



SDHHS

Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services

Bridging the Gap

A bi-lingual, bi-cultural, non-profit organization which provides support services and programs for persons with hearing loss.

Annual Report 2018-2019

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VALUES

Communication with respect, dignity, and cultural sensitivity

Collaboration and cooperation among individuals and communities

Self-determination, empowerment, and choice

Operational integrity and accountability that inspires trust

Accessibility

MISSION

To support the independence of Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people by providing services which enhance their quality of life.



VISION

A world without barriers for people who are Deaf, Deafened or Hard of Hearing.

Board

Gord Hein- President

Michelle Grodecki – Past President

Allard Thomas – Vice President

Art Hillcox – Treasurer

Caroline Caul – Secretary

Paulette Smith – Director

Gale Estell – Director

Jason Hale – Director

Ashley Corriveau – Director

We want to thank our volunteer board for all of their hard work throughout the year.



CCCC Preschool Grand Opening



CDF Group 2018

Staff

Nairn Gillies – Executive Director

Kami Harbidge – Exec. Asst./Finance/
HR

Sue Schmid – Senior Interpreter

Anne Websdale – Interpreter

Karen Nurkowski - Interpreter

Dean Wiebe – Interpreter

Tyler Burgess – Interpreter

Rosalie Wishlow – Interpreter

Joy Emerson – Interpreter (Contract
Position)

Jody Thompson – Vocational Employ-
ment

Patti Spicer – Vocational Employment

John Warren – Vocational Employment

Katie Vick – Office Coordinator

Travis Kerr – Office Coordinator

Robyn Holmes - Early Childhood Family
Services (Contract Position)

Amanda Buziak – Assistant Office
Coordinator



Summer Camp 2018

Freelance Interpreters

Carla Klassen

Annette Jaspar

Maureen Stuart

Erika Ball

Jim Markin

Akane Richard

Janet Ditrack

Diane Unterschultz



Quick Skills Camp Group

Christmas Party



Summer Students

Josh Websdale

Rachel Zanyk

Computerized Notetakers

Rhonda Leier

Heather Reynoldson

Amanda Prokopp

Micheal Hill

Jason McKee



Summer BBQ



First Aid Regina

Janitorial

Candace Quill – Saskatoon

Evan Auger – Regina

Christine Kostiuk – Regina

Rochelle Klassen - Saskatoon

CDF Support Workers





American Sign Language Instructors

Twyla Chartrand – Regina

Caroline Bergbusch – Regina

Barry Jenkins – Saskatoon

Bree Sproule – Saskatoon

Costume Party



SDHHS said goodbye to a cherished member of our family when Roger Carver passed away suddenly on January 21, 2019. Roger was the Executive Director at SDHHS from 2009-2014. He was a cherished member of the SDHHS staff and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities in Saskatchewan and across Canada. We will fondly remember Roger's influence, wisdom and humour.

Financial Report

SDHHS contracted the services of MWC Chartered Professional Accountants to complete the 2018/2019 Financial Audit.

The Auditors Financial Statement is included in the Annual General Meeting package for you review.

Currently, SDHHS is in a surplus position. Funds from the surplus will be used to help offset the costs not funded for through core funding.

I would like to thank Clint and Tyson from MCW Chartered Accountants for their thorough work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Art Hillcox

Treasurer



ASL Classes Report

Hello everyone! In both the fall of 2018 and winter of 2019, we enrolled enough students to teach 2 ASL classes. Bree Spoule taught Level 1 and I taught Level 2. In Spring of 2019, we taught 3 ASL classes – Bree lead Level 1 & 2 and I lead Level 3.

This was the first time ASL classes were offered in the spring and it was very successful! Many thanks to the substitute ASL instructors who came into class and taught our students. We appreciate it!

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry Jenkins

SDHHS Vocational Counselling Department

April 1st, 2018—March 31st, 2019

SDHHS VC Registered Consumers:

Deaf	68
Hard of Hearing	22
Cochlear Implant	3
Total Registered Consumers	93

Education support:

47 consumers

Employment support:

89 consumers

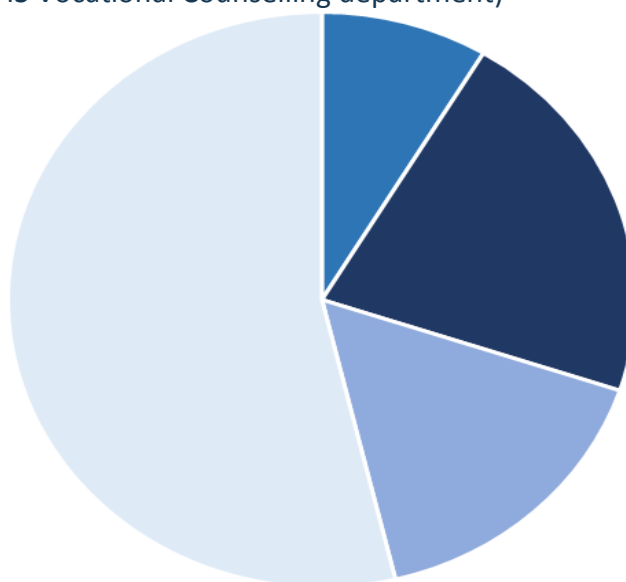
SDHHS' Vocational Department registered consumers received the following supports:

Resume Development	Provincial Job Group	Access to Information and Resources
Short Training Courses	Job Search Skills	Education Access and Supports
ASL Interpreting Services	Peer Networking	Computerized Note-taking Services
Assistive Listening Devices	Wage Subsidies	Vocational Skills Training
Interview Skills Training	Self-employment Supports	Referrals to Partnering Agencies

SDHHS Employment Statistics April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

(Consumers registered with SDHHS Vocational Counselling department)

- 8 Employed Seasonal/Casual
- 20 Employed Full-time
- 15 Employed Part-time
- 50 Unemployed





Pictured above is Nicholas Kettel and Evan Auger. They received support through SDHHS in helping to find the Fireman Boiler Operator (ENGP-1800) course at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. There are many employment opportunities where the Fireman Boiler Operator Certificate is required as a stipulation of being hired, but they had no idea where to take the training. Nicholas and Evan have both completed the training course and are now seeking employment.

Good Luck to you both!

This is just one example of how SDHHS supports our registered consumers through the Vocational Counselling Department. In the past year we have connected consumers with businesses, training facilities, disability support services at colleges and universities, work experience programs, vocational training, and various other supporting organizations. We have worked closely with Partners In Employment, the North SK Independent Living Center, Winston Knoll Collegiate, and numerous wonderful organizations and businesses throughout the province. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their support and willingness to work with us this past year. We hope to maintain those partnerships and cannot wait to meet more people and build new relationships again this year.

The Vocational Counselling Department has supported consumers by facilitating a quick skills camp, in developing resumes and applying for jobs, by hosting a provincial job group, in practicing for job interviews, in opening a new business, through training at a new job, and in learning new skills as a part of maintaining employment. It has been a busy year!

We sincerely enjoy working with our consumers and look forward to the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia Spicer &

Jody Thompson

President's Report

This has been an exciting year for SDHHS with many changes. I would like to thank all the Board members for their assistance this year and I appreciate their help and patience as we venture forward to promote the mission of SDHHS. Our mission is: To support the independence of Deaf, Deafened, and Hard of Hearing people by providing services which enhance their quality of life.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge former Executive Director Roger Carver, who died on Monday, January 21, 2019. Roger was a prominent leader within the Deaf Community across Canada and we were so saddened by his passing. We are thankful to Roger as he contributed so much to the mission of SDHHS.



This year the Board of Directors took a leap to pilot a bi-lingual/bi-cultural Pre-school Program in Saskatoon. The preschool is designed for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children as well as children of Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults. We welcomed Bree Sproule and Alyson Hein as the pre-school staff and thank them for their passion and dedication to the children.

I had the opportunity to visit the pre-school after it began and an opportunity to see the staff with the children a few months later. I was amazed at how the acquisition of language and establishment of social structure had impacted these children in such a short amount of time. The children exuded confidence in who they are and were able to express themselves. This is an adventure and journey that SDHHS is once again pioneering, working to improve the quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Saskatchewan. Our agency is continuing to have discussions for additional improvement in educational programs in other locations.

Thank you to our two summer students in 2018, Josh Websdale and Rachel Zanyk. They were busy with many activities and especially the gathering of items for the 4th Annual High Steaks fundraiser which was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

We have had some staff changes at SDHHS and I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Staff, Rosalie Wishlow, Joy Emerson & Patti Spicer. Rosalie & Joy are employed as Sign Language Interpreters in the Saskatoon office. We welcomed Patti Spicer to SDHHS working in the areas of Early Childhood and Family Services and Vocational Counselling in the Regina office.

President's Report

In Saskatoon, Tyler Burgess and Dean Wiebe were both on paternity leave this year. They and Robyn Holmes are all busy with new additions to their family. We bid farewell to John Warren and thanked him for all that he has done for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community while he was in Saskatchewan. We hope that he will continue his connection with SDHHS.

SDHHS staff; Jody Thompson, Sue Schmid, Karen Nurkowski, and Katie Vick continue to provide amazing services for the agency. I wish to especially acknowledge the dedication of Kami Harbidge in maintaining the SDHHS financials in good order. She is always willing to tackle whatever comes across her desk and always keeps the best interests of the community first and foremost.

Next, I want to take a moment to thank SDHHS Executive Director, Nairn Gillies for his broad vision and passion as he directs the agency. He continues to advocate for improvement in services to enhance the lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens of Saskatchewan. Recently we held Town Hall Meetings in Regina & Saskatoon to collect input from the Community to help guide us in our goal to improve services in Saskatchewan.

Thank you to all the members of SDHHS for their support as I complete my 2 year term as President. I ask for your continued support for the Agency as we continue to serve you in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gordon Hein
President of SDHHS Board of Directors

A Message from our Executive Director

Change is the only constant in life.

This past year has seen many changes. While some are hard and painful to experience others are welcomed and exciting.

Early this year we said goodbye to a dear friend and my mentor Roger Carver. He was a steadfast rock of commitment to Deaf and Hard of Hearing rights, as long as I knew him. He moved to Saskatchewan to make improvements in accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families. The scope of his life's work stretched across Canada and in all levels of hearing. His role on the boards of the CHS and CAD and his advocacy with MLAs here in Saskatchewan, will have a lasting impact on the Province. He is dearly missed.



The Federal Government and the Government of Saskatchewan accepted our proposal to provide a bi-lingual, bi-cultural program for preschool age children. In September, we opened the doors to the Children Communicating, Connecting and in Community (4C) Preschool, and children came bustling in (pictured left). The children started shy and reserved but soon were excited to come to school and were able to switch back and forth between ASL and English. Direct instruction from a Deaf Educator has been very successful. We had a visit from Gary Malkowski, VP of Canadian Hearing Society, who visited the 4C Preschool. His comments were extremely positive. It was a very good opportunity to have a national perspective look at what we're doing here in Saskatchewan.



The Provincial Government proudly announced 16 hospitals are now providing Universal Newborn Hearing Screening programming. This is a gigantic win for families; in that they will know almost as soon as child is born, what the child's linguistic needs are, allowing for early intervention. Every Deaf or Hard of Hearing child will have better language, cognitive, socio-emotional and educational outcomes because of this program.

This last year nearly 40,000 people were engaged in sign language and the performing arts through direct artist presentation either by the Deaf Crows, or through interpretation of Saskatchewan productions. The Arts Board funded accessible theatre and Interpreter training in our province and the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange is bringing in interpreting music as professional development. This has been a wonderful way to introduce the wider provincial community to what Deaf and Hard of Hearing accessibility looks like, sign language, and Saskatchewan's diversity.

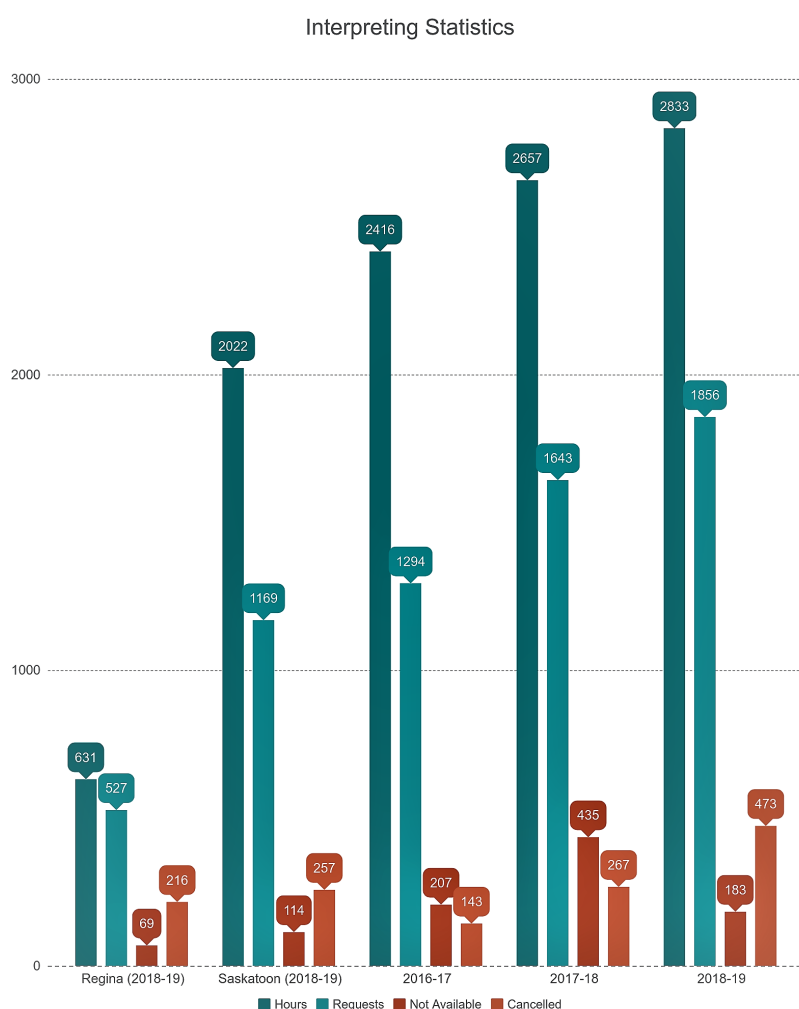
A Message from our Executive Director

Interpreter's Report

Another year has flown by! Thank you to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members in Saskatchewan for entrusting SDHHS to continue providing ASL/English interpreting services. The staffing has increased over the past year. Rosalie Wishlow and Joy Emerson joined SDHHS this past Fall to cover various leaves taken by members of our team. We welcome both Tyler Burgess and Dean Weibe back from paternity leave. Congratulations to both families with their new additions. At the end of June we will bid Joy farewell as her contract will expire. We have appreciated her enthusiasm and willingness to pitch in as an active member of our team. Thank you!

I would like to say thank you to the entire interpreting team, Anne, Dean, Joy, Karen, Rosalie and Tyler for your continued dedication. Without you, we would not be able to meet the needs of the community. I would like to also thank our freelance interpreters for the work that they do. Our work takes us all over Saskatchewan and offers us the opportunity to work with each other in various situations and to continually improve our skills. A component we are introducing to the team is a format to be able to reflect on the year and outline our goals that we plan to work on for the upcoming year. If there is feedback that will help us to work on improvement, please direct it to sue@sdhhs.com or call the office to arrange a time to meet in person.

As I reflect on the previous fiscal years, I can see that the number of interpreting requests continues to increase. During the 2018/19 fiscal year, the number of interpreting requests in the province increased by 12.9%. There was a total of 1,856 requests and 2,833 hours of direct service. It was also very positive to note that we were able to successfully fill more requests. The previous fiscal year 2017/18 saw 435 requests turned down due to no interpreter available but during 2018/19 that number was reduced to 183 (58% less).



Interpreter's Report

Thank you to Nairn and Kami for arranging professional development for the entire team with Debra Russell. Our team appreciates the ongoing commitment from the Administration and the Board of Directors to ensure that we are afforded opportunities to engage in professional development. The upcoming year will see many opportunities for professional growth. I would also like to personally thank both Nairn and Kami for their ongoing support and trust in me to operate as the Senior Interpreter for the team. It makes my job easier knowing that we are able to have candid discussions while sharing the same vision to strive to provide the best possible interpreting services throughout the province.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Schmid, COI
Senior Interpreter

Children Communicating, Connecting, and in Community, Preschool Report 2018-2019

This year was a big year for us, we recently launched our new preschool on September 26, 2018. The preschool is called Children Communicating, Connecting, and in Community (CCCC). This includes children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have a parent, sibling or other family member who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This also includes three or four-year-old friends or peers the child would play with outside of the classroom to support ongoing learning and communication in the community and daily life. After many weeks of setting up the classroom and developing this program, we are happy to be able to call this program a huge success!

We had a diverse group of D/HH and CODA preschoolers of all different backgrounds. It is amazing to see how much sign language, social skills, positive behaviours and communication skills they have learned since enrolled in this program.

This year flew by with lots of activities such as, CCCC Preschool's Grand Opening, an Open House, Family Involvement Days on Fridays, field trips, exploration in the classroom, crafts, monthly themes, real life experiences, hands on activities, community visits with Saskatoon seniors, St. Phillips reading partnership, parent volunteers, and much more!



This program runs half days from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and has a maximum of sixteen children and three staff. Children attend four days a week. The fifth day is for family and community events. The timing of these events is flexible to meet the needs of families. Each child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing will have an Inclusion and Intervention Plan (IIP) which identifies the child's strengths, goals, and supports needed as well as transition plans into Kindergarten. We provide a Speech and Language Pathologist to support our preschooler's language acquisition and monitor the children's development.

Thank you to those who made this program possible!

Our Team:

Executive Director – Nairn Gillies

Lead Educator – Bree Sproule

Assistant Educator – Alyson Hein

Speech Pathologist – Heather Tremblay

Administration – Kami Harbidge

SDHHS Interpreters

Parents/Community Volunteers

CCCC Pre School 2018-2019 Picture



Back Row: Alyson Hein, Isaiah Johnston, Daniel Jr Henbid, Noah Van Ee, Bree Sproule

Front Row: Della Quill, Coen Burgess, Russel Estell, Beckett Biehn.

Missing: Hussein Nama, Olive Van Ee, Scarlett Groat.

2018 4th Annual High Steaks Dinner

The 4th Annual High Steaks Dinner was an amazing success. A whopping \$22,523.00 was raised!! We hosted the event at a new venue this year, the Saskatoon Travelodge. The food and space were fantastic. We would not be able to have the success we do without our amazing volunteers, donors and sponsors. We want to send out a huge THANK YOU to our staff, volunteers and to those people and companies that made donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!



A HUGE thank you to our sponsors:

Dinner sponsor: **Federated Co-Operatives Limited**

Wine/liquor sponsor: **Dakota Dunes Casino**

Entertainment sponsor: **Viking Benefit Solutions**

Silver Sponsor: **SaskMilk**

**DAKOTA DUNES
CASINO**

**VIKING**
Benefit Solutions

WESTJET 

You're at home here.



**Sask
milk**

Volunteers

We are so grateful to every one of our volunteers for supporting SDHHS and for believing in the work that we do! Here is a list of people who volunteered for us this past fiscal year. We apologize for any errors or omissions. And thank you to our board and staff who volunteer their time.

Katie Vick

Bree Sproule

Alyson Hein

Maureen Reimer

Joy Emerson

Kami Harbidge

Grace Biehn

Emily Dunn

Shelly Carver

Corinne Harms

Sharon Mackinnon

G Andrea Bernice Alas Mendez

Josh Wedsdale

Katie Kzyzyk

Rachel Zanyk

Karen Nurkowski

Lorraine Allchurch

Georgetta Louise

Shelly Carver

Robert Hutchinson

George Bolt

Clinton Miller

Karla Forke

Sydney Thompson
Ramsay

Emilyn Safroniuk

Emalee Forke

Bailee Adams

Cara Harms

Alex Cloutier

Lisa Hale

Aiden Whitley-Gheysen

Riley Burant



High Steaks Fundraiser 2018

"It had been so true in my life that the time I spent helping others has been the most rewarding"

OUR FUNDER!



The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training

The Ministry of Social Services

The Ministry of Education

2018 – 2019 PARTNERSHIPS



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Literacy and Learning for Life



THE Verna and Lionel McGillivray
Fund for Children in Saskatchewan





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Questions or comments about this publication or any programs and services offered by SDHHS should be directed to:



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