



2023-2024

April 1st, 2023 – March 31st, 2024



Annual Report

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MISSION STATEMENT

Rivers West District is a non-profit organization dedicated to facilitate and foster the development and delivery of sport, culture, and recreation programs and services.

RIVERS WEST
District for Sport, Culture & Recreation
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 18th, 2024 1:00pm CST
Unity Museum, Unity, Saskatchewan

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 - a. Introduction of Current Board of Directors
 - b. Introduction of Guests
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and Special Meetings
 - a. Annual General Meeting June 20th, 2023
4. Business Arising from Minutes
 - a. No business arising
5. Reading of Correspondence
 - a. No correspondence
6. General Business
 - a. Chairperson's Report – Arlene Southgate
 - b. Executive Director's Report – Donna Johnston-Genest
 - c. 2023 - 2024 Annual Report
 - d. Tri-Global Report – Kristy Wilson, SPRA; Amy Shipley, SaskSport; Damon Badger Heit, SaskCulture
7. Financial Report
 - a. Auditor's Report – Jordan Schechtel, Treasurer
 - b. Reappointment of incumbent auditor – Vantage Chartered Professional Accountants
8. Report of Committees and Special Committees
9. New Business
10. Election of Representatives to the Board of Directors
 - a. Reading of incumbent Directors
 - b. Reading of names of nominees
 - c. Nominations from the floor
11. Adjournment

Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation Inc.
Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, June 20th, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm CST

Location: Harris-Tessier New Horizons

Hall

Harris, SK

ATTENDANCE

Donna Johnston-Genest, RWDSCR; Cheryl Clarke, RWDSCR, Arlene Southgate, RWDSCR/Unity; Ollie Marciniuk, RWDSCR/Hafford; Erin Poitras, RWSCR/Biggar; Jordan Schechtel, RWDSCR/Battleford; Kerry Bailey, SPRA, Bonnie Mills Midgley, RWDSCR/Frenchman Butte; David McIver, Rosetown Eagle; Jaclyn Davis, SPRA; Darby Friestadt, Guest/Rosetown; Lorraine Friestadt, Guest/Rosetown; Tracie Clothier, Guest/Rosetown; Bob Clothier, Guest (VRP), Rosetown; Kelli Emmons, Guest/Rosetown; Shawn Emmons, Guest/Rosetown; Alex Rogalski, SaskCulture/Saskatoon; Laura Dyck, SaskSport/Saskatoon; Cynthia Tymoruski, RWDSCR/North Battleford

WELCOME

Executive Director, Donna Johnston-Genest welcomed everyone, gave technical considerations for the meeting and offered Treaty 6 Territory and Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Arlene Southgate called the meeting to order at 12:54 pm

- a.*** Introduction of Current Board of Directors
- b.*** Introduction of Guests

AGENDA

MOTION #1: That the agenda be adopted as presented.
POITRAS/TYMORUSKI **Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION #2: That the minutes of June 21. 2022 Annual General Meeting and Special Meetings be adopted as presented.
MARCINIUK/MILLS MIDGLEY **Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING

No business arising.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chairperson's Report: Arlene read the Chairperson's Report

(Page 7 of Annual Report)

MOTION #3: That the Chairperson's Remarks, as contained within the 2022-2023 Annual Report, be accepted.

SCHECHTEL/TYMORUSKY

Carried.

Executive Director's Report: Donna read the Executive Director's report (Page 8 of the Annual Report)

MOTION #4: That the Executive Director's Remarks, as contained within the 2022-2023 Annual Report, be accepted.

MILLS MIDGLEY/POITRAS

Carried.

2021-2022 Annual Report: A paper copy of the report is available at this meeting.

An electronic copy of the Annual Report will be posted on the Rivers West District website.

Tri-Global Report:

This report is available at this meeting.

SPRA - Jaclyn Davis, Field Consultant – Kristy Wilson, new Field Consultant will be starting shortly and working in this area. Thank you to Rivers West Board and Staff.

Sask Sport – Laura Dyck – Spark Idea Grant went live today on our website.

SaskCulture – Alex Rogalsky – had AGM last Friday. Results of Members Survey on our website. Funding programs – Small Grants Accessibility Program, Share & Connect (launched last year in partnership with Sask Arts)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Statements and Auditor's Report, as prepared by Vantage Chartered Professional Accountants, for the period April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023, was read by Jordan Schechtel. No discussion arose.

MOTION #5: That the audited financial reports be adopted as presented.

MARCINIUK/TYMORUSK

Carried.

AUDITORS

MOTION #6: That the firm of Vantage Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as the auditors for Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

MILLS MIDGLEY/POITRAS

Carried.

REPORTS

There were no additional reports presented.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business presented

***ELECTION OF
BOARD OF***

a) Reading of Incumbent Directors: Donna read the list of incumbent nominees: Arlene Southgate, Erin Poitras, Jordan Schechtel, Ollie Marciniuk, Erin Munn, Crystal Imrie, Lisa Watson.

DIRECTORS

b) Reading of Names of Nominees:

- c) 1st call for nominations from the floor
2nd call for nominations from the floor
3rd and last call for nominations from the floor
Donna asked for a motion that nominations cease.

MOTION #7: That nominations cease.
MILLS MIDGLEY/SCHECHTEL

Carried.

MOTION #8: That all incumbent nominees will form the 2023-2024 Board of Directors for Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation Inc.
MILLS MIDGLEY/TYMORUSKI

Carried.

Arlene resumed chairing the meeting.

***NEXT MEETING
DATE***

June 2024

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #9: That this meeting be adjourned at 1:15 pm
SCHECHTEL

Minutes approved June _____, 2024.

Signature

Signature

Chairperson's Remarks

Rivers West District for Sport Culture and Recreation was formed by the vision of a dedicated group of people. Some are here today as we close out the fifteenth year of this great organization. It has been a year of growth, expansion, and change. On the personal side, it has been a year of loss but also a year of joy. Together we have shared the ups and downs. I personally had the absolute honour to attend a Heart of Treaty Six Gala. While representing Rivers West, I signed a letter of agreement for understanding and inclusion of Indigenous People. I was invited to participate in a sacred ceremony. I will be forever honoured and humbled.

Once again, our staff has been stellar. Bonnie, Cindy, Chelsea, and Antje work diligently connecting with communities by providing services to empower their citizens. Cheryl does an amazingly great job as our executive assistant. Last, but not least, is our Executive Director, Donna. She is the driving force behind our organization. She is outstanding in her field and a true leader.

As always funding enters the conversation. Even a group of dedicated people require funds to operate. We are truly grateful to Sask Lotteries. Without them we would not exist. Sask Sport, Sask Culture and Sask Parks and Recreation are also our partners. Their support and guidance is vital. I have a motto, *Rivers West is the Best*. I would like to revise that to say *Rivers West is the Best because of all of You*.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Southgate, Chairperson



Executive Director's Remarks

Welcome to Unity and the Rivers West District Annual General Meeting and thank you for participating in our 15th AGM.

Our 2023-2024 year has been another busy one. Inside this report you will find all the services and programs we provided to our members.

A huge thank you to our Board of Directors! You continue to lead with caring and compassion. You govern this organization with efficiency and with our members at the forefront of all we do.

Our operations team ... we have the best! Cindy, Bonnie, Antje, Chelsey, and Cheryl work so well together with boundless energy. Thank you for all you do!

As this will be my last Annual General Meeting as the Executive Director of Rivers West District it has been an emotional and gratifying process putting this Annual Report together. We have come a long way since February of 2009, and I see such a bright future for the District! I will make my leave with an incredible sense of accomplishment and the ease of mind that what we have built is being left in good, capable hands.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

~ A.A. Milne (Winnie-the-Pooh)

Respectfully yours,

Donna Johnston-Genest, Executive Director



Long-Term Service Awards



Chairperson, Arlene Southgate presents Director, Erin Munn with her 10-year long-term service award at the Christmas Luncheon of the Board and Staff of Rivers West District.

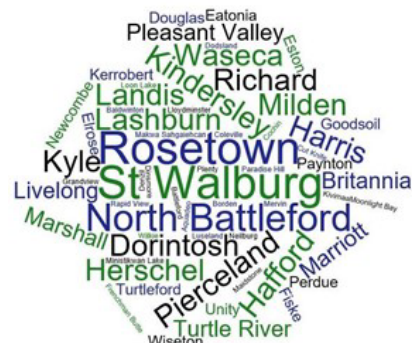
Chairperson, Arlene Southgate presents Staff Member, Antje Rongve with her 5-year long-term service award at the Christmas Luncheon of the Board and Staff of Rivers West District.



2023-2024 Membership

Town of Battleford Parks & Recreation
 Henrietta Parenteau
 Ruthilda Metis Local #105
 Town of Biggar
 Biggar Museum & Gallery
 Village of Borden
 Village of Brock
 Resort Village of Aquadeo
 Coleville Recreation Association
 Clayton McLain Memorial Museum
 Cut Knife Recreation Board
 Denzil & District Recreation Board
 Village of Dinsmore
 Dodsland Recreation Board
 R.M. of Chesterfield No. 261
 Town of Eaton
 R.M. of Turtle River No. 469
 Town of Elrose
 R.M. of Monet No. 257
 Eston Riverside Regional Park
 Town of Eston
 R.M. of Snipe Lake No. 259
 Village of Flaxcombe
 Frenchman Butte Museum Society Inc.
 R.M. of Newcombe No. 260
 Goodsoil Historical Museum
 Village of Goodsoil
 Town of Hafford
 Biggar Gymnastics Club
 R.M. of Harris No. 316
 Village of Harris
 Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre
 R.M. of Grandview No. 349
 Kyle & District Recreation Board
 Town of Lashburn
 Resort Village of Kivimaa-Moonlight Bay
 Hillmond School Community Council
 R.M. of Britannia No. 502
 City of Lloydminster
 R.M. of Loon Lake No. 561
 Village of Loon Lake
 Luseland Recreation Board
 Town of Maidstone
 Major Recreation

Town of Marshall
 R.M. of Meeting Lake No. 466
 City of Meadow Lake
 Village of Medstead
 Village of Mervin
 Village of Milden
 Battlefords Concern for Youth Inc.
 Battlefords Immigration Resource Centre
 Battlefords Minor Softball Association
 City of North Battleford
 BGC Battlefords
 R.M. of Frenchman Butte No. 501
 Village of Paradise Hill
 Paynton Parks & Recreation
 Bresaylor Heritage Museum
 Village of Perdue
 Village of Pierceland
 Radisson Recreation Association
 Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan
 Town of Rosetown
 R.M. of Marriott No. 317
 R.M. of Pleasant Valley No. 288
 R.M. of Douglas No. 436
 Brightsand Lake Regional Park Authority
 Town of St. Walburg
 R.M. of Mervin No. 499
 Thunderchild First Nation
 Town of Turtleford
 Town of Turtleford/R.M. of Mervin Fire
 Association
 Town of Unity
 Village of Waseca
 Waseca Recreation Board
 Town of Wilkie
 Village of Wiseton/Wiseton Rec Board



2023-2024 Programs & Services

Indigenous Community Sport Grant Program (ICSGP) - The Indigenous Community Sport Development Grant (ICSDG) provides greater sport participation and development opportunities for Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan. Rivers West District adjudicated 24 grants for a total of \$122,880 an increase of \$13,133. From the previous year. Allocated through Sask. Sport the dollars went to the development of Ski, Snowboard, Hockey, Baseball, Golf, Skating, Soccer, Canoe, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Athletics, Archery, Softball, Broomball.

Creative Kids - Creative Kids is a charitable giving program designed to reduce social and financial barriers for children and youth who wish to participate in arts and cultural activities in Saskatchewan. In the district, the Battlefords and Kindersley committees review local applications. In 2023, Kindersley funded 5 applications for \$6,353.20 an increase of \$260.32 from the previous year. The Battlefords committee funded a total of 75 applications, totaling \$12,650.00 a decrease of \$1033.25 from the previous year.

Mobile Playground Program (MPP) -

Springwater Lake was the recipient for the \$5,000.00 grant from Rivers West District. They are starting an annual “Sports Day” event on August long weekend for families in the surrounding area to come and enjoy Springwater Lake beach. With the grant, they purchased all equipment necessary to start the event in August 2024. The day will include several events including but not limited to a paddle board event, kayak event, beach volleyball event, bocce ball event, ladder toss event and more.

Rivers West District Dream Broker (DDB) program - The DDB Program targets children and youth who are faced with various social and economic challenges that adversely affect their quality of life. These issues create barriers to sport, culture and recreation such as: economic circumstance, awareness, cultural insensitivity, and access to transportation. Children, youth and their caregivers are in need of support to provide greater opportunities that contribute to developing children and youth who are healthy, active, successful members of their community.

This is where the DDB comes in. The DDB works directly with children, youth and their families from Connaught & Saint Mary’s school in North Battleford to reduce barriers to gain access to existing sport, culture and recreation activities. Throughout the 2023-2024 school year over 300 students have successfully completed a program or activity with the Dream Broker program. Some of the most popular programs include indoor soccer, outdoor soccer, hockey camps, ball hockey, boxing, gymnastics and afterschool programming. This year students partook in Arts and Crafts, Dancing, Judo and Kids in Kitchen. It was a bit of a slow year with after school programming in the schools due to sanctions that were put in place by Saskatchewan Teachers Federation. Some Service providers wanted to hold off until all sanctions were lifted so there would be no moving around dates.

DDB Schools

St. Mary School

The DDB works at St. Mary’s on Mondays and Tuesdays. DDB started the year visiting classrooms introducing herself to the students. The first afterschool program that was ran was Arts and Crafts with Sonya Falcon, there were 28 students registered. Kids enjoyed making paintings, key chains and some Christmas decorations. Chelsey had a sewing program set to start after Christmas break

but due to Sanctions that program was postponed. Chelsey distributed home kits to students that were left over from Covid. Thirty students got kits that had beading supplies, self care journals, and art supplies. The DDB teamed up with Midwest food resources to bring a *Kids in the Kitchen* program. There were 10 students from grade 4 and 5 registered. The students enjoyed making homemade soup, sushi, Bannock burgers, ice cream sundaes. Chelsey is working on fitting in the sewing program before the end of the school year.

Connaught School

This year, the DDB started off the year visiting classrooms introducing herself and the DDB program. The first after school program that was offered was Dance with Cayla Ellis. There was a total of 19 students in grades Kindergarten to Grade 3. Students really enjoyed the program and learned a full dance. The next program that ran was Arts and Crafts, same as St. Mary's. There were 25 students registered for the art and craft club. Connaught Judo club that is sponsored through the DDB program kicked off with Lloyd Bullerwell as the instructor. Lloyd instructed 30 students on the fundamentals of Judo. The program ran until mid December when the instructor changed career paths. Sewing with Darlene was set to start but due to sanctions that program was put on hold which put a halt to ribbon skirts and shirts program. Chelsey has also been talking with a new contact to bring lacrosse in for future programming. The DDB also has been working on plans as Connaught will be transitioning to a pre-k to grade 3 school and McKitrick will become a grade 4-6 school.

Summer Camps & Programs

This summer the DDB will be registering students for camps through the City of North Battleford & Battlefords Boys and Girls Club as well as around North Battleford area. Dance camps with Annette's School of Dance, minor football as well as teaming up with a new lacrosse instructor to bring a summer camp.

KidSport

The DDB is responsible for accepting paper applications on behalf of KidSport Battlefords. The online applications go straight to KidSport headquarters in Saskatoon. KidSport Battlefords did a fundraiser at the Battlefords North Stars game where the DDB sold pucks 50% to Kid Sport and 50% to winner closest to the middle of the ice. Kid Sport gave Operation Red Nose to Concerned for Youth this year. The DDB also attended a few opportunities to spread awareness regarding Kid Sport.

Volunteering

Battlefords District Food & Resource Centre

The DDB has continued to assist in packaging of the care packages. The DDB will continue to attend the Food Bank in summer as well as be delivering the packages once a week to students homes that may need the extra support.

Volunteer Recognition Awards – Our 15th Annual Volunteer Recognition Program (VRP)

Recipients were presented with their awards in person, at community celebrations. Recognizing their outstanding achievements will be highlighted on the district's social media and website throughout the coming year. This is a special year for the Volunteer Recognition Program Awards. Generally, the awards are created by a professional artist from the district and then given out to award winners. This year, we chose to ask youth from the Battlefords to create the awards for the 2024 winners. Joanne Rivers-Wing, a professional artist who has provided us with art for awards in the past, partnered with our Dream Broker, Chelsey Gladue, to work with students. Students from the grade 4 class at McKitrick School worked with Joanne over a number of weeks using a combination of printmaking & water colour to create the awards.



2024 Award Recipients

Sport: Athlete of the Year: Talance Kalmakoff (Maidstone)

Sport: Coaches of the Year: Ryan Barnstable (Hafford), Brad Lejeune (Maidstone)

Sport: Team of the Year: Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation Boys Falcons Volleyball Team.

Culture: Development and Promotion: Elaine Poirier (North Battleford)

Culture: Artist of the Year: Clay DeBray (Flying Dust)

Culture: Event of the Year: Western Development Museum (North Battleford)

Culture: Museum of the Year: Lashburn Centennial Museum Inc.

Recreation: Recreation Professional of the Year: Stan Krzak (St. Walburg)

Recreation: Facility: "The Beach" Town of Kindersley

Recreation: Organization: St. Walburg Kin Club

District Dream Broker, Service Provider of the Year: Cayla Ellis (North Battleford)

Over-All Volunteers: Henrietta Parenteau (Biggar) and Ollie Marciniuk (Hafford)

Congratulations

and

Thank You!



This is a special year for the Volunteer Recognition Program Awards. Generally, the awards are created by a professional artist from the district and then given out to award winners. This year, we chose to ask youth from the Battlefords to create the awards for the 2024 winners. Joanne Rivers-Wing, a professional artist who has provided us with art for awards in the past, partnered with our Dream Broker, Chelsey Gladue, to work with students. Students from the grade 4 class at McKittrick School worked with Joanne over several weeks using a combination of printmaking & water colour to create the awards.



Rivers West District Presents a Day of Celebration for International Women's Day Event

The opportunity to host the International Women's Day Event arose because of a Women and Girls in Sport Micro grant offered by SaskSport to all districts. The Rivers West District staff came up with the idea to follow Prairie Central District and hire Fast & Female to facilitate a workshop. It was then suggested by the Executive Director to add a cultural component to the event.

The event was comprised of two parts; Part one being the Fast & Female workshop at North Battleford Comprehensive High School for students in grades 9-12. Part two being the Ribbon Skirt Workshop at Concern for Youth in North Battleford. After meeting with Fast & Female, Antje began searching for additional funding. Fast & Female was very flexible with their offerings and was able to work within the \$1,000 budget by cutting out costs such as printing, tee-shirts, additional facilitators, snacks, & only allowing 30 girls to participate. However, Antje was able to apply for additional funding through the Status of Women office with the Government of Saskatchewan. The funding provided by the Status of Women office was an additional \$2,000 to increase the total budget for the Fast & Female workshop to \$3,000. With this additional funding, all cut costs were added back. Also, Fast & Female was able to hire more facilitators to increase participant numbers up to 50.

Part one

Rivers West District partnered with North Battleford Comprehensive Highschool to host part one; the Fast & Female workshop for female students from grade 9-12 on International Women's Day (March 8th). The girls began the day in the school's large gym with a warm up, games & some dancing. There was a total of 37 girls who participated. Not all of the girls knew one another so at the beginning they were nervous. After the games & dance component, the girls were able to relax and became much more engaged for the remainder of the workshop. After the physical activity component, the girls all walked to the large lecture theatre. This is where they were offered snacks, swag bags by Rivers West District containing activity sheets, stickers, post cards, provided by Fast & Female as well as a pen, a pencil, tattoos, a water bottle, and a note pad provided by Rivers West District. The girls were encouraged to reflect on their negative or positive self talk, how they perceive their body in and out of sport and more. The girls were open to sharing stories of their experiences which helped keep everyone engaged. Also, there were 5 facilitators which allowed for the girls to split into small groups often and share their stories if sharing with the larger group was too daunting. After the workshop finished, the girls filled out evaluation forms. Fast & Female provided a follow up report using the evaluations from the participants at the end of the workshop. Once the evaluations were finished, the girls were told they can choose pieces of Rivers West District SWAG (left over sweaters, mitts, toques & hats from the previous Sask Winter Games in Regina) and can have a Fast & Female tee-shirt. All the participants put on their Fast & Female shirts and had group photos taken. The gifts were a great way to finish off the workshop with the girls.

Part two

Rivers West District partnered with Concern for Youth to host part two; the Ribbon Skirt Workshop facilitated by Brave Girl Quilts out of Saskatoon. Concern for Youth provided the space & meal for the girls as the workshop was scheduled for 3:30-9:00pm on March 8th. As the 10 girls arrived, they were asked to choose their ribbon skirt kit, created by Celeste Tootoosis for the workshop. Once they chose their kit, they picked a sewing machine and began to set up their station. Bernadine Sapp, owner of Brave Girl Quilts, brought her three daughters to help with set up & help the girls throughout the workshop. Once all of the girls had arrived and had chosen their ribbon skirt kit, Bernadine explained to them her story and how she got into sewing. Much of her story was about positive self-talk and making sewing a place where she was kind to herself. Eventually, her self-talk while sewing became the way she lived her life. It also became the way she raised her daughters to live as well. The girls began to sew their skirts guided by Brave Girl Quilts while

Concern for Youth's male mentor & three male youth worked in the kitchen to prepare the meal. The meal was soup, Bannock & a unique dessert created by the youth. The girls were hungry and ate every last piece of Bannock available! After supper, they got right back to work and finished their skirts one at a time. Those that were familiar with the sewing machine and focused were able to finish first. Those that were less familiar became distracted and it took them a bit longer. However, all skirts were finished ahead of schedule by 8:15pm! The girls also received a Rivers West District SWAG bag to take their skirt home in, as well as a pen, a pencil, a water bottle & a note pad. The girls were exhausted after a full day of school followed by a full evening of sewing but were very proud of their skirts and all wore them home!

Saskatchewan Games Program -

Plans are already underway for the 2024 Saskatchewan Summer Games being held in Lloydminster on July 21st to 27th. We are so excited to be a part of the planning and helping to host these Games in Rivers West District!



presented by  TEINE
ENERGY

Coaching Assistance Program – This Rivers West District program assisted 9 coaches in their pursuit of building on their skills and knowledge in the sports of Freestyle Ski, Soccer, and Volleyball. This program helps coaches offset the expenses involved with achieving advanced levels in their coaching careers. It also ensures that Rivers West District and the Province of Saskatchewan has a qualified pool of coaches to choose from for provincial and national competitions.

Sport Medicine and Science Council Workshops - The joint collaboration of the Sport Culture and Recreation Districts in the Province offered another series of workshops. Each of the seven Districts hosted a session throughout the year. Individuals, no matter where they are located, were welcome to attend sessions of interest.

- On May 17th the *Sport Injury Prevention and Care* zoom session with presenter, Rhonda Shishkin was hosted by the South West District. The 33 people in attendance was a great turn out for the evening event!
- Rivers West District hosted the June 14th session *Sport Nutrition – Let's get Started* facilitated by Danielle Campbell. 29 people attended.
- *Concussion Education – What You Must Know/What's New* was hosted by the Prairie Central District on September 13th with Jordan Anderson facilitating. 62 people attended.
- Parkland Valley District hosted the SMSCS *Self Massage and the Athlete* session on October 18th. Three people attended.
- The Northern District hosted the evening session-*Sports Nutrition & Supplement* on November 15th with a total of 21 people attending.
- *Mental Performance-Goals*, with facilitator Mark Epp, on December 13th which Lakeland District hosted was well attended with 34 people. This was the final session in the current SMSCS/District partnership.

SUMA and SARM Convention Tradeshows

The Provincial Sport, Culture, and Recreation Districts partnered in attending the 2023 Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) Tradeshow during their annual spring Convention. Rivers West District staff joined Lakeland and Prairie Central Districts' personnel in promoting all the benefits of working with whatever District in the province you call home. The 2024 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Convention's Tradeshow in Regina was attended by the southern Districts' staff.

Sport, Culture & Recreation Event and Partnership Building Program - This program was put in place to help communities offset the costs of hosting events, workshops, clinics, and training sessions in their communities. This year we were excited to assist 22 communities and organizations. Examples of the activities and events were: volunteer appreciation events, outdoor learning events, Youth Kindness Conference, SUMA Golf Tournament, Steer Riding School, Golf workshops, family festivals, community days, Christmas programs, school tours, Experience Canada Exchange Program, and Tawatahikan Winter Festival.

SPRA Framework in Action - Through our participation in this initiative we have been afforded the opportunity to enhance our programming and services to our members. The following programs and services are a direct result of our partnership with SPRA on this initiative.

Communities in Bloom/Planting workshops with SSFA

- **April 26th, 2023** - The first workshop of this season took place at Hollyhocks Greenhouse in Unity with sixteen participants.
- **May 5th, 2023** – *Beyond the Bloom, Community Garden* workshop via ZOOM – Prairie Central District partnership with sixteen participants.
- **May 8th, 2023** - It was cool morning on May 8th when Bloomers Greenhouse, Maidstone planting took place, but that did not deter the group of twenty-three from learning from the presentation or selecting their pot's contents.
- **May 29th, 2023** - Registrations were all filled for the event at Bosers' Greenhouse, St. Walburg, with twenty-five participants.
- **May 30th, 2023** – held at Sunshine Acres Greenhouse in North Battleford, SK. with 22 participants.
- **June 4th, 2023** - The final planting of the season, with another twenty-three participants, was at Puddles in My Garden Greenhouse in Kindersley. Owner, Donna provided an enthusiastic, informative session and staff were most helpful with plant selections. At the beginning of the session, participants were presented with a cupcake decorated as a flower (Brown-eyed Susan, tulip, crocus) and a cold water; everyone was pleased and what a great opening!



Community Visitations - Rivers West Staff along with SPRA Field Consultant Kristy Wilson are honored to have the opportunity to visit member communities throughout the district. Learning firsthand the struggles, successes and plans each community has for their future, getting to know the persons directly related to the services, events, and projects are happening in communities has been a rewarding experience. Over the course of this past year, Rivers West District staff had over 650 points of contact with members, individuals, and organizations.

Youth Leadership

- **North Sask. River Basin Council/Notice Nature** - In August, the Notice Nature Team (Alana Gunsch, Program Manager, and Maddie Gould, Communications Coordinator) joined Aileen Martin, Prairie Central District and Rivers West District for a virtual presentation to the Sun West School Division's Conference.

Leadership Workshops

- **November 2nd, 2023** - *Why Become a Registered Non-Profit webinar* - Parkland Valley District extended the invitation for other Districts to join them in hosting Shelley Thoen-Chaykoski, TC Consulting. Shelley's vast experience in the Non-Profit world made for a very worthwhile use of people's evening hours. There were twenty-four online learners.

Volunteer Webinar Series

- **April 19th, 2023** - Rivers West District was one of the partners with Parkland Valley Districts in offering an *Improving Volunteer Connections* webinar. The session was facilitated by Lori Gotlieb, Volunteer Management Expert.
- **April 21st, 2023** – *Building a Better Public Picture of Your Organization and Engaging People in Your Community in a Post Covid World* workshop facilitated by Brenda Robinson, St. Walburg, SK with 12 participants.

Recreation Practitioners Support – Recreation Chats continued to connect staff virtually with both volunteers and Recreation staff within the District. Cindy and Bonnie hosted six such zoom sessions.

- May 30th - guest was Alana Gunsch, explaining the Notice Nature program, the Food Forest initiative and the School Community Connector online information. She provided a slide deck to accompany her presentation which was shared with participants and those that sent their regrets.
- June 27th - Rec Chat guest was Tara-Leigh Heslip, Outreach Consultant, SaskCulture. We had a record turn out for this Chat with fifteen people attending!
- August 29th - Guest Presenter, Emma Morris, Executive Director, Museums Association of Saskatchewan, had a slide show to compliment her information sharing.
- September 26th - Guest Presenter, Annette McGovern, Battleford Immigration Resource Centre, also shared a slide show along with her information. The session was very informative.
- October 31st - Guest Presenter, Randi Keshane, Coaching and Officials Development Coordinator, SaskSport. The session had lots of great information.
- November 28th - Guest Presenter, Al Gabert, Chairperson for the 2024 SSFA 55+ Games. Al provided information about both the winter (March) and summer (June) sessions. Regan (Meadow Lake), Marion (Cut Knife) and Lori (Wilkie) also shared information about what is happening in their communities.

Facility Operator Support Program – We were able to help 5 recreation professionals from the District to broaden their skills to better serve their community.

Grant Writing Workshops

- **June 19th** in North Battleford at the Atoskewin Success Centre, with 20 people attending.
- **June 26th** at Alma and Simon Kytwayhat Hall, Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation-16 people registered and 13 attended.
- **October 21st** in Springwater with a dozen participants eager to learn about how best to be successful in applying for funding.
- **January 29th** at Flying Dust First Nation with eighteen people in attendance.
- **March 21st** at Thunderchild First Nation where seventeen community members spent the day learning together.

Board Governance

- **October 14th** – *Board Governance* workshop with Wendy Plandowski facilitating, Springwater, SK with nine participants.
- **November 22nd** – *Risk Management in Recreation* workshop via ZOOM with 67 participants.
- **January 23rd** – *Board Governance* facilitated by Wendy Plandowski in Lloydminster, SK. with eleven participants.
- **January 25th** – *Board Governance* facilitated by Wendy Plandowski and hosted by FSIN in Saskatoon, SK. with nineteen participants.

HIGH FIVE and Play Leadership Workshops – This training was offered in partnership with the City of Lloydminster on June 7th and 8th with Coralie Bueckert, Warman, facilitating. There were twelve participants at each day's training.

Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Teachings workshops

- **Aug. 19th, 2023** - Indigenous Teachings at Weaver Park Log Cabin, Lloydminster, Sask. with Cynthia and Tinisha Young providing an excellent Medicinal Medicines/Indigenous Protocol workshop hosted by the Lloydminster Museum and Archives. The Log Cabin was the perfect venue for the event. The workshop had various plants, just harvested the day prior, which were handed around after Cynthia and Tinisha had spoken about their medicinal values. They also shared many protocol teachings.
- **November 15th, 2023** - The District planned an Indigenous Medicines and Ceremony learning event for November 15th at the Parish Centre in St. Walburg. Participants from Meadow Lake, Lloydminster, Lashburn, Biggar, as well as St. Walburg came to hear Cynthia and Tinisha Young's teachings.
- **February 21st, 2024** - The District hosted a Blanket Exercise in St. Walburg with mother and daughter facilitators, Cynthia and Tinisha Young from Lloydminster. Sixteen participants attended and their evaluation forms showed that they very much enjoyed this learning.
- **March 23rd, 2024** - Rivers West District was approached by a community member with the ask that an Indigenous Medicines and Ceremony workshop be hosted in the Macklin area. Cynthia and Tinisha Young offered another great learning and networking day at Cactus Lake on March 23rd.



Heart of Treaty Six Committee - On June 1st an Inter-School Powwow was held at the Civic Centre in Lloydminster. It was wonderful to be able to supply Rivers West District swag bags with pens, notepads, and tattoos to the Powwow dancers and youth volunteers. We started the day filling the bags and we were very grateful for the Cenovus staff who volunteered to help us fill all 350 bags. Bonnie had the honour of assisting the Elders with their lunch needs. What wonderful visits she had while doing this! On behalf of Rivers West District, I was able to gift some HOT 6 pins (made for the 2020 Gala that could not be hosted) throughout the day.

The organization of all the schools coming and going was amazing and so very well coordinated. Dancers of all ages participated with everyone being invited to participate in the Round Dance at the conclusion of the day. The media came for the opening of the Pow wow and it would be great to have them in attendance at the final Dance at the end of the day.

These are Doug Abrosimoff, Co-Chair's comments, *"The June 1 Powwow, being the first indoor powwow in Lloydminster history, was a joy to be part of. A standard has been set in these past 2 years and the welcome has been extended to all the population of the Heart of Treaty 6. So many people and organizations want to be part of this and with the unveiling of the of the beautiful mural at the north end of town this summer a trail has been created."*

The Town of St. Walburg and Rivers West District hosted the Grand Circle HOT 6 meeting in St. Walburg on June 22nd at the Parish Hall. Since it was Synergy Credit Union's customer appreciation day in Town, we joined them for lunch. Heart of Treaty 6 Grand Circle Gatherings were also hosted in September and December 2023 and March 2024.

Heart of Treaty Six hosted another successful Gala on October 12th in Lloydminster with His Honour, The Honourable Russ Mirasty, as the Keynote Speaker. The District's Board Chair, Arlene Southgate, was present to sign the Declaration and to participate in the evening's events. Pictured: **Donna Mirasty**, **Arlene Southgate** (Rivers West District Chairperson), and Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor, **Russ Mirasty**.



Cultural Gathering in Lashburn

Rivers West District hosted its first post covid Cultural Gathering in Lashburn on September 28th, 2023 with planning assistance from the Lashburn Centennial Museum. Twenty-six attendees enjoyed the gathering and information sharing. Guest speakers for the event included representative from the Museums Association of Saskatchewan, SaskCulture, and Saskatchewan Seniors Fitness Association.

Barn Quilt Painting-September 8th and 9th, 2023 in Mervin

Our unique grassroots Gathering, included each person completing their own 4-foot plywood square piece as designed and painted by themselves, and sharing their individual, diverse stories. Our long-term goal is to see these four-foot squares painted and displayed across Saskatchewan and Canada to promote the theme "Open Minds, Open Hearts", an all-inclusive project. *Quilts* have since been mounted outdoors in front of people's yards, on buildings and barns and as an outdoor gallery of beautiful cultural pieces.

Participants, and those observing the finished outdoor pieces of art, will benefit from increased feelings of well being, improvement in their mental health, be engaging in Truth and Reconciliation in action, be welcoming of immigrants, and they had a Fun experience. SaskCulture's Multicultural Initiatives Fund (MIF) supported this project.

Close to two dozen quilts are now displayed around the area and there is much interest in these events from many small, rural communities.



Partnerships

Sport Medicine & Science Council of Saskatchewan (SMSCS)	SaskCulture Inc.
Canadian Women in Sport	Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.
North Saskatchewan River Basin Council	Saskatchewan Games Council
West Central Municipal Government Committee	City of Lloydminster
District Dream Broker Advisory Committee	City of North Battleford
KidSport Battlefords	Town of Battleford
Creative Kids Battlefords	<i>in motion</i> Lloydminster
Provincial Sport, Culture & Recreation Districts	<i>in motion</i> North Battleford
Provincial Eligible Cultural Organizations	Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
Provincial Sport Governing Bodies	Battleford Boys & Girls Club
Provincial Recreation Organizations	Battlefords Youth Network
Sask. Sport Inc.	Heart of Treaty Six (HOT 6)
	Lloydminster & Vermilion for Equity

OUR VALUES

Respect	We will act with fairness, honesty, and professionalism. We will value each other's perspective, opinions, beliefs, and contributions.
Participation	We will strive to diminish "participation for all" barriers.
Leadership	We will take a <i>grassroots</i> approach to enhance communities through collaboration and development.
Inclusion	We will strive to be an organization that embraces all cultures, practices gender equality, and inclusion of all ages and abilities.
Transparency	We will be honest, fiscally responsible, ethical, open, and accountable in all that we do.