

Rivers West

District for
Sport, Culture & Recreation



2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1st, 2024 – March 31st, 2025



SASK LOTTERIES

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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, recreation and leadership programs and services.



Vision Statement

To have all residents of Rivers West District live healthy, active lifestyles through community access to and participation in diverse sport, culture and recreation opportunities.

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 minimize barriers to participation for all.

Leadership

We will take a grassroots 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.

Sport, Culture & Recreation

2025 AGM AGENDA

Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 - 1:30 p.m. CST

Kerrobert, Saskatchewan

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 18th, 2024
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 – Antje Rongve
 - c. 2024 - 2025 Annual Report
 - d. Tri-Global Reports
 - Kristy Wilson, SPRA; Laura Dyck, SaskSport; Tomasin Playford, SaskCulture
7. Financial Report
 - a. Auditor's Report – Steven Schwartz, Treasurer
 - b. Reappointment of incumbent auditor – Vantage Chartered Professional Accountants
8. Report of Committees and Special Committees
9. New Business
 - a. Constitution and Bylaws
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

2024 AGM MINUTES

Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation Inc.

Date: Tuesday, June 18th, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm CST

Location: Unity & District Heritage Museum, Unity, SK.

ATTENDANCE

Donna Johnston-Genest, RWDSCR; Arlene Southgate, RWDSCR/Unity; Ollie Marciniuk, RWDSCR/Hafford; Erin Munn, RWDSCR/North Battleford; Steven Schwartz, RWDSCR/Unity; Jordan Schechtel, RWDSCR/Battleford; Kristy Wilson, SPRA, Bonnie Mills Midgley, RWDSCR/Frenchman Butte; Damon Badger Heit, SaskCulture/Regina; Laura Dyck, SaskSport/Saskatoon; Cynthia Tymoruski, RWDSCR/North Battleford; Chelsey Gladue, RWDSCR/North Battleford; Antje Rongve, RWDSCR/North Battleford
Deb Berlinger and Joe Berlinger, Goodsoil Historical Museum, Mayor, Nancy Schneider, Councillor, Jean Steinacher, and Administrator, Christine Seguin, Town of St. Walburg, Mary Ane Gaetz, New Horizons Association of Unity, Annette McGovern, Executive Director, Battleford Immigration Resource Center Jo McGonigle, Unity & District Heritage Museum, Lisa Feser, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation, Town of Unity and Special Guest, Charlie Richardson.

WELCOME

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Arlene Southgate called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

a. Introduction of Current Board of Directors

b. Introduction of Guests

Arlene thanked the event's caterer, Jan Taylor, for the delicious dinner.

AGENDA

MOTION #1: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

SCHWARTZ/ MARCINIUK

Carried.

MINUTES

MOTION #2: That the minutes of June 20th, 2023 Annual General Meeting and Special Meetings be adopted as presented.

TYMORUSKI/ MCGOVERN

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 the Annual Report)

MOTION #3: That the Chairperson's Remarks, as contained within the 2023-2024 Annual Report, be accepted.

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 2023-2024 Annual Report, be accepted.

MARCINIUK /MUNN

Carried.

2023-2024 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's website.

Tri-Global Report:

This report is available at this meeting.

SPRA -Kristy Wilson, Field Consultant – SPRA is hosting a 2024 Fall Facility Leaders Forum in the Battlefords on September 9th-13th.

Sask Sport – Laura Dyck – Future Leaders, Future Stars and the SaskSport 2024 Summit, Tony Cote Games in LaRonge, August 10th-16th

SaskCulture – Damon Badger Heit – had AGM last Friday, June 14th. SaskCulture provided \$281,000 in funding to a wide variety of community (within Rivers West District) events including, a Capote workshop, Newcomers and Cross-Cultural initiatives, murals, Dog Patch Music Festival, Heart of Treaty 6 Grand Circle Gathering, Open Minds, Open Hearts Barn Quilt Painting, Finding Bresaylor and 22 Museums.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Statements and Auditor's Report, as prepared by Vantage Chartered Professional Accountants, for the period

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024, was read by Jordan Schechtel.

No discussion arose.

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

SCHWARTZ/MUNN

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 2024-2025 fiscal year.

MCGOVERN/MCGONIGLE

Carried.

REPORTS

There were no additional reports presented.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business presented.

Arlene turned the Chair over to Donna Johnston-Genest for the election portion of the meeting.

**ELECTION OF
BOARD OF**

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

DIRECTORS

- b) Reading of Names of Nominees:**
c) 1st call for nominations from the floor
Christine Seguin nominated Nancy Schneider.
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.
SCHWARTZ/STEINACHER **Carried.**

MOTION #8: That all incumbent nominees and Nancy Schneider will form the 2024-2025 Board of Directors for Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation Inc.
MUNN/TYMORUSKI **Carried.**

Arlene resumed chairing the meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE June 2025

PRESENTATIONS
Arlene thanked Erin Munn for her twelve years of service as a Rivers West District Board Member and presented her with a token of appreciation.

Cindy and Antje presented Ollie with the District’s Volunteer Recognition Program Award in the category- *Over-All Volunteer of the Year*.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION #9: That this meeting be adjourned at 1:28 pm.
MARCINIUK **Carried**

Minutes approved June 17th, 2025

Signature

Signature

Chairperson's Remarks

Welcome to the Rivers West District's Annual General Meeting for 2024–2025.

This year marks the 16th chapter in our incredible journey together.

We begin by gratefully acknowledging **Sask Lotteries** for their continued financial support. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our valued partners: **Sask Sport Inc.**, **SaskCulture**, and the **Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association**. Your contributions make our work possible—thank you!

This year has been bittersweet. Our founding Executive Director, **Donna Johnston-Genest**, has retired. She was a visionary and an inspirational leader who helped shape Rivers West into what it is today. Thank you, Donna!

We're also thrilled to welcome our current Executive Director, **Antje Rongve**, whose strong leadership is already carrying forward our mission with passion and clarity. Welcome, Antje!

We also bid farewell to a number of dedicated board members:

Ollie Marciniuk, our Past Chair and an original board member, is retiring after serving the District for 15 years. A true mentor and tireless advocate—congratulations, Ollie!

Jordan Schechtel, our former Treasurer and long-time board member, is stepping down after serving the District for 14 years. We appreciate your dedication and good luck, Jordan!

Crystal Imrie, who stepped away after 8 years of dedicated service in April. Thank you and best wishes, Crystal!

Each of these individuals leaves behind a lasting legacy, and they will all be deeply missed.

At the same time, we're excited to welcome new energy and perspectives. Please join me in welcoming our newest board members: **Kate Tyndall**, **Gerry Murphy**, **Boyd Wakelin**, and **Nancy Schneider**. We're glad to have you on board!

Rivers West is also supported by an incredible team: **Cheryl Clarke**, **Bonnie Mills-Midgley**, **Chelsey Gladue**, and **Cindy Tymoruski**—thank you for your hard work and dedication. We're also pleased to introduce **Bobbi Hebron**, joining us as our new Community Development Coordinator from Kerrobert, Saskatchewan. Welcome, Bobbi!

With this strong team, our programming, workshops, and grants are in very capable hands. Our reach continues to grow, touching more communities and citizens every year.

So, who is Rivers West?

Take a look around—**we are Rivers West**: a collective of passionate people committed to building **inclusive, healthy, and resilient communities**.

Rivers West is the Best!

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Southgate

Arlene Southgate, Chairperson

Rivers West District Board Members 2024-2025



Arlene Southgate,
Chairperson
Unity



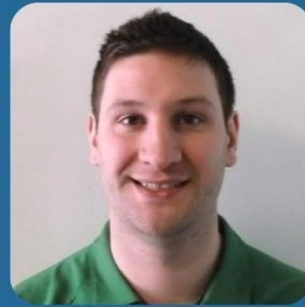
Erin Poitras,
Vice Chairperson
Biggar



Steven Schwartz,
Treasurer
Unity



Ollie Marciniuk,
Director
Hafford



Jordan Schechtel,
Director
Battleford



Lisa Watson,
Director
Elrose



Crystal Imrie,
Director
Kyle



Nancy Schneider,
Director
St. Walburg

Executive Director's Remarks

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Rivers West District's 16th Annual General Meeting.

The past five months have been truly life-changing for me. I have never before had the privilege of holding a role that is both so exciting and so challenging. These months have been filled with learning, mistakes, growth, collaboration, and—above all—connection.

I've had the opportunity to connect with our committed board members: Arlene, Ollie, Jordan, Steven, Erin, Nancy, Crystal, Kate, Gerry, and Boyd. Your dedication, leadership, and guidance have been invaluable as we move into Rivers West District 2.0. I am truly thankful for your trust and mentorship.

And I've connected with passionate community members and organizations who work tirelessly to make their communities better places to live. Your drive and commitment are incredibly inspiring, and I look forward to building even stronger relationships moving forward.

I've also connected deeply with our incredible staff: Cheryl, Chelsey, Bonnie, Cindy, and Bobbi. I've leaned on each of you during this transition, and I'm beyond grateful for your support. Getting to know you more closely since stepping into the role of Executive Director in January has been one of the greatest joys of this journey. I honestly feel like the luckiest person alive to work alongside such an amazing group of dedicated women. Thank you. This brings me to my next item.

After 15 years of dedicated service, Cindy Tymoruski is moving onto her next adventure in Saskatoon. Cindy, your passion, commitment, and warmth have left a lasting mark on this organization and everyone in it. You will be deeply missed—but never far from our thoughts. Please don't be a stranger—our door is always open, and we hope you'll visit often!

Respectfully,

Antje Rongve

Antje Rongve, Executive Director

Rivers West District Staff 2024-2025



Bonnie Mills Midgley
Community Development Coordinator
Frenchman Butte, SK



Antje Rongve
Executive Director
North Battleford, SK



Chelsey Gladue
District Dream Broker
North Battleford, SK



Donna Johnston-Genest
Executive Director/Mentor
Rosetown, SK
Retired April 2025



Cheryl Clarke
Administrative Associate
Warman, SK



Cynthia Tymoruski
Community Development Coordinator
North Battleford, SK
Retired April 2025

2024 Rivers West District Long Term Service Awards



Chairperson, Arlene Southgate presents Director, Ollie Marciniuk with his 15-year service award



Vice Chairperson, Erin Poitras presents Chairperson, Arlene Southgate with her 15-year service award.



Chairperson, Arlene Southgate presents Executive Director, Donna Johnston-Genest with her 15-year service award.



Chairperson, Arlene Southgate presents Community Development Coordinator, Cynthia Tymoruski with her 15-year service award.



Executive Director, Antje Rongve presents Administrative Associate, Cheryl Clarke with her 5-year service award.

Welcome to New Staff & Board Members 2025



Bobbi Hebron
Community Development Coordinator
Kerrobert/Rosetown



Boyd Wakelin, Director
Battleford



Gerry Murphy, Director
St. Walburg



Kate Tyndall, Director
North Battleford

THIS PAST YEAR, WE CELEBRATED THE RETIREMENT OF TWO OF OUR VALUED TEAM MEMBERS. WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS AND DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE PLAYED A MEANINGFUL ROLE IN SHAPING RIVERS WEST DISTRICT INTO THE OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION IT IS TODAY.



**CYNTHIA TYMORUSKI,
15 YEARS AS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR**



**DONNA JOHNSTON-GENEST,
15 YEARS AS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Congratulations

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!



Memberships

2024-2025

- Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre
- Battlefords Concern for Youth Inc.
- Battlefords Immigration Resource Centre
- Battlefords Minor Softball Association
- BGC Battlefords
- Biggar Gymnastics Club
- Biggar Museum & Gallery
- Biggar Rec Valley
- Bresaylor Heritage Museum
- Brightsand Lake Regional Park Authority
- City of Lloydminster
- City of Meadow Lake
- City of North Battleford
- CMHA Battlefords Branch
- Coleville Recreation Association
- Cut Knife Recreation Board
- Debra Scholer
- Dodsland Recreation Board
- Frenchman Butte Museum Society, Inc.
- Henrietta Parenteau
- Lashburn Town & Country Golf Club Inc.
- Luseland Recreation Board
- Major Recreation Board
- Paynton Parks & Recreation
- Radisson Recreation Association
- Resort Village of Aquadeo
- R.M. of Britannia No. 502
- R.M. of Chesterfield No. 261
- R.M. of Douglas No. 436
- R.M. of Frenchman Butte No. 501
- R.M. of Grandview No. 349
- R.M. of Great Bend No. 405
- R.M. of Harris No. 316
- R.M. of Loon Lake No. 561
- R.M. of Marriott No. 317
- R.M. of Meeting Lake No. 466
- R.M. of Mervin No. 499
- R.M. of Monet No. 257
- R.M. of Newcombe No. 260
- R.M. of Pleasant Valley No. 288
- R.M. of Snipe Lake No. 259
- Ruthilda Metis Local No. 105
- Town of Battleford
- Town of Biggar
- Town of Eatonia
- Town of Elrose
- Town of Hafford
- Town of Lashburn
- Town of Maidstone
- Town of Marshall
- Town of Rosetown
- Town of St. Walburg
- Town of Turtleford
- Town of Turtleford & R.M. of Mervin Fire Assoc.
- Town of Unity
- Town of Wilkie
- Village of Borden
- Village of Dinsmore
- Village of Kinley
- Village of Loon Lake
- Village of Medstead
- Village of Mervin
- Village of Milden
- Village of Paradise Hill
- Village of Perdue
- Village of Pierceland
- Village of Wisetown
- Waseca Recreation Board

2024-2025 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Indigenous Community Sport Development Grant Program (ICSDGP)

The Indigenous Community Sport Development Grant (ICSDG) provides greater sport participation and development opportunities for Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan. Rivers West District adjudicated 31 grants for a total of \$ 108,045.18. Allocated through Sask Sport, the dollars went to the development of Skiing, Snowboard, Hockey, Baseball, Golf, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Broomball, Archery, Marshal Arts, Boxing, Weightlifting, Lacrosse and Figure Skating.

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 Rivers West District, 102 applicants were funded. In the Battlefords committee had 23 applicants who were funded for a total of \$12,685.25. The Kindersley committee had 12 applications funded for a total of \$8,580.00

District Dream Broker Program (DDB)

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, Chelsey Gladue, comes in. She works directly with children, youth and their families from Connaught, McKitrick & Saint Mary's school in North Battleford to reduce barriers to gain access to existing sport, culture and recreation activities. Through out the 2024-2025 school year over 250 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, mixed martial arts and afterschool programming. The first in-school programs to take place were Muay Thai with instructor Cory Chambers. It was offered at McKitrick and St. Mary's schools, a beading program also ran at McKitrick with instructor Amanda Arcand. Amanda assisted the students in making a beaded lanyard. A basic sewing class was offered at McKitrick with the school councillor and Chelsey. There was a "Kids in the Kitchen" program offered to students at McKitrick as well as a "Cook with Me" club at Connaught. The school year is ending with a two-day babysitting course instructed by Alexandria Anderson. This program is offered to both McKitrick and St. Mary's schools.

District Dream Broker Schools

St. Mary School

The Dream Broker Program looked a bit different at St. Mary's school. Chelsey had a hard time enrolling students in afterschool programs. She tried to run a sewing program with only one student registered, Muay Thai was offered but the program had to be postponed due to lack of registrations. Chelsey worked at St. Mary's on Mondays and Tuesdays until mid-February when Chelsey's role was reduced to just referral

students. The RWD, Sask Sport, & Light of Christ School divisions are working on a plan to improve the Dream Broker program at St. Mary's. The Dream Broker Program will be offering a two-day babysitting course in June with instructor Alexandria Anderson.

Connaught School

This year, looked a lot different to start. The school went through a reconfiguration going from a pre-kindergarten to grade 6 school to a pre-kindergarten to grade three school. This reconfiguration took some time for everyone to adjust as enrollment was up by close to 60 students. Chelsey met with the new families joining the school at the meet the staff day. She got busy right away assisting families in registering for the upcoming indoor soccer program as well as Colby's Kids, and First Shift program. Circumstances required Chelsey to think of ways of how to offer after school programming to so many younger students. It has been an issue finding service providers, as well as, programming catered to so many younger students. Vesna, Midwest Food Resources, came in and facilitated a "Cook with Me" program. The Program saw 10 students with an older family member come in and assist in cooking a supper meal for the family to take home and enjoy. Chelsey also had the privilege of working with grades 2,2/3 and 3 to create glass painted art. The art projects were used as Rivers West District's Volunteer Recognition Program awards for this year. Chelsey works in Connaught on Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

McKitrick School

Chelsey started the year working at McKitrick on Wednesdays as well as Friday mornings. This schedule changed in February to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. The first program to be offered was a basic sewing class. It saw 10 students learn the basics of a sewing machine as well as some hand sewing. A Muay Thai program ran twice with instructor Cory Chambers. The program saw a total of 38 students participate. A "Kids in the Kitchen" program instructed by Vesna with Midwest Food Resources saw 10 students cook healthy meals to take home for supper. Amanda Arcand instructed a beading class which saw 10 students register. The students beaded beautiful wrist sized lanyards. 15 students will be taking part in a two-day babysitting course in May with instructor Alexandria Anderson facilitating the class.

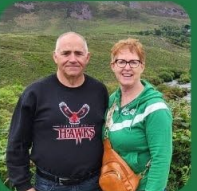


Volunteer Recognition Awards Program Our 16th Annual VRP recipients were presented with their awards in person, at a community celebration. Recognizing their outstanding achievements will be highlighted on the District's social media and website throughout the coming year. The awards were created by a grade 3 class from Connaught School. Organized by our District Dream Broker, Chelsey Gladue, the students created beautiful glass artworks.



2025 Rivers West District VRP Recipients



 Neil & Brenda MacNab - Paradise Hill Community Builders	 Shirley Wourms (Mental Wellness Walk) - St. Walburg Community Wellness Advocate	 Angela Love - Biggar Community Builder
 Christopher Brownrigg - Meadow Lake Sport - Coach	 Lindsay Reimer - Battlefords Sport - Athlete	 Myles Gibb - Meadow Lake Sport - Coach
 Jane Shury - Battleford Sport - Development & Promotion	 Cory Chambers - North Battleford District Dream Broker Service Provider	 Darlene Meger - Biggar Sport - Development & Promotion
 Joni Taylor - Loon Lake Culture - Development & Promotion	 St. Walburg & District Historical Museum Culture - Museum	 Lucas Welsh - Meadow Lake Culture - Artist
 Kevin & Patsy Salzl - Paradise Hill Recreation - Professionals	 "Party in the Pasture" /Justin Novak - St. Walburg Recreation - Event	 Thunderchild Wellness Centre Recreation - Facility

Saskatchewan Games Program

Plans are already underway for the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games being held in Meadow Lake & Flying Dust on February 15th to 21st. We are so excited to be a part of the planning and helping to host these Games in Rivers West District!



Communities in Bloom/Planting Workshops with SSFA and New Horizons

What a wonderful time everyone had at the four planting workshops which \$5,000 of the New Horizons for Seniors funding was allocated to.

-May 7th at Greenpark Greenhouse, Rural Edam/Glaslyn, with host Janice Jamieson and family. Grant Wood, Saskatoon, was the guest speaker. 37 participants.

-May 9th Marsden Seniors' Centre and Spring Joy Greenhouse. Grant also presented at this event. 28 participants.

-May 14th TLC Greenhouse, RM of Mervin, with host Bonny Macnab guiding participants in making livestock mineral tubs in self-watering containers. 27 participants.

-May 23rd TLC Greenhouse, again making self-watering containers. 27 participants.

There was so much interest in these events that there was a 16-person waiting list for a possible third event at TLC Greenhouse.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Barn Quilt Painting Workshops with SSFA and New Horizons

-July 30th & 31st event in Paynton was a success with 22 participants. Everyone had a wonderful time. There were so many positive comments in the evaluations.

-August 26th & 27th event in Goodsoil had 23 enthusiastic participants and one came all the way from Ontario.

-October 8th & 9th in Perdue had 17 participants and four guests.

-November 14th in Thunderchild was a success with 26 participants



Sports Medicine and Science Council Workshops

Al Bodnarchuk, Saskatoon, conducted the Sport Wrapping & Taping workshop on September 22nd in Lashburn with 10 participants listening and practicing their taping skills.

SUMA and SARM Convention Tradeshows

The Provincial Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts partnered in attending the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) Tradeshow in Saskatoon in April 2024. District staff from Prairie Central, Lakeland and Rivers West shared shifts at the Tradeshow booth during the March 2025 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention in Saskatoon. During the two days of the Tradeshow, over 90 municipalities' council members and administrative staff stopped to visit and learn about the benefits of working with the Province's Sport, Culture & Recreation Districts.

Aboriginal Coaching Modules (ACM)

Tarra Olsen, Vice-Principal for Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation School worked with Bonnie to host Rivers West's first ACM training on Monday, October 21st. There were 27 staff members in attendance; the event was planned on a PD-day. The course is instructed by Randi Keshane-Chaboyer, SaskSport.

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 20 communities and organizations. Examples of the activities and events were: volunteer appreciation events, outdoor learning events, Steer riding school, Golf workshops, family festivals, community days, Christmas programs, school tours, sport tournaments, youth leadership initiatives, Truth and Reconciliation events, Canada Day celebrations, community park enhancement projects, Pow-wows, and agricultural days.

SaskCulture Conference and AGM

The SaskCulture AGM was hosted in Regina on June 14th, 2024 and, as always, was well attended and planned. As one of the approximately 70 attendees, Bonnie enjoyed the "in-person" event and the networking and learning opportunities that it provided.

Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc. Conference

On June 12th & 13th, 2024 community consultants Aileen Martin, Prairie Central District, Crystal Clarke, Lakeland District, & Bonnie Mills Midgley, Rivers West District presented to a crowd of 60 guests from across the Province. The Districts joined forces to share information about all the benefits communities can access when working with their respective Sport, Culture & Recreation District. Crystal, Aileen & Bonnie shared information regarding Sask Lotteries and how the Trust Fund was established, and how the funds are distributed among the Tri-Globals. They shared how the Districts work with different groups associated with sport, culture and recreation. Each presenter gave great examples as a part of their presentation to create a clear picture of what it is the Districts do!



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 intent of the Framework in Action grant is to fulfill goals by offering programs and services to our members. Outlined below are the goals and how the District achieved said goals.

Physical Literacy & Play

High Five/Play Leadership Training RWD partnered with the City of Lloydminster to hold a two-day High Five Play Leadership with Coralie Bueckert, Warman, facilitating. On June 5th the nine participants learned Principals of Healthy Childhood Development & June 6th they learned Play Leadership.

Inclusion and Access Priorities

Listen to 'Dis Performances Listen to Dis Community Arts Organization is Saskatchewan's first and only disability-led, disability arts organization. They were able to have three performances & community conversations. More than 900 students and staff from the High Schools in North Battleford, along with community members, were entertained by LTD musicians and actors with disabilities at its heart, and felt their perspectives on disability challenged.

Connecting People and Nature

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.

Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Teaching Workshops. On January 31st at the Servus Sports Centre's OTS room in Lloydminster, 19 people participated in the interactive Blanket Exercise facilitated by Cynthia Young & Tinisha Jordan along with their spouses Mike and Tommy. Since that event, Rivers West District has received requests for further, similar training.

Heart of Treaty 6 Partnership – Lloydminster and Area Heart of Treaty 6 (HOT 6) On June 5th, 2024 the third annual Inter-School Powwow was held at the Civic Centre in Lloydminster, with an estimated 2500 students from the city and surrounding areas attending.

The organization of all the schools (and their busses) coming and going was amazing and so very well coordinated. Dancers of all ages participated with everyone in the building being invited to participate in the Round Dance at the conclusion of the day.



Rivers West District, Kim Gardner (community member from St. Walburg/Administrator for Brightsand Lake Regional Park) and Lawrence Weinrauch, then Mayor of the Town of Turtleford, and General Manager for Turtleford Coop, worked together to host the Grand Circle Gathering at Milleton Hall, in the R.M. of Eldon, on June 19th.

There were many “new faces” at the Gathering, with total attendance of 50 people all interested in working together. At the end of the meeting, local historian, Bob Peterson provided a guided tour to Shiloh Church, Pine Island and the Kenderdine Memorial site for those who wished to visit the sites.

The Grand Circle Gathering, hosted by Thunderchild First Nation at their new Wellness Centre on September 25th, 2024 was also well attended. The day included a tour of the impressive Centre.

The January 22nd HOT 6 Grand Circle Gathering in Lloydminster was the same day as another event that Bonnie had committed to. Co-Chair, Cynthia Young said there were over 50 people in attendance, only a few of which were attending virtually.

A community Round Dance was hosted at the Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds on March 19th from 6:30-9:30 pm. There was an Indigenous Makers Market held in conjunction with the Round Dance. What a successful event with 400 plus in attendance!

Supportive Environments

Facility Operator Support Program – The District helped five operators from three communities access the program to broaden their skills to better serve their communities.

Recreation Capacity

Grant Writing Workshop The District partnered with Livelong to host an in-person Grant Writing Workshop facilitated by Wendy Plandowski. 10 participants.

Board Governance Workshop The District partnered with the Lakeland Library (13 participants), Frenchman Butte (19 participants) & Goodsoil (9 participants) to host three in-person Board Governance Workshops with facilitator Wendy Plandowski.

Board Strategic Planning Workshop On Saturday, March 29th, RWD, Frenchman Butte Museum Society and facilitator Flo Frank worked together during a Strategic Planning session. Flo provided a very informative session for the group with lots of support materials, both at the event and in follow-up. She drafted a “Board Binder” with much information and draft Museum policies.

From the Executive, directors, members, volunteers of the Frenchman Butte Museum Society and the entire community,

“The Frenchman Butte Museum would like to thank, Rivers West District for Sports, Culture and Recreation, for the help with workshops on Governance in the past year. The workshops were a great benefit to help our organization back to better governed meetings and moving forward in the right direction. Thank you again for all the help with amazing speakers and information.”

Effective Communication Workshop The District partnered with the RM of Great Bend to provide 73 participants an Effective Communication Workshop facilitated by Greg Nelson & Michelle Bryan with mediators from The Dispute Resolution Office.

Virtual Workshops



- Understanding Diversity with Flo Frank. 11 participants
- Volunteer Community Engagement with Malvina Rapko. 10 participants
- Intangible Cultural Heritage with Kristin Catherwood Manta. 45 participants

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 happening in communities has been a rewarding experience. 272 community members from 67 communities and organizations were visited, in person via community visit and/or telephone conversations. This does not include participants/communities in attendance and visited at the 5 training workshops the District helped to host.

Staying Connected Recreation Chats

- April 9th Discussion topic was the Indigenous Community Sport Development Grant
- April 30th Topic was Sole-Stice track and field meets with guest speaker Karen Wharington from Saskatchewan Athletics
- September 17th Topic was SPRA grants and funding opportunities with presenter Kacie Loshka.
- October 29th Topic was Creative Kids presented by Shawn Bauche.
- January 28th topic was Libraries across Saskatchewan presented by Colin Evans.
- February 25th Tomasin Playford, SaskCulture, prepared a pre-recorded presentation.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



Partnerships 2024-2025

- Battlefords Youth Network
- City of Lloydminster
- City of Meadow Lake
- City of North Battleford
- Communities in Bloom
- Creative Kids Battlefords
- Frenchman Butte Museum Society
- Greenpark Greenhouse
- Hamlet of Frenchman Butte
- Heart of Treaty Six
- KidSport Battlefords
- Lakeland Library
- Light of Christ School Division
- Listen to Dis Community Arts Organization
- Living Sky School Division
- Marsden Seniors' Centre
- New Horizons for Seniors Program
- North Sask River Basin Council
- Provincial Eligible Cultural Organizations
- Provincial Recreation Organizations
- Provincial Sport Governing Bodies
- Provincial Sport Organizations
- Provincial Sport, Culture & Recreation Districts
- RM of Mervin
- Sask Sport Inc.
- SaskCulture Inc.
- Sask Seniors Fitness Association
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association
- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
- Servus Sports Centre
- Sport Medicine Science Council of Saskatchewan
- Spring Joy Greenhouse
- Thunderchild First Nation
- Thunderchild Wellness Centre
- TLC Greenhouse
- Town of Battleford
- Town of Lashburn
- Town of St. Walburg
- Town of Turtleford
- West Central Municipal Government Committee