



The best of humankind experienced by SIMFC during 2020

The year 2020 has been described by some as “unprecedented” and one that left us “speechless” in the wake of the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic and its effects upon our lives. But, for the Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre it was also a year in which we saw “unprecedented generosity that has left us both speechless and humbled.”

We are amazed by the kindness of so many individuals and organizations that have helped us ensure that those truly affected are being taken care of in the best of ways. Big or small, all donations made a difference to the families and individuals who looked to the Centre for assistance and we are grateful for the community support that has allowed us to do so.

This issue of CityScape highlights the activities of the Centre over the past three months. It also builds upon the SIMFC experience of how Saskatoon’s community has come together over the past nine months to look after one another during the pandemic crisis. Thanks to so many!

From the staff and Board of Directors, best wishes and Happy New Year to the friends and funders of the Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre!

Donations make difference to Centre’s ability to help during fall 2020

SIMFC continued to benefit from the generosity of many individuals and organizations throughout the fall.

Food security remained the number one priority and we were able to continue our breakfast and supper program while focusing on the offering of hot meals to offset the early snow.

Thoughtful donations of warm clothing and footwear also meant SIMFC could help people stay warm during what may be a long, cold winter.



A big thank you to CNH Industrial for two generous food drive donations as well as a cheque for \$7,913 for food security projects. Thanks to the generosity of CNH Industrial, SIMFC was able to replace the former stove with two new stoves and a microwave just in time for this fall’s hot meal programs.



SIMFC received an amazing load of winter squashes from anonymous donors who delivered the beautiful vegetables to the Centre for our food programs. The squashes have been a great boost to our ability to provide nourishing food, in a number of ways, during the coronavirus pandemic.

Thanks to Quint representative Kayla Brien for delivering 50 reusable COVID-19 masks to SIMFC Executive Director Robert Doucette. Quint, a community economic development agency, has been celebrating 25 years by giving useful items to organizations on the front line as a way of saying thank you.



SIMFC says thanks to donor agencies with its Marsee . Miigwetch certificate



Staples, on 8th Street, for backpacks and school supplies for students.



Cobs Bread at Stonebridge and its End of Day Program



Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre for its continuing support.



Citizen Café & Bakery for its contribution towards the breakfast program



Congratulations to the hard-working SIMFC staff for making the Christmas 2020 programs a great success!



Staff members put together and delivered 75 Christmas hampers to families and children across the city.



Staff dishing up the turkey dinner.



The pasta dinner donation by Chianti's Café & Restaurant.

The Christmas hamper program helped out families and individuals with 75 hampers this year, with some of the financial support coming from the ps5 Draw! The hampers included a turkey, potatoes, vegetables, bread, eggs, and other great foods, as well as presents for children. Despite the frigid temperatures, our great staff also stepped up to ensure the delivery process took place smoothly. CTV News covered the hamper drive, too!

Many thanks to the Saskatoon Salsa Dance Company for their tremendous donation of more than \$1,200 worth of toys for the Centre's Children's Christmas 2020! The gifts were made possible through a toy drive carried out by the company's young dancers and will help to make Christmas 2020 special for many children across Saskatoon.

Thanks also to the City of Saskatoon and the Rotary Club for their generous financial donations and Saskatoon Public Library for the donation of new books to the Children's Christmas 2020.

Despite the treacherous, wintery temperatures, the SIMFC Christmas Turkey Dinner went ahead to provide hot meals to some 230 individuals. It was a full meal of turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, and desserts – wow! Thanks to SIMFC staff who ensured that a hot turkey dinner was available to those in need.

Thanks to SIMFC's neighbour Chianti Café & Restaurant, at the corner of Idylwyld and 22nd Street, that donated 130 pasta meals that we were able to offer after our turkey dinners ran out.

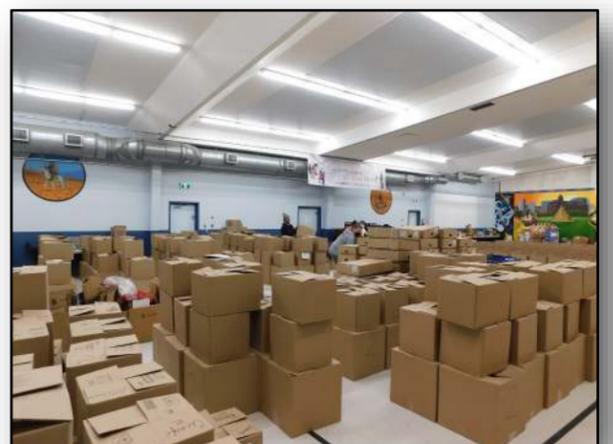
SIMFC was also pleased to partner with Western Region 2-A (MN-S) on its holiday hamper drive to benefit folks in Métis Locals across the Region. While the initiative eventually took over the whole SIMFC gymnasium, it was loaded up and delivered on Tuesday, December 22.



Gifts went into every SIMFC Christmas hamper.



The Saskatoon Public Library donated new books to SIMFC's Christmas 2020.



WR-2A delivered Christmas hampers to families across the region.

Oskawipewis program supports Indigenous Elders

The SIMFC Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW) team continued to deliver the SIMFC Oskawipewis (“Helpers”) program. This program provides services to Elders and their extended families to help them remain safe, connected, and supported during the continuing coronavirus pandemic. The RHSW Team uses a holistic approach to address the four pillars of well being by focusing on the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional needs of the Elders applying to the program.

The RHSW Team regularly conveys news on events, activities and information pertinent to Elders interests, from government services, to community events and cultural opportunities.

Information on discounted community services, and free food services .

Altogether, the Oskawipewis program has had 90 applicants. The RHSW team has provided 135 food hampers, 129 cleaning and toiletry kits. Additionally, 35 Learning Aids were provided to Elders who are the main caregivers of children under the age of 18.

The Team gathered, prepared and distributed Traditional Medicine packs to 57 Elders as per their request; Sweetgrass, Sage, Bear Root, Rat Root, Muskeg Tea, Rose Hip, Mint Tea, Chaga and Ginger. The RHSW Team also provided information regarding the traditional use of medicines distributed.



Elders requested and received traditional medicines as part of the Oskawipewis program.

RHSW team supports Indian Day School and 60s Scoop survivors

The SIMFC Resolution Health Support Workers team continues to assist clients with Federal Indian Day School Support (FIDSS) applications. Clients are supported through walk-in, phone-in or scheduled appointments to complete the FIDSS applications. The team strives to assist each client with where they are at in the application process as well as in their healing process. To date the RHSWs have provided service to 485 Day School applicants and 370 60's Scoop Survivors.

The 60's Scoop Support Group was ongoing every Tuesday evening from 6 to 8p.m. prior to the new COVID-19 restrictions. On average, 10 to 15 participants attended each meeting, with an Elder on hand for guidance. RHSWs have been distributing 60's Scoop Settlement cheques to those whose claims have been approved. The RHSW team also continues to provide support to 60's Scoop Survivors' who are still in the process of being approved and have been asked to provide additional information to Collectiva Class Action Services Inc.

SIMFC receives 10 computers for Elders and families from Computers for Schools

Many of the Elders whom SIMFC serves are the primary caregivers of children in their families. After receiving several requests for computers and/or laptops to assist children to access Online Learning / Education, SIMFC received a donation of 10 desktop computers from Computers for Schools on December 1. Computers for Schools Saskatchewan (CFS SK) annually distributes more than 4,000 computers to schools, libraries and non-profits across the province. The organization operates two volunteer repair and refurbishing centres in

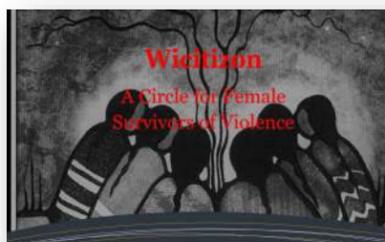
Saskatoon and Regina where surplus computers are cleaned, refurbished, and prepared for delivery. Volunteer workshops are staffed by SaskTel Telephone Pioneers and high-school students. All federal government departments contribute their surplus equipment to CFS, as do a number of Crown Corporations including SaskTel, Sask Power, and private companies such as Celero, have donated their surplus equipment to CFS.



SIMFC recognizes Every Child Matters Campaign

In honour of SIMFC's endorsement of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of

Canada's Calls to Action, SIMFC commemorated the Survivors of the 60's Scoop and the Residential School System by recognizing September 30 as the Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters Campaign. SIMFC staff members all wore orange masks provided by SIMFC to bring awareness to the harmful legacy of Indian Residential Schools, the Day Schools, and the 60's Scoop in Canada.



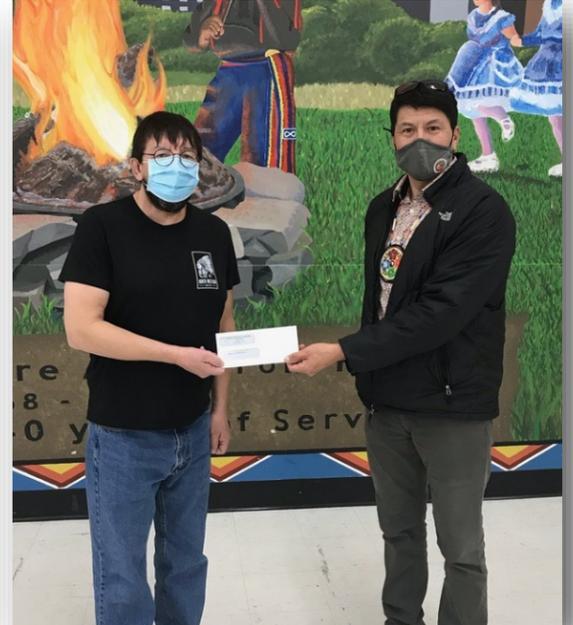
SIMFC offers Wicitizon sharing circle for female survivors of violence

In November, SIMFC started offering a sharing circle, Wicitizon, on Wednesdays, 5 to 7 p.m. for women who are survivors of violence. The circle assisted women to express their experience and to share feelings, such as shame, which is part of surviving violence. The circle is intended to give participants a sense of hope, to learn about what resources are available to them, and to know that they are not alone in their lived experience.



SIMFC mourns the passing of Elder Mike Maurice

The staff and Board of Directors of the Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre mourned the passing of Elder Mike Maurice on November 24. He was a devoted family man who dedicated his life to the issues of Indigenous people and his community. "Moshum Mike" was a tireless supporter of numerous organizations, including the SIMFC, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, CUMFI, Gabriel Dumont Institute, SUNTEP, White Buffalo Youth Lodge, and sitting as a Senator of the MN-S Senate for many years.



School partnerships support food security for students

SIMFC is proud to have partnered with Lii Bufloo (Westmount) and wahkotowin Schools to provide resources for their breakfast and lunch programs. SIMFC Executive Director Robert Doucette presents (left) Matthew Bodnarchuk, Principal of Westmount School, and (right) Pete Chief, Principal of wahkotowin School, with cheques to ensure students have access to nutritious foods.



Vernon Linklater wins Public School Trustee in municipal election

Congratulations to Vernon Linklater for his win as Public School Board Trustee in Ward 2 in the recent municipal election! This is his fifth term in the role, making him the longest serving urban Indigenous trustee in Saskatchewan. Vernon works at SIMFC as a counsellor in the Interpersonal Violence Support program.



SIMFC hosted 10 virtual Michif classes by Brouse Flamman on Sundays from late October until December 20 in the Centre's Zoom Room. The weekly sessions covered greetings, various themes surrounding the home and family, and encouraged learners to build sentences and start conversing in Michif. Ultimately, learners across the Americas participated in the Michif training.



SIMFC's Executive Director Robert Doucette was proud to accept a walking stick for the Centre from student Briannica, at Lii Bufloo, aka Westmount School, who made it in class. The beautiful walking stick was presented along with a letter that outlined its creation. It features a carving of the Michif and English words for the Métis value of "cleanliness/payhkunn."



SIMFC is proud to announce it is now an LGBTQ2S+ safe place. To ensure that Centre staff are knowledgeable about gender and sexual diversity, Jack Saddleback, OUTSaskatoon's Cultural & Projects Coordinator, presented Queer 101 as an introduction to identities, terms, and allyship.



Sacrifices Remembered
Honouring the Indigenous men and women who fought for the liberty and freedom of all Canadians
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To recognize the men and women who fought for the liberty and freedom of all Canadians, SIMFC designed a poster entitled, Sacrifices Remembered, in time for Remembrance Day. The poster was purchased by many of our community partners, including City of Saskatoon, Saskatoon Public Schools, the Kikinahk Friendship Centre in La Ronge, and others .