



# Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre



## Annual Report 2019-2020

Improving the lives of Indigenous people  
in Saskatoon for more than 50 years



## Table of Contents

Message from the Board of Directors .....	3
Message from the Executive Director .....	4
SIMFC Staff .....	4
Cultural Diversity and Supporting Reconciliation .....	5
Community Service Programs .....	6
Annual Indigenous Graduation Gala .....	9
Cultural, Recreational, and Learning Programs .....	10
Community Generosity .....	11
Thanks to our Community Supporters .....	12
Thanks to our Funders .....	13
Statement of Operations and Members' Equity .....	14

The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC) is a non-political, autonomous, and non-profit organization 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 & Métis 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. Annually, we have more than 350 voting members.

Thanks to Marchand Dudley for his many photos found throughout this report.

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## Message from the Board of Directors

The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre plays a special role in the city of Saskatoon by striving to improve the lives of urban Indigenous people. As a gathering place, it has been engaging and connecting First Nation and Métis people to this community for more than 50 years. Its legacy is bringing people together by offering cultural, recreational, and community programs and celebrations of the spirit. This year, close to 40,000 individuals were welcomed to the SIMFC where they could get a cup of coffee and access a service.

We are grateful to the many funders and community supporters who champion this organization.



## Board of Directors 2019-2020

Louise Oelke, Chairperson  
Sandra Youngchief, Vice-Chair\*  
Vance Winegarden, Treasurer  
Allan Morin, Secretary\*  
Nora Cummings, Elder\*  
Lyndon Linklater Sr., Traditional Knowledge Keeper\*  
Maryann Napope  
Penny Hurton\*  
Kelsey Hignett  
Nicole Guertin  
Melanie Sunchild  
Audrey Armstrong

\*missing from photo



Front row, l-r: Audrey Armstrong, Vance Winegarden, Louise Oelke

Back row, l-r: Nicole Guertin, Kelsey Hignett, Melanie Sunchild

## Message from the Executive Director, Robert Doucette

It is my privilege to help SIMFC move forward as an integral institution that provides activities, programs, and services that Indigenous and non-Indigenous people have come to rely on.

Over the past year, SIMFC has made great strides in developing new partnerships which have led to important services. Looking forward into 2020, we know our work is only beginning and we must strive to meet the needs of an ever-expanding Indigenous community.

Of course, many thanks to the Board of Directors and our Elders who have provided great stewardship in the affairs of SIMFC. Finally, to the hard-working SIMFC staff, marci choo. Without your devotion making SIMFC a safe harbour in a chaotic world for all of the patrons who come to SIMFC would not have happened.

## Staff Members

Robert Doucette, Executive Director

Lowell Giesbrecht, Comptroller

Melanie St. Juste, Programs Manager

Jennifer Whitecap, Programs

Sanford Strongarm Jr., Community Programs Coordinator

Carrie Dubois, Receptionist

Vernon Linklater, Family Violence Worker

Anne Peeteetuce, Family Violence Worker

Kyla Morin, Family Worker

Will Grant, Family Worker

Arnold Naytowhow, RHSP Worker

Melissa Parkyn, RHSP Worker

Emily Bear, Sisters Strengthening Sisters  
Coordinator

Tim Yee, Housing First Manager

Danielle Borix, Housing First

Shauna Watcheson, Housing First

Shea Nordick, Rapid Rehousing

Shannon Carson, Rapid Rehousing

Amy Engel, Rapid Rehousing

Denise Desjarlais, Home Fire

Chelsea Schick, Home Fire Centralized Intake

Adam Terlesky, Home Fire Centralized Intake

Cote Campbell, Youth Works

Marchand Dudley, Youth Works

Megan Shingoose, Youth Works



## Celebrating Diversity and Supporting Reconciliation

The Centre continues to focus on building community and supporting reconciliation through events and programs that celebrate the diversity of Saskatoon and its Indigenous cultures.

- SIMFC hosted National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 in Victoria Park. Some 5,000 people attended this annual celebration that celebrates our Indigenous cultures. It was generously supported by 17 sponsors.
- SIMFC was also proud to take part in the third annual Saskatoon Rock Your Roots for Reconciliation Walk on National Indigenous Peoples Day. This event honours the Residential School and Sixties Scoop survivors and their families.
- SIMFC is a long-time supporter of Saskatoon's popular Folkfest, serving up traditional Métis and First Nation foods, including soup and bannock, Indian tacos, and Saskatoon Berry pie. SIMFC has been hosting the Folkfest Indian and Métis Pavilion at the Centre for 39 years.
- On June 20, SIMFC hosted a citizenship ceremony for 60 new Canadian citizens for the Institute for Canadian Citizenship. This event included a information-sharing roundtable between SIMFC members and staff after the ceremony.
- Twenty University of Regina students visited SIMFC in early April to learn about the services the Centre provides to Saskatoon's Indigenous community. Many asked questions about the Sixties Scoop and Indian Day school and how it impacted Indigenous lives. For some, the information provided was something new and shocking.
- An Anti-racism Initiative and Gathering took place on March 11 to engage stakeholders in a collective voice to address and redress the critical issue of community racism through hard-to-have dialogue. The process was designed to promote participation through solution-focused outcomes, identify racialized discrepancies, and determine action items to eliminate racial disparities and racism in the Saskatoon community.



## Community Service Programs

### Home Fire Housing Programs

SIMFC is funded by the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership that houses and supports Individuals through its Home Fire Housing Programs—Housing First and Rapid Rehousing. Intake staff initially conduct a triage assessment to provide an indication of an individual's potential housing needs. Persons who fall within the definition of being either chronically homeless or episodically homeless can then be assessed to determine if they should be referred to a Rapid Rehousing or Housing First case manager or do not require a formal intervention.

This is the last year of this program with the announcement of the new federal program called “Reaching Home—Canada’s Homeless Strategy.” Starting in 2020, the federal government will be calling for proposals to be the delivery agent of the Indigenous homeless funding stream. SIMFC sent representatives to an initial workshop in Regina.

### Resolution Health Support Worker

The Resolution Health Support Workers work with Residential School, Sixties Scoop, and Day School survivors by helping them to fill out their compensation forms, advocate on their behalf when necessary, and provide sharing circles where survivors meet in a safe place to talk about their experience and how it impacted their lives.

SIMFC has been supporting Sixties Scoop survivors and the challenges they are facing. Accessing adoption records became an issue for many who received letters saying that their records were destroyed. August 30 was the deadline for survivors to apply for compensation.

### Indian Day School Class Settlement Assistance

On August 19, the Federal Court approved a nation-wide class settlement to compensate survivors for harms suffered while attending Federal Indian Day Schools and Federal Day Schools. The settlement includes compensation for eligible Survivor Class Members ranging from \$10,000 to \$200,000 based on the level of harm experienced. Some 200 people attended the SIMFC-hosted Indian Day School information session regarding the Day School class settlement, with lawyers fielding questions and helping many to complete their applications.



## The Journey Home Bus Tour

SIMFC hosted the 2019 Journey Home bus tour organized by the Adoption Council of Canada. Attended by more than 120 people, it explored the experiences of individuals who have been in the foster care system. It also provided the opportunity to hear from youth and young adults with lived experience of the foster care process and their recommendations for change to the child welfare system.

## Sisters Strengthening Sisters

This new program was created to help empower women and girls through programs, services, and cultural connections that focus on health and well-being. The Centre provides an environment of safety for Indigenous women/girls to encourage healing.

## MMIWG Programs

SIMFC hosted the October 6 MMIWG march, welcoming close to 200 attendees. This was the second year SIMFC hosted the march and program which included lunch and presentations from families impacted by a loved one who has gone missing.

## The Supper Program

A supper program on Tuesdays and Thursdays provides individuals and families with a nutritious meal. Through this much-needed program, SIMFC feeds more than 250 individuals and families every week.

## Women and Gender Equality Services

The objective of this new program is to eliminate the gender-based disparities within the operations of the SIMFC through strategic planning. It incorporates gender-based analysis through training and development. The first training session took place on January 24. Staff members who complete the program will receive a GBA certificate.





## Family Workers

SIMFC Family Worker staff support individuals and families who are experiencing challenges relating to poverty, addiction, spousal/child abuse, and cross-cultural issues. The Family Worker Program offers individual and family counselling, advocacy services, housing support, referrals, and life-skills workshops.

The goal is to raise the standard of life for everyone who walks through our doors by helping to improve their mental and spiritual state, instilling the desire to achieve self-sufficiency, and helping them take pride in themselves and their community.

We are committed to ensuring that we provide our clients with fair and equitable representation when dealing with government agencies and the issues they may face.



## Family Violence Program

The Family Violence Program uses a holistic approach to provide prevention, intervention, and protection for those affected by family violence. It offers services that are sensitive to culture and address the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional aspects of human beings. Our goal is to heal the hurtful effects of family violence.

We are here to provide support and knowledge which helps individuals and families tap into their own inner strength. We provide emotional support and empathetic listening to regular clients, walk-ins, and referred clients. We also assist with the needs of the Saskatoon Domestic Violence Court as it relates to the treatment of offenders and victims.

The Family Violence Program offers community circles and community sweatlodges.



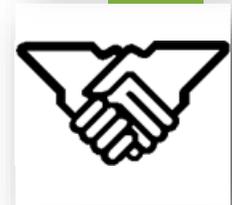
## Youth Department

The Youth Department engages urban Indigenous youth in cultural, recreational, and learning activities that foster positive self-identity. It is a safe haven where youth can participate in activities that strengthen and heighten their cultural identities. Through this department, youth can also access a reception area, information, and services available to youth.

## Youth Works

Youth Works is a program that assists youth, male or female and under the age of 18, who have committed a crime and are looking to redirect their life or make restitution for their actions. Youth are referred to us from other partnering organizations, such as the Department of Corrections and Public Safety, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatoon Community Mediation Services, or the John Howard Society.

Participants gain training and skills that can help to shape their future while undertaking community work. They are also referred to other opportunities appropriate to their abilities.



## Annual Indigenous Graduation Gala

This year, SIMFC hosted its 35th annual graduation celebration for Grade 12 Indigenous graduates from across the city. Presented in June, this evening event honours the grads by allowing their name to be recognized on stage. Grads celebrate with dinner, entertainment, and a toast to their parents. Recipients of various scholarships are also announced.



## Cultural, Recreational, and Learning Programs

The SIMFC's Program Department provides recreational, cultural, and learning programs and events for children, youth, adults, and Elders. It builds community by facilitating activities that urban Aboriginal families and individuals can enjoy taking part in.

### Community Events

- Aboriginal Graduation Gala
- Annual Jigging Competition
- Folkfest
- Identification Clinics
- Indigenous Peoples Day Festivities
- Weekly Sweatlodge Ceremonies, Whitecap Dakota First Nation

### Cultural and Music Workshops/Classes

- Beading Classes
- Fiddle Lessons
- Guitar Lessons
- Jigging Workshops
- Regalia and Ribbon Skirt Making Classes
- Sash Weaving Workshops
- Pow Wow Song and Dance classes

### Recreational Activities

- Drop in volleyball

### Elder's Dinners

- Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas

### Programs for Women

- Sharing Circles for women
- Empowering the Wisdom in Young Women Workshop

### Children's Events/Programs

- Halloween and Christmas Party
- Summer Program

### Youth Programs

- Métis Youth Cooking Class
- Culture camps
- Leadership camp
- Fiddle workshop

### Professional Development Opportunities

- Résumé Writing Workshops for Youth
- Practicum Student Placements



## Community Generosity

- Thanks to the representatives of the West Minister United Church in Humboldt who presented SIMFC with a cheque for almost \$200.00 in November. The money was raised by the church's youth group to help SIMFC in its efforts to assist people who are disadvantaged.
- The Centre hosted its third annual SIMFC cook-off on October 24 to raise funds for families in need at Christmas.
- The November 19 steak night raised some \$1,200 with the proceeds going to the Supper Program.
- The November 24 Gospel Jamboree, attended by some 70 people, raised close to \$600 for the Supper Program and received much-appreciated food donations.
- We are grateful to Cobs Bread that has been generously donating their breads to us as part of their End of Day Giving program. It has enabled us to offer toast and coffee in the morning, Monday through Friday.
- On February 14, students from the University of Saskatchewan's Masters of Public Health dropped off 20 personal items kits for individuals in need. Each kit contained toiletries, socks, a pair of mitts, a toque, and non-perishable food items. The kits were adorned with a Valentine's Day card and chocolates.
- Thanks to the Linklater family who have made available their sweat lodge for ceremonies on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation.
- Thanks to Saskatoon Twin Charities , our staff, and those who come out to support us at City Centre Bingo so we can keep making a difference in our community.



## Thanks to our Community and Government Partners



Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan  
 Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Saskatoon and Area  
 Cameco  
 Camponi Housing  
 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
 Canadian Red Cross  
 Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.  
 CHEP Good Food Box  
 City of Saskatoon  
 Clarence Campeau Development Fund  
 Cobs Bread  
 Community Resources and Employment, Sask. Ministry of Social Services  
 Corrections Canada  
 Culligan Water  
 Dakota Dunes Development Corporation  
 Delta Hotels  
 Department of Canadian Heritage  
 Eagle Feather News  
 Elizabeth Fry Society  
 Fire Creek Gas Bar  
 Gabriel Dumont Institute  
 Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools  
 Guadeloupe House  
 HRDC Canada – Homelessness Project  
 Indigenous Services Canada  
 John Howard Society

Lorass Disposal  
 MACSI  
 National Indian Brotherhood  
 SaskCulture  
 Sask. Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing  
 Sask. Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations  
 Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission  
 Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority  
 Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies  
 Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc.  
 Sask. Urban Native Teacher Education Program  
 Saskatchewan Polytechnic  
 Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board  
 Saskatoon Housing Initiative Program  
 Saskatoon Police Service  
 Saskatoon Public Schools  
 Saskatoon Tribal Council  
 Saskatoon Twin Charities  
 Service Canada  
 The Lighthouse  
 Tourism Saskatoon  
 University of Saskatchewan  
 Victims Services, Sask. Justice  
 We Are Many Festival  
 Whitecap Dakota First Nation

# Thanks to Our Generous Funders

## Family Worker Program

Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services

## Family Violence

Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice

## Resolution Help Support Workers

First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada

## Sisters Strengthening Sisters

National Indian Brotherhood

## Youth Works

John Howard Society

Saskatchewan Corrections and Policing

Saskatoon Community Mediation Services

## Program Department

Canadian Heritage

City of Saskatoon

Community Initiative Fund (CIF)

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Development Canada

Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation

First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada,

Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program

Saskatchewan Lotteries

Saskatoon Tribal Council

SaskCulture

Status of Women Canada

United Way, Saskatoon

## Home Fire Housing Program

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

Saskatoon Housing Initiative Partnership

Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan



# Statement of Operations and Members' Equity

Year ended March 31, 2019

	Revenue	Expenses & Amorization	Excess	Equity Apr 1, 2018	Transfers	Equity Mar 30, 2019
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Building & Family Services Reserve Fund				120,000	-	120,000
Building Fund	133,486	95,973	37,513	371,270	-	408,783
Core Fund	437,885	432,170	5,715	(38,343)	-	(32,628)
Program Fund	1,176,652	1,182,404	(5,752)	126,348	-	120,596
Family Services	251,337	251,890	(553)	33,988	-	33,435
Youth Victims Restitution Fund	219,030	219,030	-	73,104	-	73,104
Internal Admin. Allocation	(165,180)	(165,180)	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,053,210</b>	<b>2,016,287</b>	<b>36,923</b>	<b>686,367</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>723,290</b>

# Notes





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