girl went up to her mom and asked her if she could have a hat. Her mom looked at the staff member and they said yes. So she told her daughter to pick one out. The little girl looked until she found a pink one. She promptly grabbed the hat she was wearing off her head, put it on the table and placed her new pink hat on her head with satisfaction and pride!

Service Milestones

This year, we are celebrating two staff from the Children's Centre. Kerri Quangtakoune is celebrating 25 years and Fanta Sanith is celebrating 30 years of service. Your hard work and dedication, has helped to make our childcare centre a welcoming place for our children and their families. Congratulations Kerri and Fanta!

COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM

Thank you to FCC, Kurtis Becker, Bob and Bernie Cantin, Keon Flamont, Kerri Quangtakoune and other anonymous donations through SARCAN

We designed our new facility to include a drop-in area so vulnerable people in the community could have a safe space to have a cup of coffee or use the phone. There has been a significant increase in our walk-in traffic since the move to the new neighbourhood. One of the areas of need that was recognized and addressed right away was hunger. We had many individuals come in and inquire if we had food. It was decided very quickly that we needed to respond to this urgent need in the community.

In late January 2022, we started a bagged lunch program. Each lunch contains a sandwich, a piece of fruit, packaged snacks and a bottle of water. In February 2022 we distributed 15 lunches... by the end of May the number rose to 519!

This new program is a way for us to expand our support services in the community. It is supported by the community through personal donations and the SARCAN drop and go program where individuals can take their bottles and cans to their nearest SARCAN location and donate to Circle Project's Community Lunch Program. We also have had an increase in volunteer requests at the new facility and have had the opportunity to assign individuals to assist us in preparing the bagged lunches.

OPERATION WARM 2021

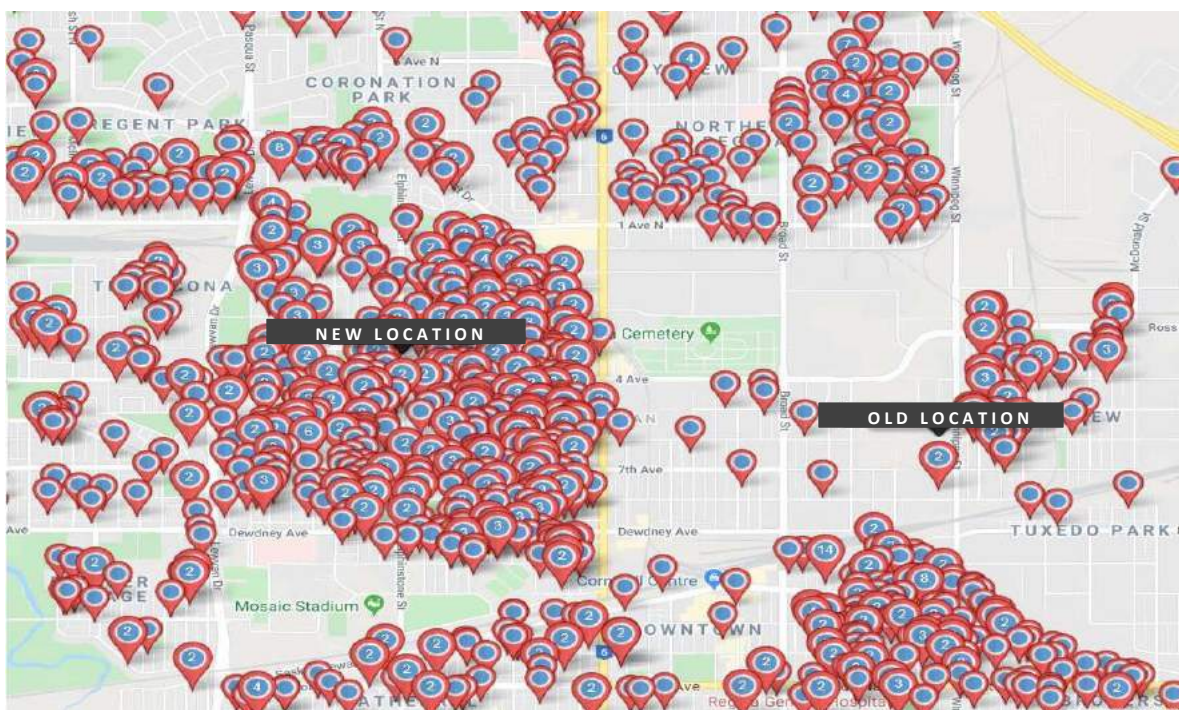
In November 2021, Circle Project was notified by Operation Warm that we were chosen by FEDEX Regina through FEDEX North America as their charity of choice. They supplied Circle Project with 500 winter coats for children in need and in late December a second shipment of 95 adult size coats. This is the first time FEDEX North America and Operation Warm has chosen Regina to receive this donation to distribute in the community.

Ricky Beglau, General Manager – FEDEX Regina and his crew delivered the coats on December 8th. We gave them a tour of the Hub and talked about our community work. Ricky disclosed that he was the one to pick Circle Project. He did his research and wanted these coats to go to more than just one school, it was important to serve a whole community. He felt we were the right choice.

Distribution dates were set for December 16th and 17th for the children's coats by pre-registration and the Childcare Centres and the Family Violence had their signup sheets available for their participants. February 4th was the distribution day for the adult sized coats and the remaining children's coats on a first come, first serve basis. We also distributed mitts and toques that were donated by Rainbow Youth. All 95 of the adult coats were given away in less than an hour of opening the doors showing there is a high need in the community.

This was the first event in the community room at the Hub and it showed that the space is more than adequate for these great opportunities like this. Both events for Operation Warm were positive and individuals receiving the coats for their children or themselves were extremely grateful for this incredible community benefit made possible by FedEx, Operation Warm and Circle Project.

WHY OUR RELOCATION TO NORTH CENTRAL REGINA WAS IMPORTANT?



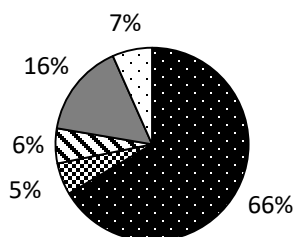
The above mapping is based on five years (2015-2019) of data collected from participant's registration forms in the Family Violence and Counselling programs. Our move to the new location is now enabling us to serve the community better. It will also help reduce transportation barriers for participants.

STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS

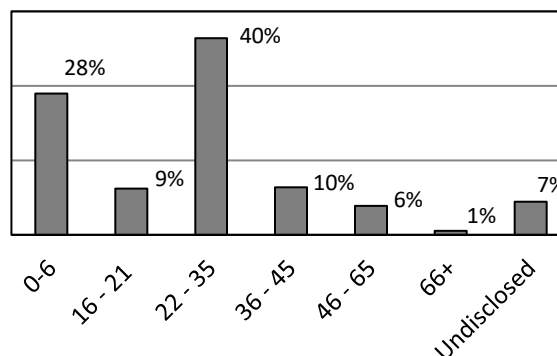
The following charts show data about the status, age and employment statistics for the 376 participants in the 2021/22 year.

Status

- Status 66%
- ▨ Métis 6%
- Undisclosed 7%
- ▩ Non-Status 5%
- Other 16%



Age



Residential School

Of the new participants in Circle Project programming this year, 78% have identified as Indigenous.

Of these participants, 78% stated they were either survivors or intergenerational survivors of Residential Schools. In the case of our children's services the number rises to almost 85%.

Christmas 2021

Our Christmas events had to be scaled back once this year due to COVID. We were however, still able to provide some extra cheer for our families at our childcare centres and our community Elders. This was incredibly important in these trying times.

This Christmas, we gifted the children at our daycare centres with goody bags. Each child received gifts for themselves and a gift for their siblings. Each family was also gifted with a turkey, a box of oranges, chocolates, leisure passes and book bundles.

For our Elders this year we provided \$50 gift cards and Christmas cards with a personal message. As hard as the last few years has been on everyone, the Elders in our community continue to struggle with the social distancing and have deeply missed the in person interactions that they were able to enjoy pre-COVID.

We are extremely grateful for the support of MOSAIC Canada LLC, Unifor Local 1-S, United Way and City of Regina Councillor Andrew Stevens. Because of their support we were able to spread Christmas cheer!



SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Honour Walk



At Circle Project, like many other agencies, the last few years have been very challenging. With the COVID-19 pandemic, so many of the community activities and events that we host each year have had to be canceled or severely scaled back. Thankfully, this year we were finally able to host a few events that proved to be vital to the health and well being of our Indigenous and non-Indigenous community alike.



On National Indigenous People's Day, June 21, 2021 Circle Project and their community partners, Indigenous Christian Fellowship and REACH, hosted an Honour Walk to remember the children who had been lost at Residential schools and out of respect for residential school survivors. The event started at Wascana Park where individuals

gathered to walk across the bridge accompanied by a drum group and Elder. There was a moment of silence and prayer from the Elder on the Albert St. bridge before continuing on to the Saskatchewan Legislative Building where individuals placed teddy bears on the steps of the building. It was our first real event that we had planned and hosted in the community in almost 2 years. It was an incredibly powerful event and we were grateful to have the opportunity to provide this for the community.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, 2021, Circle Project and community partner, Regina Work Prep, hosted an event in honour of the 1st National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

We gathered together at City Square Plaza where the drum group performed an Honour song and our Elder said a prayer and shared her story. Individuals present wrote messages of hope and reconciliation on the 225 cut-outs of orange shirts that were prepared in advance. We seriously underestimated the attendance for the event and within a very short time we ran out of the pre-cut message shirts. Always ready with our plan B, participants were invited to write their messages on the orange tablecloths that were decorating each table. During the event, assigned staff circulated with a four-question survey and whoever filled one out received an orange shirt pin. The surveys collected gave us a snap shot on the public's thoughts around Truth and Reconciliation and the issues facing Indigenous people in the workplace. The event was well received by the community who were continuing to mourn the ongoing discoveries of the unmarked graves at former Residential School sites.



WHAT ELSE HAPPENED THIS YEAR?



We were honoured to be able to host two events this year, the Honour Walk to remember the children and out of respect for Residential School Survivors and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day event. For more information see page 14.



The donation of a new van will help us in our important community work. Thank you to Driven Automotive! Photo of Ann Perry (Executive Director) and Jason Mancelli (Driven Automotive).



We received a donation of new tires from National Tire Distributors and Ward Tirecraft Regina. Thank you for helping keep our littlest participants safe!



FEDEX Regina staff delivering coats to Circle Project through Operation Warm in December, 2021.



Congratulations to Valerie Livingston, winner of our 50/50 draw in June 2021!

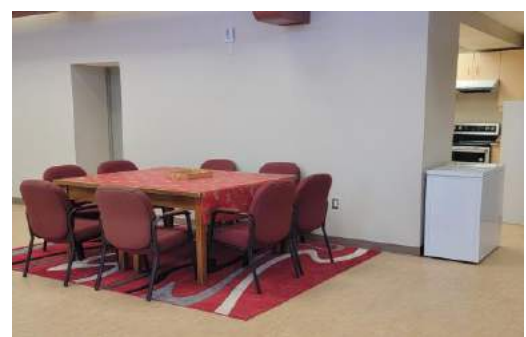
BEFORE & AFTER – A TOUR OF OUR NEW HOME

Outside



Community Room

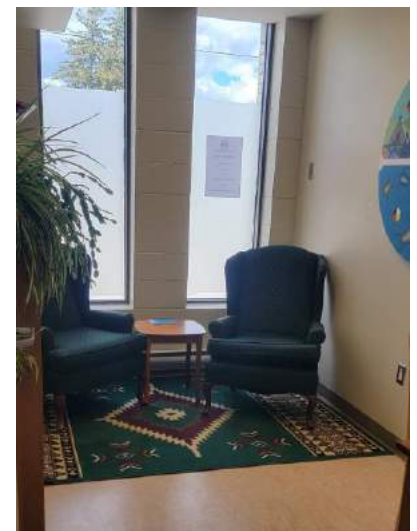
Our new community space will give us different options and opportunities for community programming and activities.



Main Floor

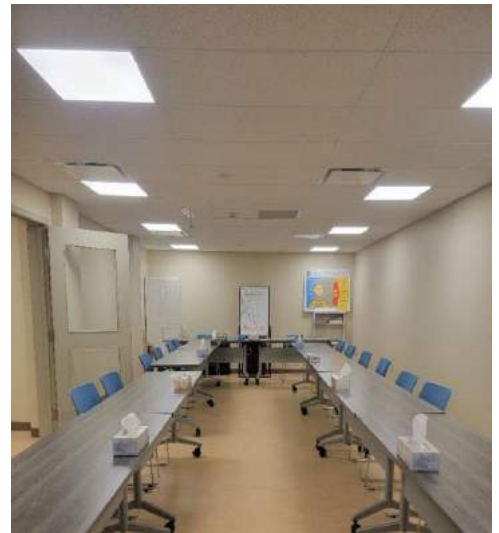
After months of building and construction Circle Project moved into its forever home on November 15th, 2021.

The new drop in area provides a safe place to have a cup of coffee or to use a phone.



Lower Level

The lower level at the Hub provides plenty of room for group sessions and participant engagement.



Upper Level

The upper level contains several areas to support community partnership activities and houses our sacred Circle Room.



NOTES:

2021/2022
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The challenges presented by the worldwide pandemic continued to have an impact on the operations of the Circle Project for most of the year. As reported last year, the organization's focus for the better part of 2021 was the completion of the capital project to create a new permanent home for Circle Project. After several delays and various supply chain issues due to COVID, the construction was finally completed. The move to the new Community & Cultural Hub took place in November 2021. By the fiscal yearend in March 2022, COVID restrictions were lifted. By this time and in preparation for post-pandemic services, the organization successfully attracted new funders to secure the resources needed to deliver new programming at the new Circle Project Hub. Of note this year was the significant increase in donations to support the capital project and our operations. This in turn raised the profile of Circle Project which resulted in more interest in the organization's work by the broader community. The new interest in the work and activities of Circle Project produced greater diversity in donation sources and attracted several new first time donors. As we move into a new era of service delivery on this the eve of our 35th year of operations, the Circle Project has performed well. The organization has consistently and successfully managed the significant risks we faced in the past few years and moved through the significant changes that have occurred. The Circle Project has again this year successfully managed its financial affairs and continued to display a high level of accountability and transparency in the day to day operations and in the ongoing stewardship of the organization. The long standing best practices of setting aside reasonable reserves helped Circle Project successfully maneuver through the challenges and opportunities presented this year.

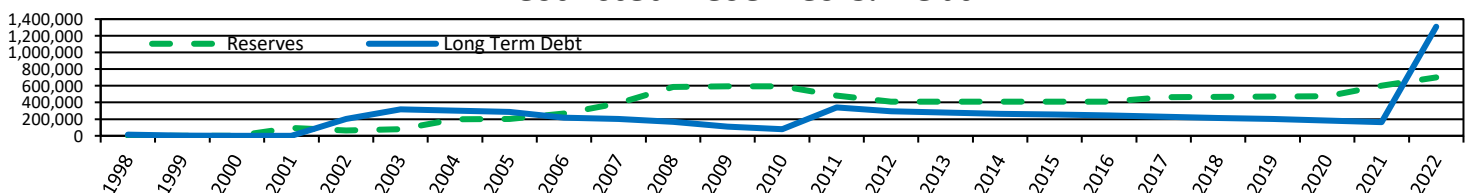
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

As was anticipated, capital assets increased again this year due to the ownership of the new facility to house the Circle Project main offices and adult programming. Over the year, success in writing capital grants resulted in significant contributions to the capital renovations which will be allocated in accordance with contractual obligations and accepted accounting practices for including income of this type. There was a significant increase in the investment account by the end of the year to reflect the increased risk due to the sizable mortgage that we are now responsible for. The movements in assets are consistent with the activities conducted and reflect the changes that occurred throughout the year. The long-term debt increased dramatically to reflect the new ownership and debt of the Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub. Changes in cash were consistent with financial activities in the year.

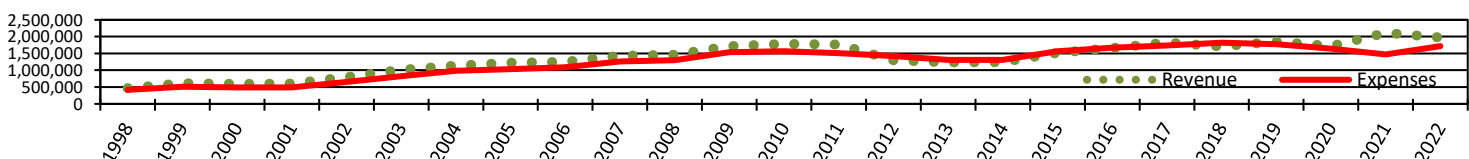
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

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. In the 2021/22 fiscal year there was a decrease in revenues due to the cessation of the various pandemic related grants and supports. Expense totals reflected the organization's activities for the year which included an increase in staffing costs as we made changes within the organization in preparation for the future. The organization showed an overall surplus for the year that helped cover the principle payments of the two mortgages held by Circle Project. Revenues exceeded expenditures this year resulting in ending the year in a positive cash balance position.

Restricted Reserves & Debt



Revenues & Expenditures



Independent Auditors' Report

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

The accompanying summarized financial statements, which comprise the summarized statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, 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, 2022. I expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in my report dated June 23, 2022.

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, 2022 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Regina, Saskatchewan

June 23, 2022



Chartered Professional Accountant

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Assets		
Current		
Cash	1,181,769	1,426,179
Investments	700,574	300,322
Accounts receivable	615,487	321,380
Prepaid expenses	26,902	-
	2,524,732	2,047,881
Capital assets	2,924,929	1,302,716
	5,449,661	3,350,597
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	187,162	150,442
Current portion of long-term debt	49,553	16,416
	236,715	166,858
Deferred contributions – capital assets	1,452,267	758,669
Canada Emergency Benefit Account	-	60,000
Long-term debt	1,309,002	164,141
	2,997,984	1,149,668
Net Assets		
Equity in capital assets	589,107	363,490
Reserves	750,322	750,322
Unrestricted net assets	1,112,248	1,087,117
	2,451,677	2,200,929
	5,449,661	3,350,597

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs	130,974	130,914
Ministry of Education – Early Learning	-	443,993
Ministry of Justice	139,511	138,061
Gov of Saskatchewan	450,147	293,062
City of Regina	35,505	26,400
United Way of Regina	100,000	72,466
REACH	23,700	23,700
Regina Work Prep	25,000	25,000
Summer student grant	5,229	8,281
Namerind Community Entity	61,519	-
CEBA loan forgiveness	20,000	-
Wage subsidy (CEWS)	121,652	320,399
Canadian Women's Foundation	47,252	25,000
Transfer from deferred contributions	7,971	22,449
Transfer to deferred contributions	(25,589)	-
Administration fees	181,395	162,792
Daycare fees	484,723	313,721
Donations	43,987	60,322
Donations – capital assets	71,946	22,384
Grants – other	15,370	-
Memberships	200	16
Reimbursed expense – WCB	19,047	-
Other self-generated	13,794	22,665
	1,973,333	2,111,625
Expenditures		
Activities - special	11,752	15,203
- cultural/community	5,828	6,172
Administration and contracts	181,427	172,498
Advertising	7,836	3,369
Amortization	187,317	94,913
Audit	26,620	7,281
Bad debts	18,599	26,863
Communications	-	18,115
Equipment rental & photocopying	9,876	3,600
Equipment and furnishings	8,666	600
Groceries	17,168	11,271
Honorariums	5,833	-
Hospitality	1,800	1,295
Insurance	26,643	24,079
Interest and bank charges	14,610	6,644
Interest on long-term debt	14,531	7,348
Purchased services	13,929	14,850
Materials and supplies	20,684	23,848
Rent	76,595	88,981
Repairs and maintenance	3,394	9,373
Property taxes	22,688	24,948
Telephone and postage	19,006	16,934
Training	3,036	1,905
Meetings and travel	3,986	5,770
Utilities	27,553	19,924
Vehicles	3,000	1,200
Wages and benefits	986,127	861,859
Workers' compensation	4,081	5,086
	1,722,585	1,473,929
Surplus for the year	250,748	637,696

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, 2021 to March 31, 2022 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 2022 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

City of Regina



Canada



SPONSORS

Driven Automotive
Aware House Books
The KPMG Foundation
Certified Tree Service
Andrew Stevens
Canopy Growth Operation

Loraas Disposal
FedEx
Strathallen
Torchy's Imaging and Embroidery
Gerrand Rath Johnsons LLP
Unifor Local 1-S

FRIENDS

Fat Badger
Blackbird Security
ALFA Engineering
Camp Wolf Willow
Prairie Sky Health
Local Barre Fitness
Synergy Credit Union
Wheelhouse
Assiniboia Gallery
Keon Flamont
Debbie McCaig-Paisig
Janette Kelly
Katelyn Duncan
Noah Wernikowski
Timothy Long
Joni Adamcewicz

Nial Kuyek
Elizabeth Kalmakoff
Roger Petry
Pam Bristol
Michael O'Donell
EMDance Program
Bernadette Kutarna
Andrew Donovan
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U of R Education
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Porche Gunchoski
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Krysten McKay
Maria Hendrika

Gloria Pohjavuori
Maria Burns
Shawn Coates
Susan McKay
Ron Thompson
David and Primrose Sloan
Angela Luron
Lorne Scott
Margaret Wilde
Kyle Toffan
Michael Knoblauch
Claire Dore
Booker T Leigh
Dominique McMillan
Elizabeth Marshall
OWZW Lawyers LLP

*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
3433 5th Avenue S4T 0M1
(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