



Nîsohkamâtowin
helping one another

Annual Report 2020-2021

Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre



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The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC) is a non-political, autonomous, and non-profit organization/charity that was incorporated in 1968. It is a part of the Friendship Centre Movement of 120 Friendship Centres across Canada.

The SIMFC supports First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultural distinctiveness by providing community development services that holistically support all ages.

Membership to the Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre is open to anyone over the age of 16. Memberships cost \$2/year. All members of First Nations, Métis, or Inuit descent are invited to vote at the Annual General Meeting and participate in the election of the Board of Directors. Non-Aboriginal people can join as Associate members, but have no voting rights.

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Board of Directors 2020-2021

Louise Oelke, Chairperson
Sandra Youngchief, Vice-Chair
Vance Winegarden, Treasurer
Allan Morin, Secretary
Nora Cummings, Elder
(Non-Voting)
Lyndon Linklater Sr.,
Traditional Knowledge Keeper
(Non-Voting)
Maryann Napope
Penny Hurton
Kelsey Hignett
Nicole Guertin
Melanie Sunchild
May Henderson
First Nation - vacant
Youth position - vacant

To say that 2020 – 2021 was a memorable year would be an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic created many new realities for the Saskatoon Indian Métis Friendship Centre to adjust to.



Families were forced to distance from each other. There was never-ending hand washing and wearing of masks. We stopped most of the everyday interactions we were accustomed to.

However, SIMFC stayed open for various programs throughout the pandemic to alleviate the stress our members were facing. The staff worked hard and I'm pleased to say that we helped more than 59,000 people. SIMFC staff prepared and delivered food hampers, served hot breakfast and supper meals, and provided outreach services to our less fortunate brothers and sisters with food, hygiene packs, and clothing.

This year we increased our capital assets with the purchase of new kitchen equipment, a truck for the Youth Works program, a van for on our daily Outreach services, and a car to help provide services to Indigenous youth making the transition from foster care to their new lives.

I would like to thank the great staff and management who worked tirelessly through the trying times to ensure we lived up to our mission statement, "To improve the lives of urban Indigenous people."

To our funders, community supporters, and individuals who donated resources to help the less fortunate, we acknowledge your kindness and thank you for your support.

And finally, I would like to thank the great Board of Directors who worked with the staff through some of the toughest times the Centre and the Indigenous community have faced.

Best wishes on behalf of the Board.

Louise Oelke, Chair
SIMFC Board of Directors



kishkinahamakew taanday chiitohtayhk (Michif) Guide: teaches you where to go

Over the past year, the coronavirus pandemic has guided the SIMFC to where it needed to go and to where our contributions were most vital. As a result, the Centre has found itself transformed and we can now see a fresh future for the organization and how it can best support and serve Saskatoon's Indigenous community.

Food security became our #1 priority on a number of levels, including meal planning for on-site and outreach meal sharing, and food hamper drives to help out and to keep our community safe at home.

The SIMFC is most grateful to the Government of Canada for the COVID-19 virus emergency funding that enabled the Centre to ensure that Saskatoon's Indigenous community had food and were safe.

New programming opportunities supported Indigenous youth coming out of foster care and giving homeless youth a safe place to get warm and eat a meal during the cold winter. We also took advantage of possibilities for greater outreach and the support of Elders during this exceptional time.

We went virtual in order to connect with our members, community partners, supporters, and funders. We remained a cultural resource for our audiences, sharing stories, history, and recipes that reflect who we are as resilient urban peoples.

All of this was made possible through the hard work of the Centre's dedicated staff and the generosity of the Saskatoon community and our funding partners.

We look forward to a future, post-coronavirus, and the next chapter of the Centre's mission to serve Saskatoon's Indigenous Peoples.

Robert Doucette
Executive Director

Staff Members

Robert Doucette, Executive Director
Lowell Giesbrecht, Comptroller
Jennifer Whitecap, COVID-19 Relief Coordinator
Fiji Robinson, Communications Officer
Carrie Dubois, Receptionist
Teddy Shingoose, Facilities
Terry Gossen, Meal Planner/Cook
Bettina Stephenson, Meal Planner/Cook
Ed Ermine—Community Outreach
Shelby Desjarlais—Community Outreach
Sanford Strongarm Jr., Community Programs Coordinator
Melanie St. Juste, Programs Manager
Charleen Cote, Manager, Fifth Fire
Adam Terlesky, Fifth Fire
Breanna Doucette-Garr, Fifth Fire
Vernon Linklater, Indigenous Family Violence Support Worker (IFVSW)
Shauna Watcheston, IFVSW
Will Grant, Family Worker
Megan Shingoose, Family Worker
Melissa Parkyn, Resolution Health Support Worker (RHSW)
Arnold Naytowhow, RHSW
Tanya Beauchamp, RHSW
Cote Campbell, Youth Works
Marchand Dudley, Youth Works
Jaydon Campbell, Youth Works

Navigating through the pandemic together

asici (Cree) ᐱᐱᐱ
Together: together with,
along with, accompanied by

Over the past year, and working within strict pandemic restrictions, the Centre assisted the Indigenous community in a number of ways by:

- Garnering community and funding support for the new roles it played during the pandemic;
- Responding to new funding possibilities for continued change and support in programming;
- Creating and utilizing new tools for better information sharing with membership, sponsors, donors, funders, and community supporters;
- Producing a number of special cultural projects for a digital audience;
- Rethinking and completing renovations and new office spaces for a new era at the Centre.

Much of how SIMFC was able to respond to the priorities of Saskatoon’s Indigenous community was through funding from Indigenous Services Canada and its Emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund. That funding allowed us to begin our coronavirus journey and see where it would take us.



Our partnership with United Way Saskatoon and Area continued to be at the heart of our operations,

SIMFC also worked with Service Canada to keep members informed on the federal services available to individuals and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

New priorities

oski-ayi (Cree) ᐃᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱ
New: the new kind
ooshkayi (Michif)
New: neu

SIMFC was fortunate to have talented staff who made it possible for the Centre to adapt to the coronavirus reality. Their experience, skills, and know-how kept the Centre on track as it started reshaping itself for the pandemic era.

The Youth Works team led the way on the facilities upgrading, including renovations and new spaces for staff and programming so it was possible to accommodate new priorities and opportunities.

Staff pitched in to ensure that the meal and food hamper programs evolved and were supported. They also provided the necessary front-door supervision and strict client interaction needed to ensure provincial COVID-19 protocols.



New communications opportunities through a new website, a newsletter, and a greater focus on Facebook, the media, and public relations kept the Centre connected to our membership, the community, and our funders. The new Zoom Room kept staff safe when providing community services and attending meetings. Through video production, the Centre was able to support cultural history and teachings. SIMFC honoured All Children Matter Day and Remembrance Day with the creation of graphic designs projects.

The Oskawipewis (“Helpers”) program assisted Elders and their extended families to remain safe, connected, and supported during the coronavirus pandemic. Delivered by the Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW), the program took a holistic approach to addressing the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional needs of 90 Elders. The Elders received food hampers, cleaning and toiletry kits, and learning aids for those who were the main caregivers of children under the age of 18. They were apprised of important activities and opportunities, and received traditional medicines with information on usage.



Keeping the Fire was an 8-hour program for parents with high behavioral needs children. Parents gained tools and supports such as coping mechanisms, emotional regulation for children, identity formation and grounding techniques.

A Sharing Circle was offered to female survivors of violence in the late fall but had to be discontinued due to the second wave of the pandemic.

The Centre increased its focus on youth services, starting with the Fifth Fire program that assisted youth to be successful in their transition from foster care to independence. Clients became refamiliarized with their Indigenous identity through the guidance of The Fifth Fire teachings for youth as derived from the Seven Fires teachings of the Saulteaux Peoples. This cultural component, coupled with assistance in creating community and cultural connections, helped clients to create a more fluid transition into their new lives.

The Wicitizon Youth Shelter, which opened in January 2021, also utilized the principles of the Fifth Fire in giving youth a place to go where they were treated with dignity and respect. The Saulteaux word *wicitizon* means “to help myself” and reflected the opportunity youth were given to take care of themselves by having a meal and a respite from life on the street. It also gave a few individuals the support to help them start the next part of their personal journeys.



Food security in the community

The profound effect of the coronavirus on SIMFC operations provided the impetus to rethink how it could ensure food security for families, individuals, and Elders.

By mid-April, SIMFC had moved from its twice-weekly supper to providing a brown-bag lunch daily, Monday through Friday, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

In May, SIMFC joined up with CHEP's New Horizons Program to help deliver food hampers to Elders.

In June, SIMFC started assisting families, individuals, and Elders with food hampers thanks to the federal government's Emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund.

By August, the Centre was in the swing of things with its Tuesdays-in-August food hamper campaign. Some 920 hampers of perishable and non-perishable foods were issued to assist more than 5,700 people. SIMFC staff systematically accommodated the process to help individuals get out of the heat of the day and stay COVID-19 safe during the campaign.

By the fall of 2020, the Centre had established its twice daily on-site and outreach breakfast and supper programs. The outreach program enabled us to expand our ability to support a greater number of people. We also provided other resources to assist them in their everyday lives, including hygiene kits and warm clothing.

SIMFC was proud to support breakfast and lunch programs for the students of Lii Bufloo (Westmount) and Wahkotowin schools.

These programs received aid from SIMFC's breakfast fundraiser on September 3. Almost 120 friends of the Centre came out to champion the event. All proceeds went towards its Children's Lunch Hamper program, with the breakfast and art auction bringing in close to \$1,900.

SIMFC partnered with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan's Western Region 2A for its July and December hamper campaigns. WR2A volunteers attended to the food delivery and organized hampers for 334 urban and rural Métis Elders and families. The impressive operation took over the entire SIMFC gymnasium and most of the lobby. Elders and children also received bags with items to help them stay home and stay safe during the continuing lockdown. WR2A Local Presidents ensured that pickups and deliveries were made for the in-town and out-of-town recipients.

asahkêw (Cree) ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ

Food:
s/he gives out food;
s/he feeds people



SIMFC staff worked hard to ensure that Christmas 2020 was a great success, carrying out a hamper drive and cooking up a turkey dinner for those who might have gone without.

Seventy-five hampers were picked up or delivered to families and individuals. Some of the support for the campaign came from the ps5 Draw. The hamper included a turkey, potatoes, vegetables, bread, eggs, and other foods, as well as presents for children.



Despite the treacherous, wintery temperatures, the SIMFC Christmas Turkey Dinner went ahead to provide hot meals to some 230 individuals who enjoyed a full meal of turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, and desserts.

Keeping the community safe

The Centre’s front door and outreach practices evolved into daily standard protocols to ensure the wellness of staff and clients during the COVID-19 crisis.

Early into the first lockdown, SIMFC produced masks to help keep the community safe. After an initial push, funding and donations allowed the Centre to play a crucial role in providing masks and raising awareness on how to stay safe.

With the surprise of an cold, early winter, generous donations to the Centre helped many families and individuals to stay warm and safe with winter clothing.

In October, SIMFC was proud to announce that it is an LGBTQ2S+ safe place where all people are welcomed.

The Saskatoon and Indigenous media showed great support for the Wicitizon Youth Drop-In Shelter and its mission to help homeless youth. The program garnered coverage by CTV News, Global News, and Eagle Feather News.

The Centre went virtual for many of its cultural offerings. For the Saskatoon Folkfest virtual celebration, the Centre produced video segments featuring: the story of the Men’s Fancy Feather Dance; Charleen Cote sharing some of the meaning and protocols around the making of Muskeg tea; and Métis Elder Allan Morin sharing stories of growing up sustainably in a Métis family close Ile-à-la-Crosse.

**kanawêihtamâkêwin
(Cree) ᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ**

**Safe: taking good
care of things,
looking after things**

Maintaining services

Despite the Centre's regular programming being profoundly affected by the pandemic, staff continued to support the community through means that protected both our clients and themselves.

ka nânapâcihtahk
kîkway [VII]
b àe<ŕ"Cx Pô++
Maintain

Youth Works

Although the Youth Works program was dramatically affected by the pandemic, the team was able to rethink how they could make changes to the program to ensure that youth were still on track to finishing their restitution. It was decided to cut down to one youth per day to work more safely, to work only outside jobs where it was possible to stay physically distanced, and to strictly follow pandemic safety protocol with the use of personal protective equipment. All of these considerations allowed the program to continue completing its City Civic Clean Up and Graffiti Removal contracts.

With the easing up of restrictions in the late summer, the program got going again and things returned to somewhat normal operation. As a result, victims were paid and community service hours were completed.

Cultural Programming

Prior to the second wave of the coronavirus, the programming department was able to offer a variety of classes that had been suspended:

- 4x4 co-ed volleyball league
- Regalia skirt making
- Traditional cooking class
- Beading class
- Children's Summer Program featuring arts and crafts.

Indigenous Family Violence Support (IFV)

The staff of the IFV department continued to provide services within the safety protocols of the pandemic. They continued to act as advocates for women whose children are in the care of the Ministry of Social Services, especially those experiencing domestic violence in the home. This included zoom meetings with Domestic Violence Court staff and scheduled counselling services via phone.

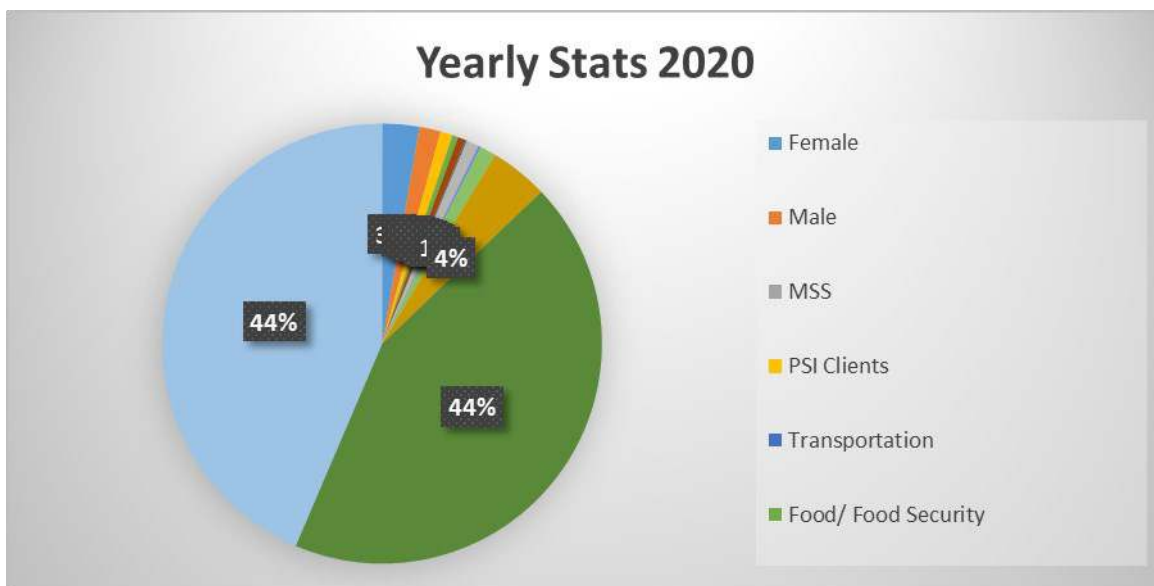
A Men's healing circle took place on Wednesdays at City Hospital.

IFV staff were pleased by the level of resilience they witnessed in clients with respect to reaching out, keeping in contact, and opening up to share their stories.

The Family Worker Program

Due to coronavirus, the Family Workers focused on supporting families through counselling online and through text messages and phone calls. They developed new programming that allowed families to attend programming online or by phone. The Family Workers:

- partnered with CHEP Good Food to deliver community food hampers and CHEP lunch hampers to schools.
- delivered 27 laptops to families to ensure that students could undertake their studies at home.
- provided gift cards to families, as well as handmade facemasks, early into the pandemic.
- Raised funds to ensure that families received Christmas hampers, as well as gifts for children.



Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW)

SIMFC Resolution Health Support Workers continued the important work of assisting Federal Indian Day School survivors with their FIDSS support applications while maintaining provincial pandemic protocols. All clients are supported wherever they are at in the application process and their healing process. As of year end, the RHSW have provided services to almost 500 Day School applicants.

The RHSW also assisted Sixties Scoop Survivors with their claim applications. Although the healing services offered through the Sixties Scoop Support Group were halted due to the pandemic, the RHSW continued to distribute Sixties Scoop Settlement cheques to those whose claims were approved.

Miigwetch, marsee, to our community and government partners

Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan

Association of Métis, Non and Status Indians of Saskatchewan

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Saskatoon

Canadian Linen and Uniform Service

Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.

CHEP Good Food Box

Chianti Café and Restaurant

City of Saskatoon

Clarence Campeau Development Fund

CNH Industrial

COBBS Bread

Community Initiatives Fund

Computers for Schools

Corrections Canada

Culligan Water

Department of Canadian Heritage

Eagle Feather News

Fire Creek Gas Bar

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Indigenous Services Canada

John Howard Society

Misty Ventures

National Indian Brotherhood

Nestor's Bakery

OUTSaskatoon

Rotary Club

Quint Development Corporation

SaskCulture

Sask. Justice Victims Services

Sask. Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Sask. Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

Sask. Ministry of Social Services

Sask. Workers Compensation Board

Saskatoon & District Labour Council

Saskatoon Community Foundation

Saskatoon Food Bank

Saskatoon Housing Initiative Program

Saskatoon Police Service

Saskatoon Public Library

Saskatoon Public Schools

Saskatoon Salsa Dance Company

Saskatoon Tribal Council

Saskatoon Twin Charities

Service Canada

Staples Circle Drive

Staples Eighth Street

The Lighthouse

Tim Horton's 22nd & Avenue F

Tourism Saskatoon

UNIFOR

United Way of Saskatoon & Area

University of Saskatchewan

White Buffalo Youth Lodge

Thanks to our generous funders

Pandemic Response

Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan
Association of Metis, Non and Status Indians of Saskatchewan
COVID-19 Relief Fund, Government of Canada
United Way Saskatoon & Area

Canada Helps

Employment and Social Development Canada
Family Worker Program: Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services
Family Violence: Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
Indigenous Peoples Assistance Fund - Fifth Fire
Keeping the Fire:
National Indian Brotherhood—Ozhitawin Art Program
First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada—Resolution Help Support Workers
Sask. Corrections and Policing—Youth Works
Saskatoon Community Foundation
Saskatoon Community Mediation Services YouthWorks
Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership— Fifth Fire; Wicitizon Youth Shelter
United Way Saskatoon & Area—Wicitizon Youth Shelter
Westburne Midwest
Women and Gender Equity Canada

Program Department

Affinity Credit Union
Canadian Heritage
City of Saskatoon
Community Initiative Fund (CIF)
First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada
Nutrien
Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre
Saskatchewan Lotteries
Saskatoon Tribal Council
SaskCulture
United Way Saskatoon & Area

SASKATOON INDIAN AND MÉTIS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE INC.

Statement of Operations and Members' Equity

Year ended March 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	Revenue	Expenses and amortization	Excess (deficiency)	Equity at beginning of year	Equity at end of year
Building and Family Services Reserve Fund (schedule 1)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
Building Fund (schedule 2)	181,321	90,355	90,966	440,373	531,339
Core Fund (schedule 3)	643,019	627,378	15,641	(22,886)	(7,245)
Program Fund (note 6)	1,384,292	1,403,988	(19,696)	131,877	112,181
Family Services (note 7)	266,867	267,167	(300)	33,892	33,592
Youth Victims Restitution Fund (schedule 9)	224,598	235,502	(10,904)	65,658	54,754
Internal administrative allocation (note 1(f))	(213,438)	(213,438)	-	-	-
Total	\$ 2,486,659	\$ 2,410,952	\$ 75,707	\$ 768,914	\$ 844,621

	Revenue	Expenses and amortization	Excess (deficiency)	Equity at beginning of year	Equity at end of year
Building and Family Services Reserve Fund (schedule 1)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
Building Fund (schedule 2)	108,242	76,652	31,590	408,783	440,373
Core Fund (schedule 3)	381,520	371,778	9,742	(32,628)	(22,886)
Program Fund (note 6)	1,259,948	1,248,667	11,281	120,596	131,877
Family Services (note 7)	347,716	347,259	457	33,435	33,892
Youth Victims Restitution Fund (schedule 9)	222,722	230,168	(7,446)	73,104	65,658
Internal administrative allocation (note 1(f))	(153,583)	(153,583)	-	-	-
Total	\$ 2,166,565	\$ 2,120,941	\$ 45,624	\$ 723,290	\$ 768,914

Notes





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