



...serving the community since 1988

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

3433 5th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 0M1
(306) 347 - 7515
www.circleproject.ca



Torch Awards Winner

Trust • Performance • Integrity

The 2023 Circle Project

ANNUAL REPORT

is dedicated to:

**the North Central
Community**

Thank you for warmly welcoming us to
the neighbourhood. We appreciate your support
and look forward to working with you for
many years to come!

Circle Project Council

Executive

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

Council Members

Jenny Strongeagle
Heather Cote-Soop

Circle Project Staff

Administration

Executive Director: Ann Perry
Operations Manager:
Larissa Anderson
Receptionist: April Redwood
Ashley Dick

Programs

Family Violence:
Brandy Churchill
Manny Pratt
Building Cultural
Competencies:
Larissa Anderson
Housing Matters: Haley Runns
Olivia Gergely

Children's Centre

Manager of Child Care
Services: Tyrah Kaiswatum
Assistant Director:
Kerri Quangtakoune
Early Childhood Educators:
Amanda Froh
Fanta Sanith
Shameela Saidmeeri
Shania Stonechild
Charity Longman
Jocelyn Delorme-Whitequill
Bonny Cardinal
Support Staff/Cook:
Dawn Gordon

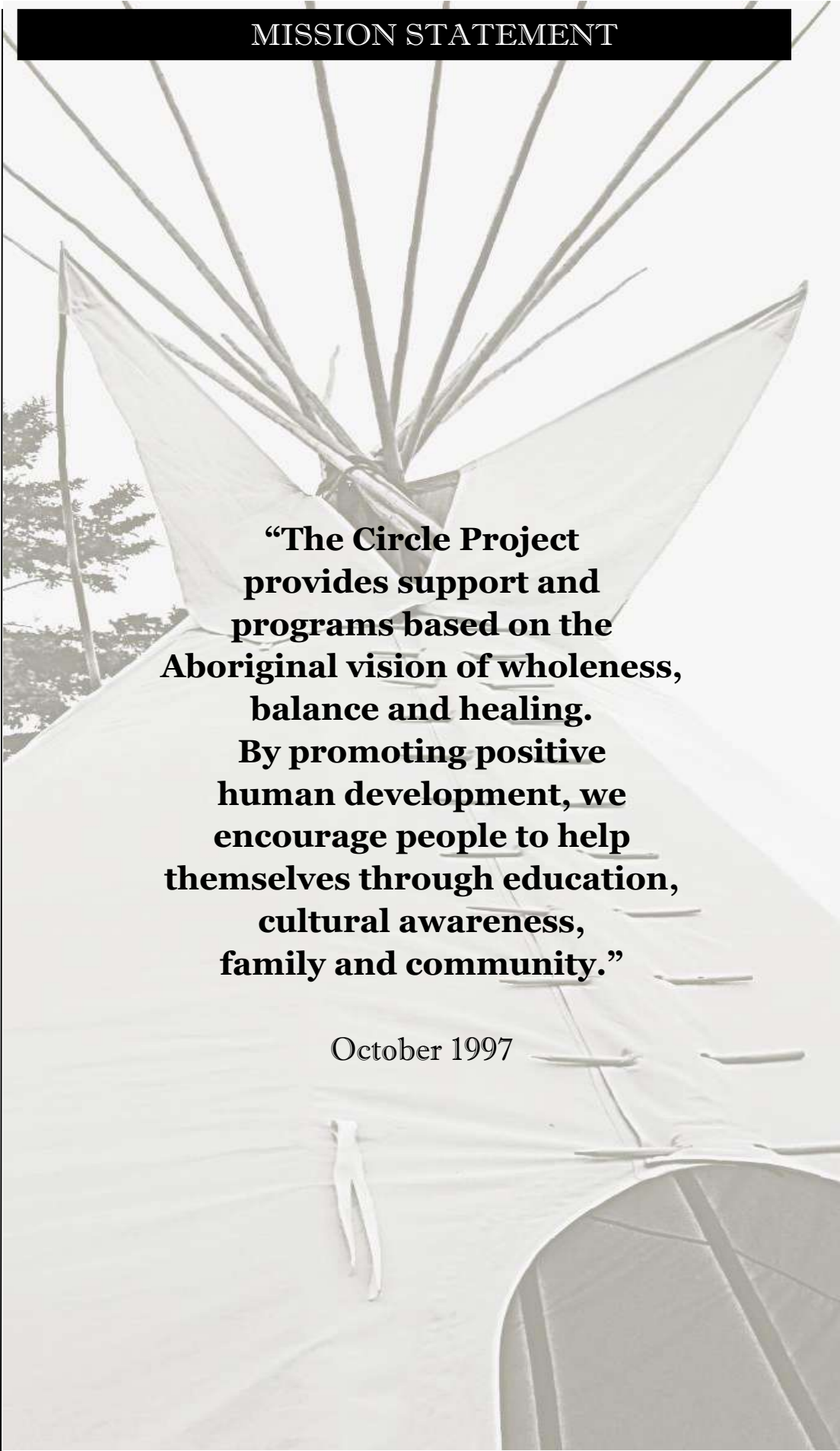
Infant Toddler Centre

Early Childhood Educators:
Taylor Morris
Jessica Mantee
Shirley Stonechild

Thank you!

A special thank you Brandy,
Larissa and Ann for the
excellent work on producing
the 2023 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

"Circle Project has been making a true, positive difference in our community for nearly 35 years. By engaging with Regina's Indigenous community, Circle Project helps individuals and families reach their full potential by offering a wide range of supports and services in a community setting. The work Circle Project does greatly improves the quality of life and social conditions of Indigenous people in our community."

**Evan Bray, Chief of Police,
Regina Police Service**

"The folks at the Circle Project finally have a space worthy of the work they do each and every day. Their holistic approach to the many programs and services they offer, including childcare, do so much to support, celebrate and build up the folks in our community. Thank you to Ann and the Circle Project team."

**The Honourable Meara Conway,
MLA Regina Elphinstone-Centre**

"With many people facing depression and other mental health crisis, complicated by the increased cost of living, Circle Project's services and programs are highly needed, more than ever. Such crucial services play a major role in helping vulnerable families get through these difficult times."

The Honourable Mark Docherty, E.C.S.

"With a location in the heart of North Central, Circle Project will be much better situated to serve their clients and individuals in the surrounding neighborhood."

**Robyn Edwards-Bentz,
CEO United Way**

"Unifor 1-S is a decades long supporter of Circle Project. Cheers to the pillars of our community."

Don Wren

Human Rights Advocate Unifor Local 1-S

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

A special milestone like a significant anniversary gives us the opportunity to take a quiet moment to reflect and remember. From its humble beginnings as a community drop-in program and place for people to gather, Circle Project has come full circle. We are now back in North Central Regina and in our new location at the Circle Project Community & Cultural Hub right in the heart of the neighbourhood. From this location, we have quickly become a valued asset to the neighbourhood...just like it was in 1988 when the Circle Project was created. Many things have changed over the years with some important exceptions. What hasn't changed is the love and understanding we have for the community we serve and the strong ties we have with our Elders and Knowledge Keepers who help guide us. Not to be forgotten is the gratitude we have for the important partnerships we have nurtured over the years (in some cases spanning several decades) and the lasting relationships and friendships we have built with our funders, supporters and sponsors.

It goes without saying that over the many years of community service we have had times of great success. We have also had times of great challenge and faced hardship, not unlike the individuals and families we work with. Through it all we continued forward with optimism and hope that through our unwavering commitment, we can bridge the gaps in our community and make a positive difference...one individual, one family at a time.

This was a year of transition and adjustment to the many recent changes we went through as we settled in to our new home at the Hub. We created new services including our Community Lunch program, serving over 17,000 lunches in just 12 months. We also created the new Community Outreach activities and expanded our programs in working with individuals facing or experiencing homelessness. Our areas of program growth were the Bringing Peace to Relationships program and a redesigned program for our work with youth transitioning to or entering the workforce. We also cautiously returned to hosting large community events and activities post COVID after a long absence.

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

It gives us great pleasure to present the Circle Project's 2023 Annual Report.



Bob Cantin, President



Ann Perry, Executive Director

Community Quotes

"Their vision and plan to create the Circle Project Community & Cultural Hub is exceptional. ... it serves as their new home base of operations, but more importantly, it will provide a safe place where people can learn ways to improve the health and success of their families and community they serve."

Eric Dillon
Former CEO
Conexus Credit Union

"Circle Project offers a unique set of programs that have developed over several decades to serve best the needs of the Indigenous peoples. They meet all sorts of needs of the inner-city community in which they are situated: food security, child care and early learning, family support and well-being, cultural resiliency and broader community safety and inclusivity."

Emily Grafton, PhD
Associate Professor
University of Regina



Participant Quotes

"God bless you guys for the lunches." – F.L.

"I appreciate all of you wonderful people for what you are doing. We wouldn't be around if it weren't for you blessed people, you are appreciated. Thank you so much." – A.Q.

"This is so wonderful that you do this for the people. We are lucky to have you guys!" – T.B.

"It's really good to hear that your organization does so much more for the community, it's definitely needed." – C.A.



COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM

HELPING FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY

The Circle Project Community Lunch program would not be possible without the generous help of their sponsors, volunteers and friends. Without the donations and the time that the volunteers put in, we would not have accomplished our goal of having a successful lunch program.

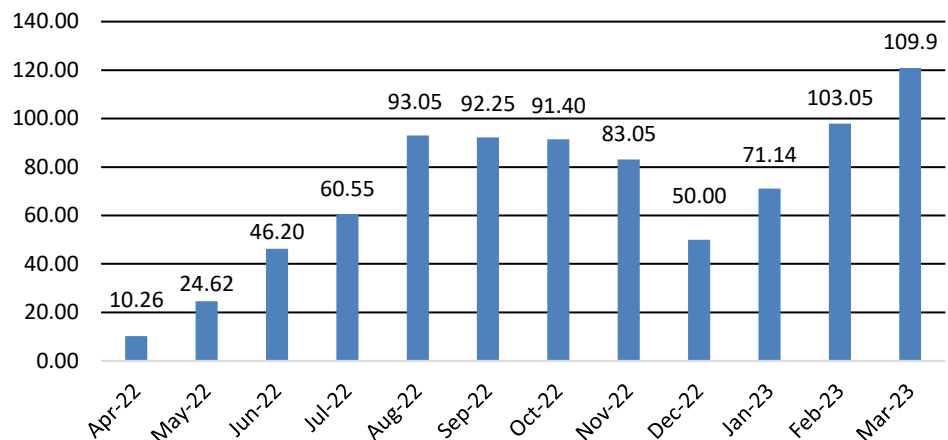
AVERAGE OF
10 BAGS PER DAY, IN OUR
FIRST MONTHS...

...NOW SERVING
OVER **100**
BAGGED
LUNCHES PER
DAY

FROM
APRIL 2022
TO MARCH 2023
CIRCLE PROJECT
WAS OPEN
244 DAYS...

AND THERE WERE
17,000 BAGGED
LUNCHES
DISTRIBUTED

Average Lunches per Day
April 2022- March 2023



Our Sponsors:



G. Murray & Edna Forbes Foundation, Lorne & Evelyn Johnson Foundation and Information Services Corporation

Our Donors:

Keon Flamont
Robert & Bernie Cantin
Safeway Cathedral

Kurtis Becker
Alyssa Klein
Canadian Forces Central Fund

Rhonda Bird
Kerri Quangakoune

Our Volunteers:

We would also like to give a very special thank you to all of our volunteers who dedicate a significant amount of time to help ensure that we are able to support those in need in our community. Thank you!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."
- Gandhi

This past year being at Circle Project's new location in our Community & Cultural Hub we have had the opportunity to meet with many individuals from the North Central community. Through these interactions the needs of the community soon became apparent. The bagged lunch program was the first of the services that were needed. Some other needs that were identified included personal hygiene items, socks, underwear, toques, mitts and condoms. We also started to see an increase in requests for naloxone.

In October 2022 we started handing out personal hygiene kits for men and women. These kits include shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, deodorant, razor, dryer sheets, laundry detergent and sanitary napkins for the women. The hygiene kits are available once a month to any individual requesting them. Once an individual registers they receive their first kit. Between October 2022 and April 2023 we had 82 individuals register for hygiene kits.

Through community partnerships we are able to provide condoms and sexual health information sheets to the public. We can also provide naloxone kits for distribution as needed. We are currently handing out a minimum of 100 condoms per month and two to four naloxone kits per month.

Throughout the year we have also been able to distribute in the community gently used items of clothing, shoes, boots, jackets, toys and books that have been donated by residents of Regina and the surrounding area.

The weather began to change in October and we had more and more requests for winter wear. We noticed so many individuals who were coming in freezing and underdressed. We knew we needed to step in and find a way to provide this service. Through the "Share the Warmth" grant program and numerous donations from the community, Circle Project's Outreach program provided close to 300 items including mitts, toques, socks and underwear to children and adults.

KA WASENAKWAN (IT WILL BE BRIGHT)

Thank you to the National Indian Brotherhood

Ka Wasenakwan, the drug and alcohol harm reduction program, increased our capacity and provided us the opportunity to expand accessibility to our drop-in area where clients are offered addiction support, cultural support and resources, elder teachings and the Community Lunch program.

We have been fortunate to be able to address these areas of need, one at a time, through donations and community partnerships. These new resources have and will continue to expand our support services through outreach in the community.



Snipping Away Stigma Free Haircut Event

This year we hosted two events with our community partners where members of the community could come in and get a free haircut. Through these events people were also provided with access to naloxone kits and training on how to use them, children's activities, lunch and beverages.

Thank you to our partners for helping us to provide this service to the community. We hope to be able to host them again in the future!



Participant Quotes

"I learned the different types of anger and abuse to watch for, how to escape from anger/being angry and how it effects your body and mind." - K.P.

"I learned how to be patient with my kids, partner and family." - M.P.

"I am not just angry, my behaviours need to be checked as well. I need to work on my self-talk because it greatly impacts my feelings and behaviours." - N.P.

"I learned that there is more than one way to deal with anger. I found it very helpful and now I use it to avoid arguments." - G.B.

"I actually learned a lot about myself and when to use the tools I've learned. I learned when to walk away, calm down and then come back to talk things through." - S.G.P.

"I'll always keep what was taught and said in class in my thoughts. I'll look back at my notes. I hope I can help others with their problems." - S.L.

"When I'm at work and things get frustrating I will use the things I've learned from class." - R.

"The most important things I learned from the program are boundaries, that communication is the key and about positive vs. negative feelings." - S.L.

"I plan on using what I have learned and remembering to think before I speak because sometimes things I say can be hurtful" - D.K.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Thank you to the Victims Services Branch - Ministry of Justice

This year, the Family Violence program has been working to overcome the challenges that we faced around the COVID-19 pandemic. We are now settled into our new location and have seen a spike in individuals coming in to the office to register for programming. We are excited to be able to interact with the community every day. Our participants continue to share how much they love the new building and that they enjoy coming to group because it is so warm and inviting.

While we have seen an increase in registrations for the Anger Resolution Techniques (ART) program, we are still facing challenges around participant attendance. This year we served 285 participants, 70% were new participants and 30% were continuing from the previous year. By year end, 65 people successfully completed, more than 100 participants were carried into the new year. A total of 41 participants were discontinued due to attendance issues or inactivity. This year we delivered almost 200 programming hours in house. Another 66 hours of programming was provided as additional sessions for participants that had an occasional missed session due to other commitments, illness or circumstances beyond their control. By providing these additional sessions, we ensure that participants are able to complete the program.

The ART program provides a total of twenty-program hours delivered over nine weeks. After registration, participants are required to participate in the two, one-hour prerequisite modules prior to their participation in the once a week ART program. The program assists individuals in developing techniques to identify anger that can lead to any outburst/aggressive behaviours that could lead up to a violent situation. Participants learn more about 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 for over 25 years.

It has been an honour to be a part of the Circle Project staff that continues to provide leadership in our community. We would like to thank the funders, community partners, Circle Project Elders, Council and Staff for its ongoing support throughout the year. We would especially like to thank Circle Project's leadership team for their ongoing support of our program. This has been a blessing throughout the trying times of the past few years.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Churchill, Family Violence Coordinator
Manny Pratt, Family Violence Co-Facilitator

91% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with the ART program as either Excellent or Good.

BRINGING PEACE TO RELATIONSHIPS

Thank you to the Canadian Women's Foundation

The Family Violence program completed the delivery of its test of the new Bringing Peace to Relationships program in May 2022. This ground breaking program is for female domestic violence offenders only. All of the women who participated in the program test rated their overall satisfaction with the program as either Excellent or Good.

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 had 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. This is why we made the change to begin delivering this female specific program on a continuous intake basis. Our program now takes referrals from the RDVCTO, along with referrals from outside agencies such as Probation Services and Social Services, for example. We also take self-referrals from individuals who are looking for help in making changes to the way they interact with their loved ones.

In September 2022 we began the delivery of the first year of a two-year pilot of the program. The women who participated in the program have all reported that the program has helped them learn about themselves, their behaviours and how to make better choices. They have also shared that they have learned how to develop strategies to deal with conflict that reflects the values of creating peaceful relationships. The program length is 16 weeks in duration with flexibility built in for those who may need more time to complete assignments. It is held once a week for a total of over thirty-two hours per participant. 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 Bringing Peace to Relationships program. As we move into the new year, more women will be given the opportunity to participate.

We are pleased to report that through the support from the funder and the community we were able to successfully deliver this pilot and respond to community need through partnership. Thank you to our Executive Director, Ann Perry for her continued guidance and support of this vital community program, and especially for taking a real interest in helping celebrate the participants' successes by attending every graduation and sharing words of support as they move forward down their new path.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Churchill, Family Violence Coordinator

"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

When asked about the advantages of the all female program J.P. commented, *"You can empower the women. If there were men, I would have shared less or I would have been very careful on how I worded things."* And M.J. commented, *"I felt a lot more comfortable and I made friends."*

When asked about the advantages of the participant lead program, J.P. said, *"You can see that you weren't alone."*

When asked her thoughts on the continuous intake process, J.P. shared, *"It was good to welcome new people in."*

When asked if she would recommend the Bringing Peace to Relationships program to others, M.J. said, *"Yes, because I learned a lot. It helps people to better themselves."*

"I plan to use what I learned every day to be a better parent." – J.P.

Participant Quotes

"Thank you for believing in us. I know it took time but I knew with your help we would accomplish it." – C.L.

"I finally have a home, thank you!" – D.L.

"I heard you talking, offering help to others and I knew in my heart you would be able to help me too." – V.K.

"When I come in here I do my best to come in sober because I respect Circle Project and their staff. I like that you treat us normally and you wear normal clothes too. It makes it relaxing when we come here." – S.P.

"I was thinking of all the people I care about and that bring me good support and I thought of Circle Project. I love you guys!" – C.A.

"Wow you actually listened to what I said and cared about helping me. Thank you so much!" – A.M.

"Having this house for me and my children seemed like a far fetched dream. Thank you Circle Project, for the support and listening ears!" – C.D.

"It's not about what or how much you have, it's about who shows up in your corner. I am always thankful Circle Project shows up!" – V.K.

"I wouldn't have known where to start or what I could have accomplished without your support." – A.M.

"I've never had someone believe in me the way that Circle Project has." – M.P.

HOUSING MATTERS

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

The Circle Project - Housing Matters program was created to help those who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness in Regina. We aim to be a part of the solution of change as we work to reduce the number of people who are facing this challenge. This includes providing a safe place for individuals to access services via drop-in, stopping in for a bagged lunch, to use the phone/fax or to grab a personal hygiene package. We have the opportunity to build trust slowly over time. Once a relationship is established, the individual will begin to share information about their circumstances. This is when we can offer to complete an intake with them and provide them with full access to our housing program.

Our program is an intensive program that works closely with individuals with complex needs. It focuses heavily on ongoing case management to ensure that once a person gets housing, they learn to maintain it. We can continue to work with them for up to a year if needed. This year the Housing Matters program enrolled 52 new participants, 33% of whom have families. There were 13 individuals and 2 families successfully housed. This was double the number that we expected due to the complexity of their situations. We closed 20 files due to inactivity and we will continue to support the remaining 17 participants as we move into the new year.

The Housing Matters program prioritizes high quality care for our participants. One way this is done is to ensure our staff has the necessary training. This year our Housing Coordinator attended Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training to learn how to help keep our participants safe, until further support is available. They also attended the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Toronto, Ontario where they were able to network with other professionals in the field and learn from other organizations from across Canada.

Due to the high-risk lifestyles of some of the participants that we work with, we have faced many challenges this year that caused the fluctuation reflected in our caseload. Sadly, this included death, addictions and incarceration. Over the course of the last year, we also struggled with societal prejudices and a lack of knowledge and understanding in the community around the issues that affect our program participants.

As we move into a new year, we look forward to continuing our work. We will develop programming modules designed to help our participants maintain a home and increase their knowledge about housing, budgeting and practical life skills. We also plan on developing presentations to help educate the general public about the program. We would like to thank our funders, our community partners and our Executive Director, Ann Perry for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Haley Runns, Housing Matters Program Coordinator
Olivia Gergely, Housing Matters Support Worker

BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Thank you to Regina Work Prep and the Co-operators

Building Cultural Competency (BCC) is a learning opportunity to engage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants in gaining a greater understanding of Indigenous history, culture and traditions. This is completed through the delivery of training modules. Modules include traditional teachings that increase opportunities for inclusiveness and cultural experiences all guided by the medicine wheel teachings.

Through the delivery of training sessions, participants gain first-hand knowledge about the history of Indigenous people in Canada through participation in experiential learning opportunities. This includes exposure to teachings from Indigenous Elders or Knowledge Keepers; a vital component of the program and an essential step in true reconciliation.

We are responding to the needs of youth through direct service delivery and strategic community partnerships like the YOWW program. Circle Project is delivering additional programs to ensure young people in the community have access to barrier-free and inclusive service delivery through drop-in services like using a phone, picking up a personal care package, getting a lunch or just having a safe place in the community. Our future plans include exploring the development of expanded cultural programs for youth that will help them reconnect with their culture as a means of positive personal growth and development. These programs will also be of interest to potential employers and will assist young people in our community get on the road to employment... a road that can lead to increased independence and stability.

This is the third year that through a community partnership, we delivered a total of 72 hours of programming. Our goal is to engage the young participants in cultural understanding based on traditional teachings for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth ages 18 to 30 years of age. We host the youth at our Community and Cultural Hub, a culturally safe and appropriate space, for their training. Our hope for the BCC program is that young participants learn new skills and knowledge to make healthier choices and move toward employment with a deeper level of self-esteem and self-worth.

This year 86% of our participants successfully completed the program. The remaining 14%, were discontinued due to either securing employment or moving on to other programming. Close to 70% of those who we worked with us this year self-declared as Indigenous and 76% of these individuals shared that they were intergenerational survivors of Residential Schools.

We look forward to new opportunities in the 2023/2024 year to share culture awareness and reconciliation as we bridge the gaps in our community through building cultural understanding.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Anderson
Operations Manager

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

Participant Quotes

"My favourite part of today was having a smudge as it relaxed my mind and I was able to focus better." – H.L.

"My favourite thing we did today was the opportunity to learn about Indigenous culture." – B.S.

"I learned that balance needs to be all encompassing in your life. Your attitude has a large effect on your life." – K.K.

"I learned that it's never too late to reconnect with your culture, no matter what you have been through." – H.L.

"I learned that life isn't going to wait around for you, that keeping care of yourself is the most important thing in a workplace." – P.M.

"I am going to work on having better time management when things need to get done." – H.L.

"I enjoyed speaking with all the people and the Circle was also very cool and a new thing for me." – N.A.

"Today I learned that the thoughts you have towards yourself and others hold a lot of power. Whenever I'm being mean to myself, replace it with four positive thoughts from the four aspects of the medicine wheel." – H.L.



From the Mouths of Babes

A.D. shared *"I dress up in Pow Wow, it's at home in my closet."*
When asked where do you dance pow wow? He replied *"With my Kokum"*

"No! A Kihew do like this."
N.D. then made a high pitch screeching sound like an eagle.

As his friend was leaving to go home, G.K. said *"Bye R.S. see you tomorrow at work Ok!"*

One of the staff shared that they were wearing "antique" earrings. H.S.S. remarked *"Oh, you're wearing Auntie earrings!"*

"Look, a green hopper!" While looking at all the grasshoppers outside in the backyard. – A.D.

"Wow, you got dressed all by yourself. Good job Mr. Man!"
said the teacher to O.K.B. He replied *"I'm not a man, I'm O.K.B.!"*

"I love popcorn and movie days with my friends at daycare!" – E.S.

C.N. said *"I want to be a cowboy when I get big."* The teacher said *"Oh wow, do you want to live on a farm and have animals?"* C.N. replied *"No, a cowboy singer!"*

"I'm a dinosaur, my sister a witch." – A.D. during the centre's Halloween celebrations.

B.L. said *"Look its Peyak,"* (number 1 in Cree) as he points into the potty. He had just started potty training and to learn how to count in Cree.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

The Circle Project Children's Centre and the Circle Project Infant and Toddler Centre are both operated under the umbrella of Circle Project as off-site programs. Both Centres are licensed by the Ministry of Education; Early Learning and Child Care Branch for a combined 106 spaces for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years old.

There are very few Indigenous led child care options in the City of Regina, but our Child Care Centres are two of them. In keeping with Circle Project's mission statement, our Child Care Centre's services are based on the Indigenous vision of wholeness, balance, and healing. This ensures that each child is provided with activities that focus on their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual development. At our Centres, the children experience a variety of daily activities, including story/circle time, arts and crafts in a culturally immersive environment. The children also get to enjoy our beautiful, recently upgraded outdoor spaces that include beautifully landscaped designs that provide opportunities for exploration. The flower and vegetable gardens are a big hit with the children who help to care for them. Our spaces also include play structures, music areas and sand pits that provide opportunities for creative play. We also have a special artificial grass area that was designed with the smallest of our children in mind, so they are able to get fresh air and play safely in the outdoors.

As we continue moving forward in our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, our centres continue to offer an immersive cultural program, Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program at no additional charge to the families.

All our staff are certified Early Childhood Educators are continuing their education in obtaining their credentials in Early Childhood Education or Leadership and Management training. The well trained and dedicated staff create the environments and the programming for the children. They also have the most direct impact in our child care programs on a daily basis.

I would like to acknowledge all the Staff at both Centre for their compassion and hard work that they bring into the Centres each and every day. They are truly the heart of the Centre and strive every day to deliver the best quality care. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Ann, Larissa and the Council for their continued support. Thank you for being there, and always providing guidance when needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyrah Kaiswatum
Manager of Childcare Services

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS

Thank you to the Sask Knights of Columbus and Circle Project

Tansi! The Culture Connections for Kids Program (CCK) was created for preschool children enrolled at our Centres. Our focus is to provide a culturally appropriate program around culture, language, traditions and values. It is crucial in creating a foundation for a child's cultural identity and self-worth. We want the children in our care to feel confident in who they are and where they may come from.

The program is developed and delivered by our Early Childhood Educators and with the assistance of our community helpers and Knowledge Keepers. Our Educators have completed extra training for themselves to learn the Cree language. This has improved the children's Cree vocabulary as many language learning opportunities are created daily. Our Educators are incorporating more interesting ways to teach aspects of the Indigenous culture. These styles of teaching have increased the children's knowledge, kept the children engaged in the learning and provided many "teachable" moments.

Mother Earth is a significant part of Indigenous culture. The children spend a significant amount of time in talking circles discussing the benefits of taking care of Mother Earth. The children learn that if we nurture Mother Earth, we will be provided with food and water to live. This is one of the many teaching the children learn. Children also learn about the medicine wheel as a representation of all aspects of life and that in full circle, we are all connected.

Our Elder Margaret Rockthunder is on site at the Children's Centre location every two weeks. The children enjoy her visits and love hearing and learning from her. The warmth and knowledge of an Elder is of very high importance to Indigenous people. We are very grateful to have her present for the children as well as the staff.

Hiy Hiy,
Tyrrah Kaiswatum
Manager of Childcare Services

This year the children have learned a new song in Cree called "Wake Up", that has now become a part of their morning circle time. Each day one of the children is selected to lead the Cree Prayer and/or "O Canada" in Cree and each of them do so well with this. The other children join in after the lead starts. When Kokum Margaret, our program Elder, comes in for her visits she has shared how she is so impressed with the children's language development.



Parent Quotes

"I like hearing my son sing in Cree and now he says the prayer at home." – C.K.

"I was just admiring your Cree songs. We talk and listen to some Cree at home too, it's so nice to hear you girls teaching Cree at daycare also." – N.O.

"I appreciate how great the staff are with communicating with the parents. My other daycare was not like that at all." – J.W.

"It has been an honour to have had my child attend your centre. I felt very safe with him attending and confident in the educators and the attention to his needs." – M.P.

"I'd like to thank Circle Project for taking such good care of our son. We truly appreciate everything the staff has done for us. We will miss all of you!" – K.W.

"I love the teacher that is working with my daughter and teaching her sign language it is really helping her communicate." – S.A.

"My kids never want to be late for daycare. They do not want to miss the rocket ship!" After meal times the kids sit in their rocket ships (the lockers) do a count down and blast off to the room. – S.D.

"So nice to stop in and see all you girls in person, it's been awhile. Thank you for taking such good care of my grand babies, it means a lot." – A.R.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

National Indigenous People's Day Community BBQ

In the 2022 program year we were once again unable to host our National Indigenous People's Day (NIPD) event in Grassick Playground with our community partners. Instead, we hosted a smaller free Community BBQ in front of our new building. This was a great way to thank the North Central neighbourhood for welcoming us to the community.

The BBQ had over 500 people in attendance. We were very excited to be able to surprise the community with a special performance by Juno award winning R&B artist JRDN (Jordan Curchor). Even though we had quite a downpour of rain and some of the crowd left as soon as they got their food, many of the others stuck around, braving the weather to watch the entertainment. Some hid under the canopy's, while others sang and danced in the rain.

Even though the event was smaller than our usual NIPD event, it was still a lot of work. Thankfully we had a lot of help from some of our partners in the community. We had volunteers assist with the setup, serving and clean up. We also had some extra help from some old friends who helped to grill the hotdogs. Thank you to our volunteers for all the help because we really needed it as we served a total of 500 hotdogs, chips and water in approximately 45 minutes. Thank you to the community for helping us celebrate National Indigenous People's Day!

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Thanks to Celebrate Canada

On September 30, 2022, Circle Project and their community partner hosted an Honour Walk and awareness event in honour of the 2nd Annual National Truth and Reconciliation Day Memorial Walk and Awareness Event at Victoria Park in downtown Regina. This important event was well received by the community who were continuing to mourn the ongoing discoveries of the unmarked graves at former Residential School sites.

The event began with a prayer from our Elder and land acknowledgements by our Oskapios (cultural helper). It was quite an impressive visual as the approximately 250 participants followed the Lone Creek drum group who led the Honour Walk with songs and the beats of the hand drums. The walk ended beside the Circle Project tipi which represented the traditional home of the Indigenous peoples. Once the walk was completed, individuals were invited to write their messages of reconciliation on orange shirt cut-outs which were then hung up on a display. A total of 301 shirts were filled out, 202 messages, 33 children's drawings and 66 names on them. Surveys were once again distributed amongst those present and they provided a snap shot on the public's thoughts around Truth and Reconciliation and the issues facing Indigenous people in the workplace. Thank you to the community for coming together in solidarity to honour those impacted by Residential Schools.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Circle Project Children's Annual Christmas Party Thanks to UNIFOR Local 1-S

There was so much joy and excitement as we were all finally able to come together and celebrate after such a long absence. Thank you to the families from our Childcare Centres and our programs for coming out to celebrate with us!

Our Children's Christmas Party was held at the Mamaweyatitan Centre on December 10, 2022. Everyone was welcomed by Executive Director Ann Perry and Council President Bob Cantin. Families were invited to participate in the family friendly and free activities that were made available. Jeff Cappo led us in prayer before everyone ate the brunch that was delivered to them by Circle Project staff and volunteers.

The musical entertainment was provided by the Lone Creek Culture Club and Christmas carols sung by Brian Sklar and his band mates. The children and their families enjoyed a magic show which was followed by the magician and his partner creating balloon sculptures for the children. There was also face painting and out in the hall, children were provided with art materials to create Christmas crafts of their choice. An activity that has always been a family favourite is the free family photos. Our volunteers helped with the printing to make sure families could take their pictures home with them. And last, but certainly not least of all was the man of the hour, Santa Claus himself! All the children had the opportunity to visit Santa and received a goodie bags provided by his Elves. Each child in attendance received a wrapped gift, thanks to the support we had from our friends at Unifor.

Circle Project 35th Anniversary Pipe Ceremony, Feast and Round Dance

This year we celebrate our 35th anniversary. With the guidance and direction of our Elders, we began our celebratory year with a pipe ceremony, feast and round dance. Our staff and Council were happy to roll up their sleeves and help out any way they could in recognition of protocol and in appreciation for the organization and the community.

After a three year absence, it was wonderful to watch the community dance, to listen to the drummers and to hear the numerous female singers as they all helped us to celebrate. Smiles, laughter and blessings were abundant as we enjoyed the time together, dancing and singing way into the night. We ended the night by sharing a special cake with the attendees.

In spite of challenges we faced due to the size of the crowds our staff and volunteers did a great job ensuring everyone was kept safe.

We would like to thank Elder Sam Isaac for leading us in prayer and ceremony to start in a good way. A special thanks to our volunteers for the extra help and the Circle Project staff who worked so hard to host such a wonderful ceremony and make the event a great success and a memorable moment to share with the community!

Event Photos



"This party was so nice to come to with my son. I love getting him out. Thank You!" – J.W.



"This was so nice coming to the Christmas Party. I'm glad we made it." – G.W.



YEAR AT A GLANCE

Interagency Veggie Chili Cook Off

We were so excited to get together with our friends in the community to participate once again in the Interagency Veggie Chili Cook Off hosted by Indigenous Christian Fellowship (ICF). Thank you ICF for the chance to flex our chopping and cooking skills!

The veggie chili is always a spicy challenge, making a pot that looks and tastes great... without meat! Well we are always ready to cook some chili and that day we rose to the challenge. Our pot, "The Chili Experience" swept the competition, winning all categories. Thank you to our worthy competitors and we look forward to sampling your pots at the next competition!



Visit from Minister Daniel Vandal

On July 6, 2022 the Honourable Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency came to Circle Project for a tour of our new building and to officially announce the funding that we received in support of our new building and the important community work that we do here. For more information please go to:

<https://leaderpost.com/news/saskatchewan/rcmp-heritage-centre-to-be-among-beneficiaries-of-federal-funding>.



Donation of Artwork

Ron Ewenin stopped by Circle Project to make a donation of a piece of artwork that he completed. It now hangs above the seating of our reception area. Thank you Ron!



Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal

This year we were excited to learn that Circle Project's very own Executive Director, Ann Perry was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal. Congratulations Ann on all of your hard work leading us in our good work in the community!



Run for Regina 2022

Circle Project was chosen by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Regina for the donation from the Run for Regina event that they held in the fall 2022. Several of our staff went out on the very blustery cold fall day and walked in the event to express their appreciation.

STAFF & COUNCIL BRUNCH SERVICE AWARDS

Staff and volunteer turnover can significantly impact the effectiveness and capacity of an organization. At Circle Project we have been very fortunate in building solid tenure with both staff and volunteers. We are so grateful for the commitment shown and show our gratitude through service awards. This year was particularly significant as we have been unable to come together and host our Staff and Council Brunch the last few years due to the COVID 19 pandemic and in our efforts to minimize risks for our staff and the community. We were so excited to come together at Christmas this year to acknowledge our staff and Council for their commitment to the success of Circle Project.

5 Years of Service

Brandy Churchill (7 years) Jenny Strongeagle (5 years)

10 Years of Service

Sam Isaac (11 years) Tyrah Kaiswatum (10 years)

15 Years of Service

Amanda Froh (18 years) Larissa Anderson (18 years)

20 Years of Service

Rhonda Bird (20 years) Jeff Cappel (20 years)

25 Years of Service

Ann Perry (27 years) Bob Cantin (27 years) Kerri Quangtakoune (26 years)

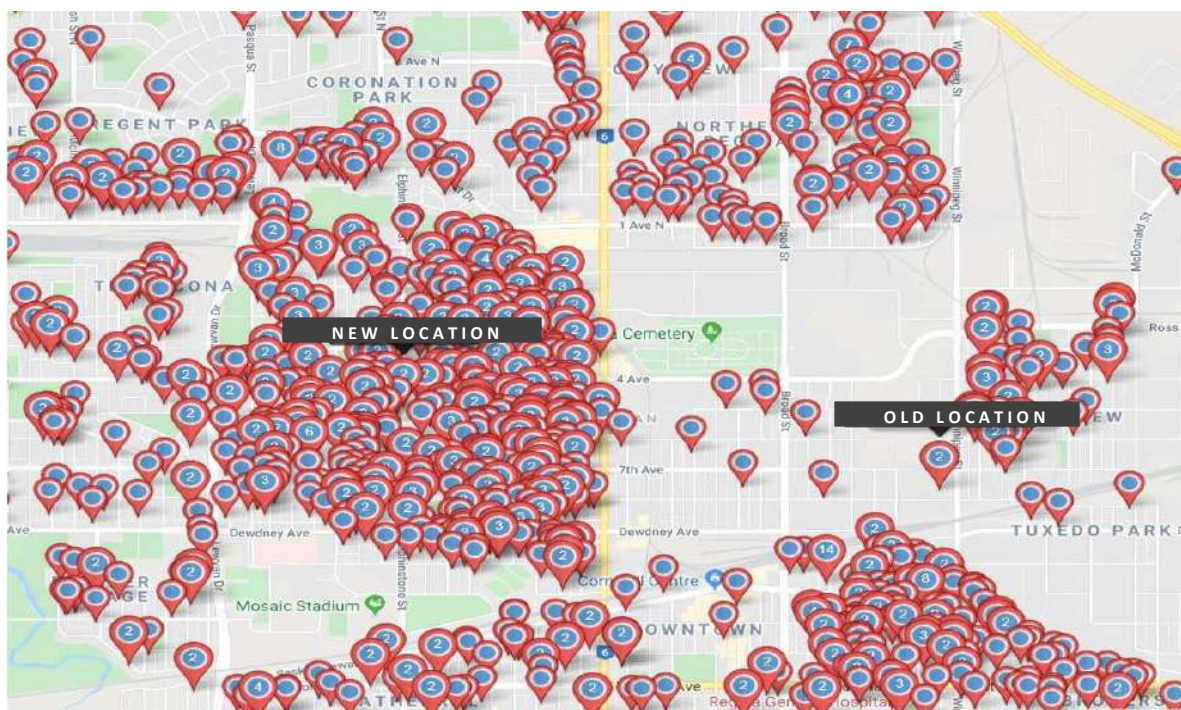
30 Years of Service

Fanta Sanith (30 years)

Thank you all for your combined 219 years of service! We look forward to celebrating many more years with you!



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 has also help reduce transportation barriers for participants.

THANK YOU TO HUB SPONSORS!!

Canada

conexus
Credit Union



Prairies Economic
Development Canada

Développement économique
Canada pour les Prairies

An Anonymous
Donor

Namerind
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WESTRIDGE
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City of Regina | REGINA
Infinite Horizons

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.

2022/2023

FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

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.

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, 2023, 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, 2023. I expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in my report dated August 22, 2023.

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

August 22, 2023



Chartered Professional Accountant

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current		
Cash	3,605,757	1,832,343
Marketable securities	127,946	50,000
Accounts receivable	50,128	588,743
Prepaid expenses	2,791	26,902
	3,786,622	2,497,988
Capital assets	2,757,072	2,924,929
	6,543,694	5,422,917
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	237,400	187,162
Deferred contributions	169,380	-
Current portion of long-term debt	62,812	49,553
	469,592	236,715
Deferred contributions – capital assets	2,394,502	1,452,267
Long-term debt	892,586	1,309,002
	3,756,680	2,997,984
Net Assets		
Equity in capital assets	422,124	589,107
Reserves	750,322	750,322
Unrestricted net assets	1,614,568	1,085,504
	2,787,014	2,424,933
	6,543,694	5,422,917

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs	130,974	130,974
Ministry of Justice	142,301	139,511
Gov of Saskatchewan	1,209,466	450,147
City of Regina	30,000	35,505
United Way of Regina	74,000	100,000
REACH	23,700	23,700
Heritage Canada	10,000	-
NIB Trust	87,138	-
Regina Work Prep	25,000	25,000
Co-operators	25,000	-
Summer student grant	1,814	5,229
Namerind Community Entity	95,267	61,519
CEBA loan forgiveness	-	20,000
Wage subsidy (CEWS)	-	88,908
Canadian Women's Foundation	95,000	47,252
Transfer from deferred contributions	5,412	7,971
Transfer to deferred contributions	(225,166)	(25,589)
Daycare fees	272,583	484,723
Donations	115,587	43,987
Donations – capital assets	75,305	77,946
Grants – other	-	15,370
Memberships	29	200
Reimbursed expense – WCB	-	19,047
Interest	63,174	6,454
Other self-generated	17,497	7,308
	2,274,081	1,765,162
Expenditures		
Activities - special/cultural/community	47,773	17,580
- lunch program groceries	30,958	-
Advertising	7,793	7,836
Audit	32,832	26,620
Bad debts	4,892	18,599
Bank charges	4,107	14,610
Groceries	34,698	17,168
Honorariums	5,928	5,833
Hospitality	2,400	1,800
Insurance	28,252	26,643
Office supplies	25,343	21,935
Materials and supplies	22,766	21,345
Facility costs	288,408	285,318
Repairs and maintenance	18,176	3,394
Property taxes	16,904	22,688
Training	11,513	3,036
Meetings and travel	3,600	6,986
Utilities	52,063	46,559
Vehicles	4,300	3,000
Wages and benefits	1,259,471	986,127
Workers' compensation	9,823	4,081
	1,912,000	1,541,158
Surplus for the year	362,081	224,004

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Circle Project has again successfully managed its financial affairs and continued to display a high level of accountability and transparency in the day to day operations in 2022/23. The ongoing stewardship of the organization and long-standing best practices of setting aside reasonable reserves continued to help stabilize the organization. These proven practices also helped Circle Project successfully maneuver through the challenges and opportunities presented this year. The organization has consistently and successfully managed all risks that arose through well-developed policies, procedures and risk management strategies.

Over the past few years we faced unprecedented changes and challenges ranging from the impacts of the worldwide COVID pandemic to successfully launching a major capital campaign (in the middle of a pandemic) to completely renovate a donated building to create the new Circle Project Community and Cultural Hub. Of note this year was the significant increase in donations to support the capital campaign, our programs and operations and our new community lunch program. The lunch program has 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 our 35th year of operations, the Circle Project has performed well and is well positioned to continue to serve the community.

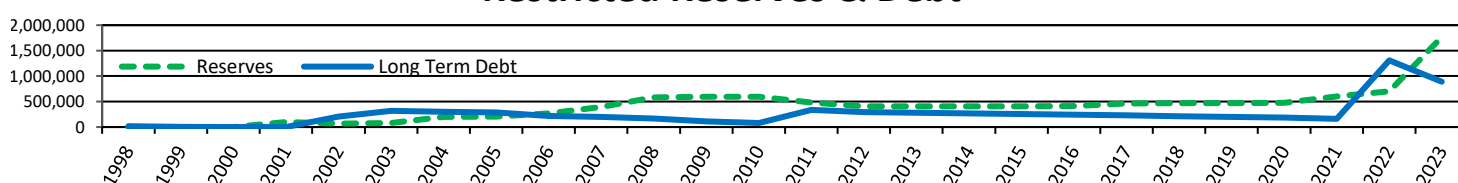
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Capital assets increased again this year due to impacts of the ownership of the new facility to house the Circle Project. The receipt of additional funds to support capital renovations of the other facilities owned by Circle Project was unexpected and also had an impact on the increase in assets. Continued success in writing capital grants resulted in significant contributions to the capital renovations which will be allocated in accordance with accepted accounting practices for including income of this type. The funds set aside in investment account remained the same and will be increased in the upcoming year given the new risk assumed with the responsibilities for maintenance of facilities. 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 stemming from the ownership of the building to house the Circle Project Community & Cultural Hub. Changes in cash were consistent with financial activities in the year.

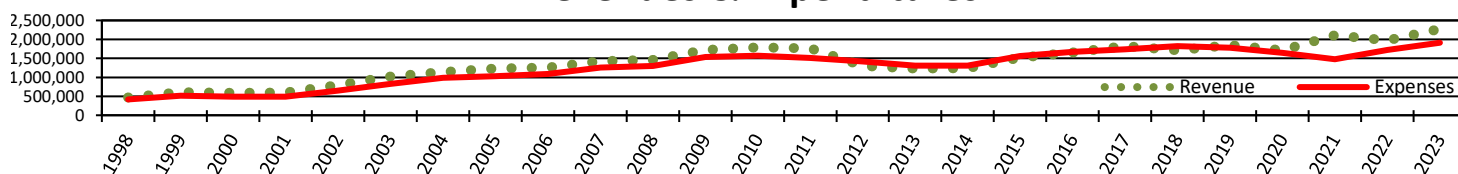
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

In the past twelve months, revenue rose by over 28% while expenditures rose 24% in the same time period resulting in a moderate increase in revenue over expense surplus. Operational revenues and expenditures for individual adult programming stayed consistent for the year. The biggest contributing factor to the significant increase to reported revenues was the financial shift that occurred at the two offsite licensed daycares operated by Circle Project. This was due to the provincial move to \$10/day for daycare fees for all parents. 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



NOTES:

NOTES:

FUNDERS



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada



Government
of
Saskatchewan



United Way
Regina

An Anonymous
Donor



Canadian
Heritage Patrimoine
canadien



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Hope's Home
Unifor Local 1-S
Indigenous Solidarity Fund

Kevin & Annette Brosinsky Family
Foundation Inc.
Blue Cross
Regina Police Service
Andrew Stevens

FRIENDS

Sasktel	Debbi McCaig-Paisig	Loraas Disposal	GDI Suntep Regina
Aware House Books	Saskatchewan Crop	Music Performance Trust	Kyles Transport
Noah Wenikowski	Insurance Corp	Regina BID	Sacred Heart Community
Anonymous – Canada	Mathew McIntyre	City Kidz	School
Helps	Steven Brown	Margaret Becker	Scott Collegiate
Dominique McMillan	Donald Ross	High Noon Optimist Club	Casino Regina
Elizabeth Marshall	Lana Caufield	Margaret Rockthunder	Isaiah Isnana
Ivan Slywka	Amy Ranken	James R. Heck	Marsha Joyea
Good Spirit Kombucha	Bevevity Giving Platform	Tom Kraemer	Jacques & Sharma
Grasslands Ventures	Bob & Bernie Canton	Ron Ewenin	Decorby
Graham Holslander	Indigenous Christian	Lone Creek Culture Club	Amanda Pratt
Crystal Holslander	Fellowship	Harvest City Church Life	Dwayne Aisaican
Nikki Hipkin	Camp Wolf Willow	Group	Manny Pratt
Jimmy & Jane	Fred Clipsham	Aids Program South	
Sheena Folvovic	MUNCH Catering	Saskatchewan (APSS)	

*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