



...serving the community since 1988

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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



Torch Awards Winner

Trust • Performance • Integrity

The 2024 Circle Project
ANNUAL REPORT

is dedicated to:

Joni Adamcewicz
(1939 – 2023)

Your involvement and dedication to the healing of
the community will be missed and remembered.

&

Our Community Partners

Family Service Regina

&

Regina Work Prep

Together we can accomplish great things!

Circle Project Council

Past President: Bob Cantin
President: Rhonda Bird
Vice President:
Heather Cote-Soop
Treasurer: Fred Clipsham
Secretary: Keon Flamont
Member: Jenny Strongeagle

Circle Project Staff

Administration

Executive Director: Ann Perry
Operations Manager:
Larissa Anderson
Admin Assistant:
April Redwood
Receptionist: Lexi Gibson

Programs

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

Children's Centre

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

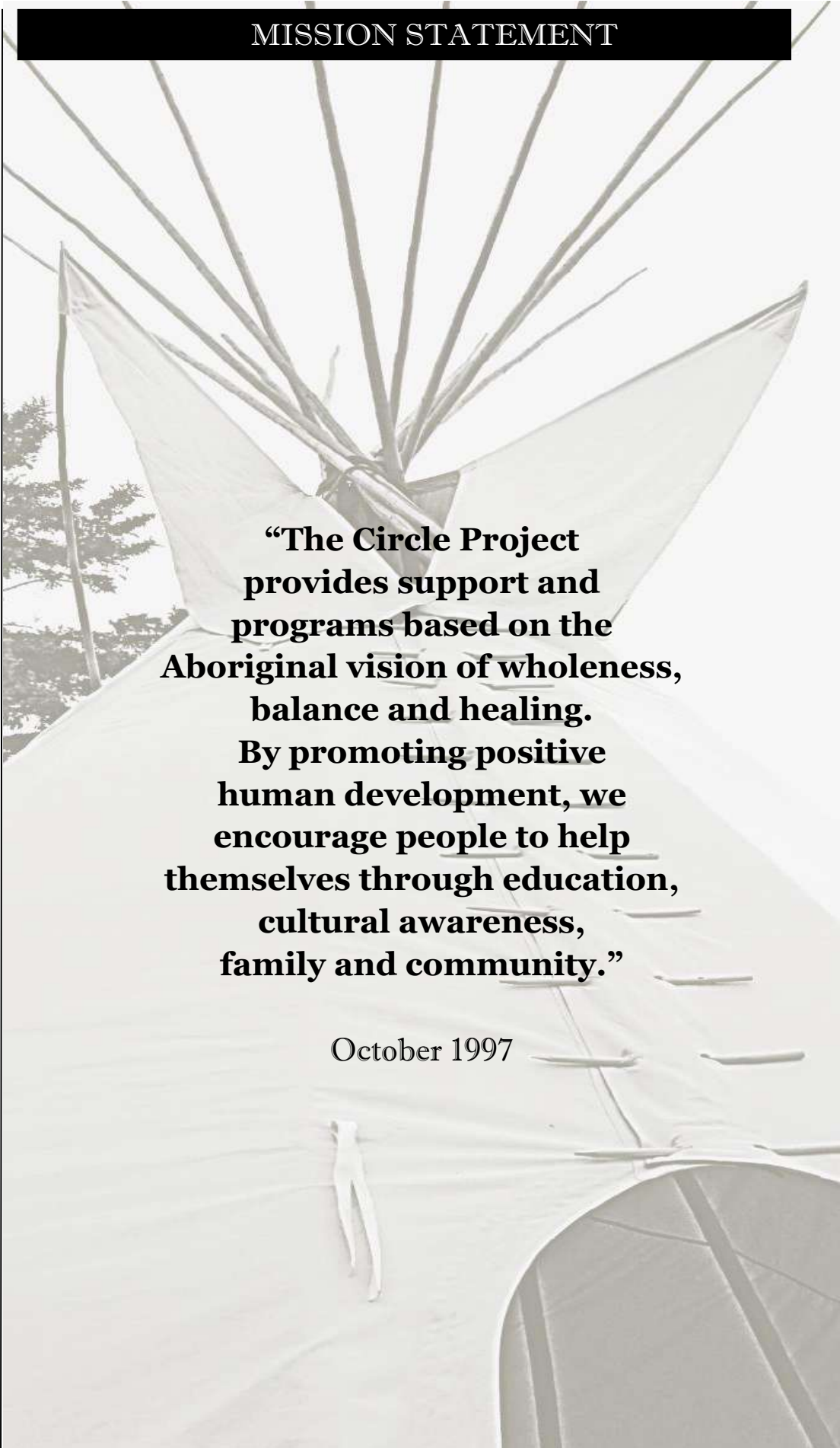
Infant Toddler Centre

Early Childhood Educators:
Taylor Favel
Jessica Mantee
Makenzie Moran

Thank you!

A special thank you to Brandy and Ann for the excellent work on producing the 2024 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

A Visitor From Afar

"It was with great pleasure that I was welcomed back into the Circle Project 31 years after having been a volunteer here. Fast forward to today, and I'm delighted to see the Project in such good order and still relevant – though I am a little saddened to see that the problems are still so evident and that the Project's approach, ethos and reach have not been more widely adopted.

I was repeatedly struck by how flexible the Project is, both in its intelligent design of space, but also in its ability to serve need. As mentioned above, this seems to be one of the benefits of being rooted in Native values and away from broader policy frameworks.

The Centre has heart – and of this, you should all be proud. It is a welcoming, respectful and non-judgemental place, offering complex support for different areas of the community in a seemingly simple way. Simplicity almost always belies the complexity from which it is born.

So what a delight for me to see such a well-designed, immaculate and respectful place, with any number of small innovations amounting to an overall environment that feels like a pool of calm at the heart of a community that is anything but.

Well done Ann and her team – whatever accolades they have, they are well deserved. As trustees, please remain involved and maintain your passion – it is a thankless role at times, but one that allows and supports meaningful change."

Joe Hedges
UK

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 RHONDA BIRD, PRESIDENT AND ANN PERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Thank you to Indigenous Services Canada, Anonymous Donor and
City of Regina**

Welcome friends once again we have the pleasure to invite you to join us in taking a look back at Circle Project's 2023/24 year! To our program participants, membership and the community at large, you have our heartfelt thanks for allowing us the privilege of providing service to you. Sincere appreciation to our community partners, funders and sponsors for your ongoing support and encouragement. Please take the time to read the entire report as it reflects on the day to day operations and activities of the organization in a unique way.

The Circle Project worked hard this year to expand the community partnerships that are so important to the way we work in the community. In addition to increasing our volunteer opportunities through the community lunch and outreach programs, our community events were back in full swing for the first time in many years. Each event and special time of the year provided us with a chance to add to our collection of good memories of working in and for the community. We connected with old friends and deepened our long enduring relationships with our community partners. We also had the opportunity to engage in exploratory discussions with some of our newer partners as we look toward increasing our reach in the community.

Overall, excellent progress was made this year in all program delivery areas in spite of some of the challenges that were presented. One of the unexpected opportunities that arose was the through one of our sponsors who graciously included us in a Indigenous Youth Employability Gathering in Banff, AB. The two youth that were selected to attend had the trip of a lifetime and both stayed connected with Circle Project as staff. This year, Circle Project once again demonstrated a high level of competence, maturity and resiliency in delivering services, managing risks and moving forward in a positive way.

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

It gives us great pleasure to present the 2024 Circle Project's Annual Report.



Rhonda Bird, President



Ann Perry, Executive Director



Some fun under the sun!



We love playing in the sand.



Pow Wow fancy shawl dancing.



Enjoying a cultural activity.

Participant Quotes

"You guys are so warm in here. Have a great day!" – C.J.

A gentleman who comes in for lunches regularly said,
"Thank you for what you are doing for the community. I am currently third on the waiting list to get into detox." – R.H.

For well over a year, F.L. comes in a couple times a month. Every few months she makes a point to come in to donate \$10. She says, *"I can't give much but it's the thought that counts. Thank you for the lunches, it helps us that don't have a lot."*

"Everyone here is so friendly." – C.C.

"You are my support team and the highlight of my day!" – B.S.

"It feels safe here." – A.S.



Volunteers from Casinos Regina & Moose Jaw helping make lunches.



Volunteers from Co-operators helping make lunches and sort clothing.



COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM

"by the Community..."

It is important to have this vital food security program available in the community. We know how many people rely on this program and how it is important that the Hub is open consistently, Monday – Friday (excluding holidays).

Circle Project's 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.

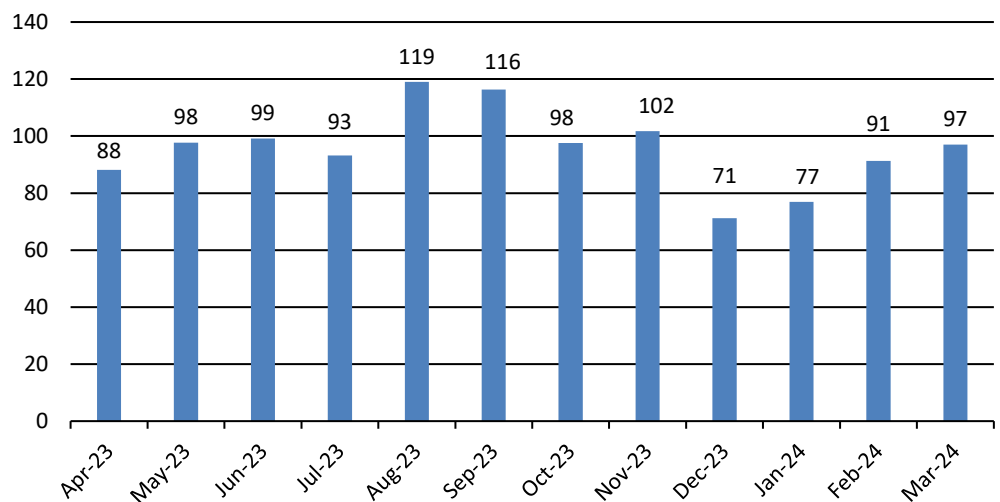
FROM
APRIL 2023
TO MARCH 2024
CIRCLE PROJECT
WAS OPEN
246 DAYS...

AND THERE WERE
23,620 BAGGED
LUNCHES
DISTRIBUTED in
2023/24

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

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

Avg lunches served per day

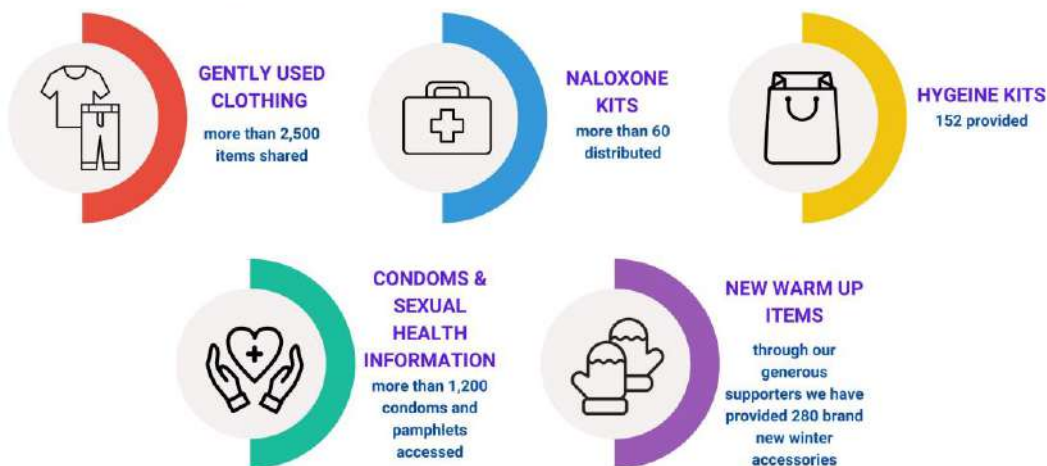


for the Community”

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelou

Circle Project’s Community Outreach program was created to provide support to individuals in our community who are the most vulnerable; primarily Indigenous adults and children who are living at or below the poverty line. It is incredibly important that support is provided in a thoughtful and respectful manner, without judgement or the attachment of labels. When we can build trust and relationships with vulnerable individuals, we can connect with them in meaningful ways. When individuals trust us, they are more willing to share their challenges. We are then able to assist them directly by providing our resources or indirectly by connecting them with the appropriate outside programs or services.

Items distributed in 2023/24 through our Community Outreach program.



Our Sponsors:



G. Murray & Edna Forbes Foundation, Lorne & Evelyn Johnson Foundation

Our Donors:

Casinos Regina & Moose Jaw
306 Energy Liability Ltd.
Safeway Cathedral
Robert & Bernie Cantin
Jump.ca Wireless
Kiara Botkin

Sask Blue Cross
Scott Collegiate
Munch Catering
Fred Clipsham
Keon Flamont
SaskEnergy

Kevin & Annette Brosinsky
Paradigm Consulting Group
Heritage United Church
Fresh Expressions Designs
Street Culture Construction
Sarcas Donors

Our Volunteers:

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 so much!!!

Community Spaces

“A huge thank you to the Circle Project who has opened up their community room for our program.”

Donna West
Executive Director
CityKidz Regina

Circle Project’s Community Room was created as a space where individuals are able to access positive, healthy programming.

This year, the Community Room was utilized by Circle Project’s Lunch program as a space where staff and volunteers make the more than 100 lunches each day. The space was also used by the Community Outreach program for volunteers and staff to process donations and to make the hygiene kits that are shared with the individuals and families.

We also share our space with outside programs such as our weekly NA meeting, every Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00 pm. Individuals who access the meeting are welcomed to the centre and are able to grab a lunch before they enter the meeting.

This year and in the spirit of building community, we were able to support CityKidz Regina’s evening programming. In the fall of 2023, the bi-monthly Youth Program was held in Circle Project’s Community Room. This has helped to alleviate some of the stress they were feeling around finding a safe program space.



Participant Quotes

"This program was helpful to teach me how to control my anger before it gets out of hand. 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 have already begun making small changes to break the cycle for my kids." - R.D.

"I learned to let go of my anger and resentments. I can't change anybody, but I can learn to change my reactions." - K.N.

"The most important thing that I learned was how to forgive myself. I would recommend this program to others because it has helped me." - U.I.

"Most importantly I learned about self-awareness, avoiding conflict, self-love, self-worth and how to put up healthy boundaries." - J.M.

"This program allowed me space to recognize my behaviour and how it can impact the people around me." - L.M.

"I found the ART program to be extremely helpful for myself and I have recommended my friend to come here." - T.A.B.

"There are still things that I need to work on, but I have the tools to help now." - C.R.

"I learned to focus on myself and take breaths, not to over step and to think." - T.C.E.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Thank you to the Victims Services Branch - Ministry of Justice

This year, the Family Violence program explored alternate program delivery models. Through the reduction of the number of sessions delivered, we had the opportunity to review and evaluate our program. In June, we delivered a weekend trial of an expedited Anger Resolution Techniques (ART) program which was held on 3 consecutive Saturdays. There were real challenges with this format as it left no room for absences. On the positive side, those who graduated shared that they really appreciated being able to complete the program so quickly and the format worked well for them because it created less problems for them with work, etc. We will continue to explore other options for delivering the program to meet community need. We were able to once again plan and deliver the Hearts in the Park event after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The ART program contains of a total of twenty-program hours delivered over eleven weeks. While we have seen an increase in registrations for ART program, however we are still facing challenges around participant attendance and completions for a variety of reasons. This year our program served 290 participants and delivered almost 140 programming hours in house. Another 62 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 were able to ensure that participants are able to complete the program and receive their certificate.

After registration, participants are required to participate in two 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. They also learn about domestic violence and how their behaviours impact those around them. Individuals learn how to make positive changes in their lives to better themselves and their families.

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 is an honour to work in the community as a valued member of the Circle Project staff, supporting those facing life challenges. We would like to thank the funders, community partners, Circle Project Elders, Council and Staff for their support throughout the year. We look forward to continuing our important work in the coming year.

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

93% 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 and Circle Project

The Family Violence program has successfully completed the delivery of the first 19 months of the two-year pilot of the new Bringing Peace to Relationships program (formerly MRT-DV) program. This ground-breaking program is for female offenders only. This year we made a few small changes to the program, but the most significant change that we made was renaming the program Bringing Peace to Relationships (BPR). This new name reflects the over all feeling of peace and hope that many of the women have shared that they feel when they complete the program.

Over many 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.

The women who participated in the program this year 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 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. The program allows 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

"This program has given many women an opportunity to understand themselves and develop better ways of peacefully interacting with the people in their lives. Thank you Circle Project!"

Judge Murray Hinds,
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan

"I have heard many positive accounts from women participating in the programming offered by Circle Project. Women feel understood and supported. They are given the tools to begin and continue positive personal development and awareness. I hope that by acknowledging the important work being done, more support will be given to Circle Project so that many more members of our community can be assisted."

Jackie Lane,
Senior Crown Prosecutor

Participant Quotes

"This program has been life changing. I was so angry when I started the program. I thought that I shouldn't be the one here, but I pushed through and I don't know where I would be today if I had not had the opportunity to learn about myself and my negative beliefs." - T.S.

"I will use what I have learned by taking time to recognize my triggers, taking time outs to think clearly, then I can communicate and solve issues without abuse." - I.B.

"I would recommend this program because it helped me to admit to my own fault while encouraging me to change my ways." - C.K.

100% of this year's graduates rated their overall satisfaction with the BPR program and their feelings of empowerment as Excellent

Participant Quotes

"I loved attending Circle Project's events. I feel like I am a part of something." – D.L.

"Thanks for standing by me these last couple months while we sorted everything out. Now I have a home!" – A.B.

"Thank you for helping me. I am looking forward to having a support system in place for my family." – H.K.

"You guys care about us." – C.U.

"Circle Project has become our hero and treated us with respect." – C.S. and G.R.

"Circle Project supported me through this entire process. I did it with you!" – C.D.

"Everyone that I met here so far is positive and welcoming. Smudging helps make the building feel more calmer." – T.N.

"Every time I am here, I learn something new, so I will keep showing up." – A.M.

"Everything here is nice, same with everyone. I'm enjoying my time here, every week." – V.L.

2024 Highlight

This year we had the opportunity to develop a logo specifically for our Housing Matters program. We kept it true to our Circle Project logo and our Indigenous roots and look forward to using it in our program for many years to come.



HOUSING MATTERS

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

Our Housing Matters Program was created to help the homeless population within Regina. We aim to be a part of the solution to change while reducing the number of homeless members in our community. The first thing program staff does is provide a safe place for individuals to access informal drop-in services, anything from something to eat from our bagged lunch program to personal hygiene packages. This allows for us to build relationships and trust with the individuals. Once the relationship is established and the trust is built, most individuals begin to share with us information about their current situation or challenges they are experiencing. This is when we can offer to transition them into the intake and program delivery portion offered by the Housing Matters program.

This year the Housing Matters program added a full-time support worker. This addition allowed us to expand our caseload and increase our capacity to case manage. We also were able to complete more outreach. Housing Matters received 40 new adult participants and 55 new child referrals in the past 12 months. We successfully housed 16 adult participants and 33 children, which was an 83% increase from the previous year. All 33 children in the ten families represented are among those still housed for over 3 months.

Throughout the year program staff was able to spend more time in the community and had the opportunity to attend numerous community events. This included engagement and awareness events and walks where we set up information booths, and shared information about the Housing Matters program and all Circle Project programs and services.

The Housing Matters Program staff also had the opportunity to attend training sessions throughout the year. This ensures we stay current and up to date and prioritizes high quality care for our participants.

Due to the vulnerability of the participants we work with in the Housing Matters program, we have faced many hardships this year. Sadly, this includes death, addiction, and incarceration. This has caused fluctuation in our caseload. However, one of our greater successes this year was celebrating our first graduation in September 2023, ending the year with a total of four graduations.

Thank you to our funders, community partners and our Executive Director, Ann Perry for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Haley Runns, Housing Matters Program Coordinator
Ashley Dick, Housing Matters Support Worker

This year our goal was to house 15 people, by the end of March 2024 we successfully housed 33 people!

BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Thank you to Regina Work Prep and the Co-operators

Building Cultural Competency (BCC) is a learning opportunity that engages both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants towards gaining a greater understanding of Indigenous history, culture and traditions. We do this by delivering training modules that are tailored towards the needs of the group. By delivering these training modules, participants gain first-hand knowledge about the history of Indigenous people in Canada through participation in experiential learning opportunities. Exposure to teachings from Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers are a key component to the success of the program.

We have completed our fourth year of partnership with Regina Work Preparation Centre and their Youth on Their Way to Work Program (YOWW) program. 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. The youth are hosted at our location for their training. This provides an excellent opportunity for cultural exposure as they youth participate in sharing circles in our specially designed Circle Room. This room is a culturally safe space that provides the group the opportunity to explore their thoughts and feelings around what they are learning. Our hope for the young participants is that they will learn new skills and knowledge to make healthier choices and to gain cultural knowledge so they can find their way in the work place as they connect with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

This year we delivered a total of 54 hours of programming for 32 youth. The BCC program saw a 37% decrease in the number of Indigenous participants and a 16% decrease in those who self-declared as being intergenerational survivors of Residential Schools. New this year were a higher number of new comers to Canada in the BBC program, representing about half of the participants. An important aspect of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action is sharing Indigenous culture and the traditional teachings with new comers and non-Indigenous peoples as an important step towards true reconciliation.

As we move forward into 2024/25 we are looking forward to new opportunities to share culture awareness and reconciliation as we bridge the gaps in our community through building cultural understanding.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Anderson
Operations Manager

100% of the youth who participated in the BCC program stated that they learned something new.

100% completed the program.

Participant Quotes

"I learned about the medicine wheel and about how to use Circle Project's positive and negative activators everyday." - S.K.

"After learning about the Medicine Wheel I have more control over my feelings, and I will focus more on building discipline in my professional and personal life." - Z.E.

"Today I learned about balancing professional and personal life which is a very important thing in life." - Z.E.

"I learned a little bit about smudging. Mostly what was valuable was the empowering, compassionate and motivational way in which the module was framed." - A.K.

"I've learned that everyone has their own struggles. I also learned that everyone has a different perspective." - D.M.

"I feel more confident, empowered and optimistic after this module." - A.K.

"I learned to set more boundaries for myself and figure out better ways to take care of myself." - M.R.M.

"I've learned to be grateful for everything in life. I've learned to be kind to everyone and I also learned about mental health." - D.M.

"I enjoy a lot of what we are learning through the Circle Project. I feel like I am being gently nudged in a positive direction which I am grateful for." - A.K.

From the Mouths of Babes

A.D. asked, "Teacher are you tired?" Staff replied, "Yes I am." A.D. then said, "Well why don't you go to the nap room and have a nap."

"I can't wear my toque outside because it will wreck my hair." – A.C.

"Guess what I got for Christmas? A Potatoes" – B.J.

"I changed what I want to be when I grow up. I want to be a museum curator and a person that sells houses." – C.N.

"This ice cream taste weird." (Child was eating cottage cheese) – Q.K.

"Can I have some more trees please?" (Broccoli) – A.O.E.

"Me and O.K-B are brothers and E.S is our sister." (These 3 are a group that play together all the time.) – C.N.

Teacher asked L.N., "What's my name?" L.N. replied, "It's peach." – C.N.

"Yeah! We water her and pick up the bad weeds and she is happy and gives us yummy strawberries." – L.J.

"Mother Earth is on the medicine wheel and so are people." – C.N.

"I don't like begetables!" – R.S.

"The water is cold, like Antarctica." – C.N.

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 and Child Care Branch, the Circle Project Children's Centre and the Infant & Toddler Centre are operated under the umbrella of Circle Project. The Centre is among a very few Indigenous child care centers in Regina that provide quality and culturally based childcare for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years old. We are licensed for a combined total of 106 spaces.

The children in our care are provided with a variety of daily activities including circle time, arts and crafts and chances to explore through play. Our activities are planned with the children's interests in mind and all from an Indigenous world view. Throughout both centres, children of all ages are exposed to cultural imagery, music and language. Our Preschool children are provided with additional enhanced culturally immersive programming, through the Cultural Connection for Kids (CCK), at no additional cost.

Both of our childcare centres provide meals and snacks everyday. All of the meals and snacks follow the Canada Food Guide. The children are provided with nutritious, high-quality food including an abundance of fruit and vegetables. We exceed the recommended daily amounts and provide over 70% of a child's daily nutritional needs.

This year, our childcare centres were successful in receiving additional grants from the Ministry that assists licensed daycares to cover repairs and maintenance costs. The Children's Centre repaired the crawl space, completed some exterior stucco repairs and replaced one of the three roof top heating/AC units. The Infant & Toddler Centre received new blinds throughout and will be undertaking an interior kitchen renovation. These repairs/renovations help us to provide safe and comfortable spaces for children to explore and play.

I would like to acknowledge the staff at both Centres for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Thank you for going above and beyond, for collaborating seamlessly and for making our team stronger. Your contributions make a significant impact and I am proud to work alongside such talented individuals. Thank you to Circle Project's Council and Ann Perry for your continued guidance and support through the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyrah Kaiswatum
Manager of Childcare Services

76% of the families who accessed our childcare programs this year self-identified as Indigenous.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS

Thank you to the Sask Knights of Columbus and Circle Project

The Culture Connections for Kids (CCK) program is a culturally immersive environment for the children who attend our childcare centres. The children are provided with daily cultural teachings that are delivered by the educators. Our pre-school and kindergarten aged children receive extra daily programming which focuses on nurturing cultural identity, language and increasing their cultural knowledge.

This year the children have gained the self-confidence to be able to take what they learned and show to the public. One of our children shared her knowledge by singing O'Canada in Cree in her community of Carry the Kettle First Nation. She was also asked to say the Cree prayer. It is moments like these that show the effects and importance for the children in our care to learn about their culture or a culture of their peers.

The older children in the pre-k/kinder group are starting to engage in more of their own discussions around self-awareness, self-identity and understanding emotions. One child shared with the group that before he started at the centre he was very scared to come to a new place, but now he loves it here. This child is a 5-year-old male and a new immigrant to Canada. Moving to a new country with a different language and customs can be very difficult for anyone, let alone a young child. For him to express these feelings is a real testament to the type of environment that we are creating at our daycares.

Thank you to Kokum Margaret Rockthunder, Circle Project's Council, Ann Perry and the staff for their belief in, and support of this incredibly important cultural program. Without this, we would not be able to continue making such a positive impact on the children and families that we serve. Thank you all and here's to another year!

Hiy Hiy,
Tyrah Kaiswatum
Manager of Childcare Services



Pow Wow Fancy Shawl Dance

This year, the children were interested in learning this particular dance. The girls were very enthusiastic and showed their dance moves. A few of the children shared that they have participated and danced at pow wows. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to share stories of their cultural activities out in the community, allowing them the opportunity to share what they know with their peers.

Parent Quotes

"Thank you for everything over the years." – A.L.

"We are learning about the bear of courage from the Grandfather Teachings and learning how to use our courage to channel our inner bear." (her son was having a hard time during drop off) – S.L.

"Oh wow! I didn't know the picture was going to be this big, they are so nice." (Children's Party – family portraits) – K.S.

"I'm glad she loves it here. She comes home with so many smiles." – K.P.

"We cannot attend the event on Sept 30th but we are in full support." (regarding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Honour Walk and Awareness Event) – M.C.



Event Photos

National Indigenous People's Day 2023



Families taking Indigenous Culture Quiz.



Families enjoying the music and eating their BBQ food.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2023



Honour Walk in progress along Victoria Ave. in downtown Regina.



End of Honour Walk passing Circle Project's tipi in Victoria Park.



Orange shirts hung in Victoria Park during the Awareness Event.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

National Indigenous People's Day Community Celebration Thanks to Celebrate Canada, City of Regina and SaskCulture

The 24th Annual National Indigenous People's Day Community Celebration was a tremendous success. Cultural activities have always been the highlight of this important annual event, along with our free community BBQ which served over 1,500 people. This year we shifted our focus to family friendly activities making this a truly special day for families. Our new addition of beadwork demonstrations was appreciated. Individuals were invited to participate in a mini workshop to bead a red dress or orange shirt pin with the free beading kits. Our community Elders were honoured with a special tent out of the sun where they could sit and visit with old friends while enjoying some refreshments and some games of Cree BINGO. Indigenous cultural story boards were on display and participants used them to answer the Indigenous Culture quiz where individuals could enter to win prizes. Family activities included carnival games, Indigenous themed arts and crafts, face painting and the family photo tent where families had their photos taken by a professional photographer!

As the evening drew to a close we thanked our funders, sponsors, the committee, volunteers, entertainers and community members for another amazing National Indigenous People's Day Community Celebration.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Thanks to Celebrate Canada

On September 30, 2023, the 3rd Annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Honour Walk and Awareness Event was hosted by Circle Project at Victoria Park. Along with our community partner we gathered to honour the discoveries of unmarked graves at former Residential School sites.

Our event began with an opening prayer from our Elder and land acknowledgements by our Oskapios (cultural helper). Lone Creek Culture Club led the Honour Walk with songs and the beats of their hand drums as the event participants followed. Just as the walk began, the skies opened up and the rain began to fall. This made for a striking visual as they walked through the downtown streets. The walk ended beside the Circle Project tipi, representing the traditional home of Indigenous peoples. After the walk, individuals were invited to write their messages of reconciliation on orange shirt cut-outs which were then hung up in the display tent. A total of 117 shirts were filled out, with 85 messages shared (19 had names on them); we also collected 13 children's drawings at the event. Surveys were once again distributed among those present. They provided insight 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

On December 2, 2023 we were back at the Mamaweyatitan Centre to host our 26th Annual Children's Christmas Party. Everyone was welcomed by Executive Director, Ann Perry and Council President, Rhonda Bird who invited the families to participate in the free and family friendly activities that were available. Lone Creek Culture Club began the event with an Honour song and after the blessing of the food, Circle Project Board, staff and volunteers serving the families a delicious brunch.

The musical entertainment was Christmas carols led by Brian Sklar and his band mates. The children enjoyed a magic show and then each received a balloon sculpture. The children lined up throughout the event to get their faces painted and then use the art materials that were made available to create a Christmas craft of their choice. The families then had an opportunity to get a free 8X10 family photo taken. This has always been a family favourite, but this year we engaged a professional photographer to take their photos. And last, but certainly not least was the man of the hour, Santa Claus himself! The children were so happy to visit with Santa and they received goodie bags provided by his elves. Each child in attendance received a new wrapped gift, thanks to the continued support from our friends at Unifor Local 1-S. We would like to thank the families from our Childcare Centres and our programs for coming out to celebrate with us and we can't wait to celebrate with you again next year!

Circle Project Annual Elders' Christmas Party Thanks to MOSAIC, Circle Project and Brian Sklar

It was wonderful for the Elders, Council and staff to come together to celebrate the holidays. Once again and after a long absence we laughed, ate, danced and made merry! This year we were so excited to host our Annual Elders' Christmas Party for our community Elders.

The room was buzzing with conversation and laughter as friends greeted friends. This was so heart warming as we had postponed this event for 3 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After our Elder led us in prayer, Lone Creek Culture Club did an opening song and an honour song before our MC, Jeff Cappo began his duties. After the Christmas meal, we were entertained by Brian Sklar & the Tex Pistols... always a crowd favourite! Throughout the evening, there were spot dances, door prizes and gift give aways. Tins with goodies were given to all of the Elders to make sure no one went home empty handed. In keeping with tradition, the Rez Dog found a new home and there was plenty of jiggging on the dance floor. The Oldest Man and the Oldest Woman received special gifts. Elders were also able to get an 8X10 photograph taken by a professional photographer. The evening wrapped with a Round Dance in celebration of long-time friendships and the joy of the season. Thank you to everyone who attended and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

Event Photos

Children's Christmas Party 2023



Families eating brunch served by Circle Project Council, staff and volunteers.



Child excitedly opening her gift.



Children watching the magic show.

Elder's Christmas Party 2023



Elders posing for a photo.



Elders jigging and having a great time!



Tins of goodies for the Elders.

Event Photos



Crowd watching the Key Note Speaker.



Some hearts filled out by attendees.



Hearts in the Park Committee and Volunteers.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Hearts in the Park Thanks to Justice Canada

Circle Project along with their community partners, came together to host the 5th Annual Hearts in the Park community awareness event after a 3-year absence due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The event was a part of the national “Victims and Survivors of Crime Week” and was held in Victoria Park in downtown Regina on May 17, 2023. This year’s theme was “Putting Our HEARTS Together. – The Power of Collaboration.” With the unique perspective of each organization, the partners are able to share with those present the impacts of violence in on our community.

HEARTS in the Park serves to raise the level of awareness and works to reduce the stigma attached to domestic, family and interpersonal violence. Individuals were encouraged to write the relationship of someone they know who has been affected by violence on a heart and hang it in the park. This event successfully achieved the intended outcome; to raise the level of awareness of impacts and costs of violence in our community. Of the hearts filled out, almost 55% identified an immediate family member.

HIGHLIGHTS

Housing Matters in the Community

This year, our Housing Matters program had several opportunities to get out into the community to share information on Circle Project’s programs and services and the work that their program does in the community.

On August, 31, 2023 they participated in the International Overdose Awareness Day at the Mamaweyatin Center and on January 16, 2024, they attended the Landlord Engagement Event at the Conexus Art Centre. Supporting events such as these are vital to increasing our presence in the community in our efforts to furthering our work in the community.



Women of Distinction Finalist

Congratulations to our Executive Director, Ann Perry who was announced as a finalist for the 2024 Women of Distinction Award in the Action and Advocacy category. Circle Project is proud to have her lead us in our important community work. Congratulations Ann!



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. 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

Heather Cote-Soop (5 years)
Kukom Margaret Rockthunder (5 years)

10 Years of Service

Shameela Said Meeri (10 years)

15 Years of Service

Dawn Gordon (15 years)

25 Years of Service

Fred Clipsham (25 years)

Thank you all for your combined 60 years of service! We look forward to celebrating many more years with you!

INDIGENOUS YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY GATHERING BANFF, ALBERTA October 2023

Thank you to Co-operators

One of the most memorable events this year was having our leadership and two of our Building Cultural Competency youth travel to Banff to participate in the Indigenous Youth Employability Gathering sponsored by Co-operators. We were the only community agency in Regina to be invited.

It was a great experience. The land-based teachings included the sharing of information about the sacred caves in Banff by Stoney Nakoda Elder and the Knowledge Keeper. We participated in a very moving ceremony at the end of the teaching.



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR KIDS – PARENT NIGHTS

Thank you to the Sask Knights of Columbus and Circle Project

An important aspect of our Cultural Connections for Kids (CCK) program is parental involvement, which we achieve through the delivery of Parent Nights. These nights were created to promote individual growth, strengthen family bonds and build a sense of community. We are able to foster connections between Elders, Knowledge Keepers, parents and caregivers. Parents are provided opportunities to come together in community, share a meal and participate in teachings and fun activities that are steeped in cultural knowledge in the hope that this would promote and encourage cultural learning at home.



"I loved how the mentor acknowledged generational trauma - it's important to acknowledge in order to heal and to pass on those lessons to our children." - E.P.

Our delivery of Parent Nights in 2018 and 2019 was unfortunately interrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thankfully, we have re-engaged with our parents and our cultural support staff and have resumed our delivery of this important parent engagement activity.

We are so happy to have been able to provide our Parent Nights once again and want to thank the parents who have attended this year. We look forward to continuing these wonderful learning opportunities in the coming year.



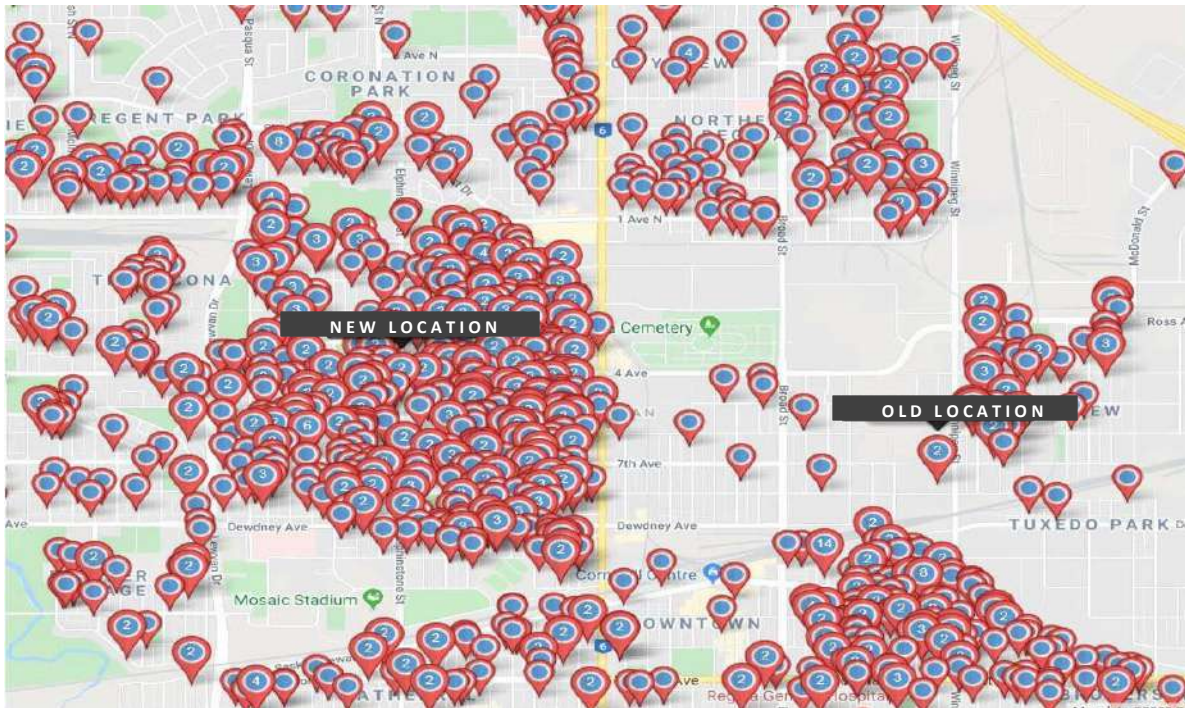
"I loved all of the mentor's stories and how they tied into her teachings." - M.H.



"What I liked best was learning about other people's perspectives on child rearing and how they instill values in their children." - B.K.



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!!



Prairies Economic
Development Canada

Développement économique
Canada pour les Prairies

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.

NOTES:

2023/2024
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Overall, the Circle Project performed very well financially in 2023/24 successfully managing the risks involved with the acquisition of the new capital grants associated with the ownership of the Hub. The management of changes with the implementation of the \$10/day childcare fees presented some challenges as we continued to go through the growing pains that come with major changes. Some fluctuation to grants and program funding continued this year marking this as an ongoing trend that will continue to impact the organization. This trend will likely have future implications as fewer resources are available, thus creating greater competition for available funds. In spite of this, the organization managed to show growth in several areas, indicating sound fiscal management. The year brought with it some exciting new opportunities that opened the door for new partnerships and new programs. Some of the multi-year funding provided much need stabilization for the organization to support the ongoing building of capacity to serve the community. The Circle Project is once again well positioned to engage in continued growth and partnership development in the upcoming year.

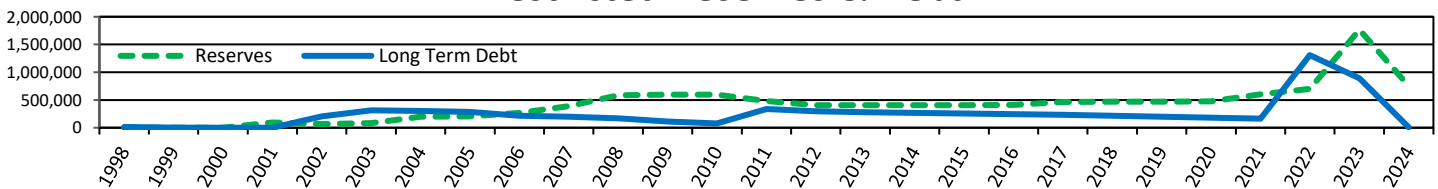
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Assets decreased this year due to shifts of resources that occurred to secure future stability for Circle Project. This shifting of resources will continue into the next fiscal year as we increase funds in restricted reserves. The significant increase of cash balances realized in previous years is no longer a factor as there are no new special capital grants at this time. Changes in assets this year are consistent with the activities conducted and the changes that occurred throughout the year. The long-term debt decreased as monthly payments for the mortgage included principal payments to reduce the overall debt. Changes in cash were consistent with financial activities in the year.

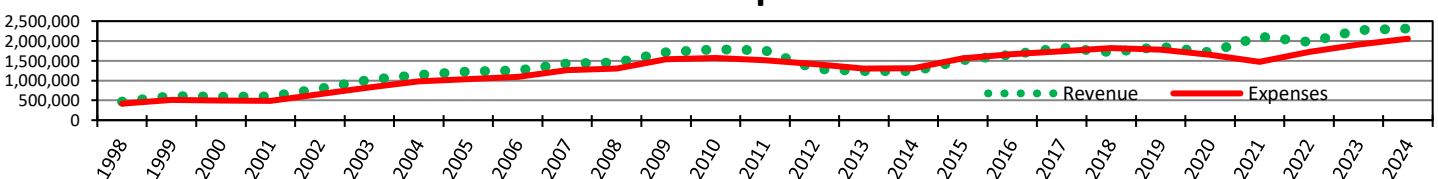
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

In the 2023/24 fiscal year there was an overall 2% increase of revenues compared to the previous year. Of note is the 8% increase in expenses indicating the current inflationary impact on the organization. The largest increase in revenues originated from a significant increase in donations and sponsorships. Over the past two years (2023 & 2024), donations to Circle Project have tripled compared with the two prior years (2022 & 2021) indicating a renewed interest in supporting our work, in particular the lunch program. Expenditures for the year increased slightly from the previous year, due to increase in program staff. Revenues exceeded expenditures this year resulting in ending the year in a positive cash balance position derived from donations, interest and other self generated funds.

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, 2024, 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, 2024. I expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in my report dated June 5, 2024.

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, 2024 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Regina, Saskatchewan

June 5, 2024



Chartered Professional Accountant

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current		
Cash	2,822,672	3,605,757
Marketable securities	133,128	127,946
Accounts receivable	59,487	50,128
Prepaid expenses	1,525	2,791
	3,016,812	3,786,622
Capital assets	2,630,128	2,757,072
	5,646,940	6,543,694
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	176,857	237,400
Deferred contributions	83,280	169,380
Current portion of long-term debt	22,380	62,812
	282,517	469,592
Deferred contributions – capital assets	2,315,051	2,394,502
Long-term debt	6,740	892,586
	2,604,308	3,756,680
Net Assets		
Equity in capital assets	285,957	422,124
Reserves	750,322	750,322
Unrestricted net assets	2,006,353	1,614,568
	3,042,632	2,787,014
	5,646,940	6,543,694

Approved on behalf of the Board



Director



Director

The Circle Project Assoc. Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs	130,974	130,974
Ministry of Justice	146,570	142,301
Gov of Saskatchewan	978,632	1,209,466
City of Regina	45,000	30,000
United Way of Regina	20,618	74,000
REACH	26,100	23,700
Heritage Canada	25,000	10,000
NIB Trust	-	87,138
Regina Work Prep	27,173	25,000
Co-operators	25,000	25,000
Summer student grant	17,040	1,814
Namerind Community Entity	138,126	95,267
Canadian Women's Foundation	-	95,000
Transfer from deferred contributions	21,512	5,412
Transfer to deferred contributions	-	(225,166)
Child care fees	193,717	272,583
Donations and sponsorships	212,237	115,587
Donations – capital assets	122,285	75,305
Grants – other	34,016	-
Memberships	21	29
Reimbursed expense	14,614	-
Interest	129,452	63,174
Other self-generated	4,583	17,497
	2,312,670	2,274,081
Expenditures		
Activities - special/cultural/community	86,410	47,773
- lunch program groceries	44,572	30,958
Advertising	38	7,793
Accounting	30,413	32,832
Bad debts	1,326	4,892
Bank charges	5,625	4,107
Groceries	33,288	34,698
Honorariums	487	5,928
Hospitality	1,800	2,400
Insurance	30,422	28,252
Office supplies	28,755	25,343
Materials and supplies	39,680	22,766
Facility costs	253,448	288,408
Repairs and maintenance	52,463	18,176
Participant expenses	17,077	-
Property taxes	13,581	16,904
Training	7,795	11,513
Meetings and travel	14,108	3,600
Utilities	56,354	52,063
Vehicles	1,900	4,300
Wages and benefits	1,317,387	1,259,471
Workers' compensation	20,123	9,823
	2,057,052	1,912,000
Surplus for the year	255,618	362,081

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, 2023 to March 31, 2024 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 2024 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

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada



Government
of
Saskatchewan

**An Anonymous
Donor**



Canadian
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Unifor Local 1-S
Indigenous Solidarity Fund
Run for Regina/SaskTel

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



The support for our community work, food security and outreach this year has been incredible. Thank you to all our donors, supporters and volunteers!

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