



SDHHS

Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services

Bridging the Gap

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



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CHECK SDHHS OUT ON

Facebook



Instagram



Website



Social Media
Handle

@sdhhsinc

CONTACT US

Phone

306-665-6575

Toll Free Phone

1-800-667-6575

Text

306-229-2010

Fax

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Skype

saskatoon@sdhhs.com

Facetime

sdhhsapple@icloud.com

REGINA OFFICE

#2343 Broad St. Regina, SK S4P-1Y9

SASKATOON OFFICE

#3-511 1st Ave N. Saskatoon, SK S7K 1X5

VISION & VALUES

SDHHS has been Serving Saskatchewan since 1981

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

OUR 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.





WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Paulette Smith.....	President
Michelle Grodecki.....	Vice President
Gord Hein.....	Past President
Jessica Tiefenbach.....	Secretary
Art Hillcox.....	Treasurer
Leslie Dunn.....	Director
Mustafa Alabssi.....	Director
Fatima Nafisa.....	Director
Gale Estell.....	Director
Patti Trofimenkoff.....	Director
Shelly Carver.....	Director
Allard Thomas.....	Director

SASKATOON OFFICE:

Nairn Gillies.....	Executive Director
Kami Harbidge.....	Executive Assistant
	Human Resources
	Finance

Rose Wu.....	Office Coordinator
Ren Perra.....	Office Coordinator

Sue Schmid.....	Interpreter
Brandie Radcliffe.....	Interpreter
Dean Wiebe.....	Interpreter
Tyler Burgess.....	Interpreter

Jody Thompson.....	Vocational Worker & Youth Worker
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Robyn Holmes.....	Early Childhood, Youth and Family Services
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Krissy Haines.....	Sign Support Professional
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REGINA OFFICE:

Karen Nurkowski.....	Interpreter
Patti Spicer.....	Vocational Worker & Early Childhood and Family Services
Rae-Mairi Richardson.....	Sign Support Professional
Rochelle Carty-Bauman...	Sign Support Professional

Nicole Musey.....	4C Preschool Teacher
SonJa VanEe.....	Education Assistant
Ashley Bucknall.....	Education Assistant

A BIG Thank You to the Board and Staff of SDHHS for all your amazing work through this last year!

Freelancers & Contractors

FREELANCE CNS PROVIDERS

Donna Whitelaw
Rhonda Leier
Heather Reynoldson

FREELANCE INTERPRETERS

Carla Klassen
Maureen Stuart
Krissy Haines

DEAF INTERPRETER

Janet Dittrick

OFFICE CLEANERS

Evan Auger
Huda Kayed
Sonya Rees

ASL INSTRUCTORS

Twyla Chartrand
Caroline Bergbusch
Nicole Musey
Rae-Mairi Richardson

CONTRACTORS

Burton Bird
Lisa Buhler
Shelly Carver
Sheri Chambers
Leslie Dunn
Scot Earl
Krissy Haines
Alyson Hein
Robyn Holmes
Isaac Marsden
Vicki McLaughlin
Nicole Musey
Fatima Nafisa
Rae-Mairi Richardson
Adam Stratychuk
Rochelle Carty-Bauman
Jody Thompson
Lezli-Jo Trofimenkoff
Rachel Zanyk

THANK YOU!

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS ACROSS SASKATCHEWAN!

REGINA

Keith Zimmerman
Rebecca Read
Bron Nurkowski
Kainat Wahid
Mustafa Alabssi
Isaac Marsden
Wayne Spicer
Eva Spicer

SASKATOON

Robert Hutchinson
Lucille Hutchinson
Dorothy Ackerman
Dianne St. Pierre
Lydia Storey
Betty Hall
Adam Stratyчук
Nicole Musey
Madison Harbidge
Rachel Zanyk

MONTREAL LAKE

Burton Bird

**THANKS TO THE SDHHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO SDHHS!**

SDHHS BOARD President's Message Paulette Smith

First, I would like to thank fellow Board of Directors and Staff for all the support in my first year as SDHHS Board President. Due to Covid, the 2021 AGM was postponed and my position began in September 2021. It has been a steep learning curve for me in this role and has been even more challenging trying to run board meetings using Zoom. It is so exciting to be planning an in-person AGM on June 18th, 2022. I look forward seeing members of the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing community at our Regina AGM.

This year has seen the hiring of new staff:

Ren Perra, Office Coordinator

Rae-Mairi Richardson, Sign Support Professional

Krissy Haines, Sign Support Professional

Brandie Radcliffe, Interpreter

We also have said farewell to Rose Wu, Dean Wiebe, Tyler Burgess and Rochelle Carty-Bauman. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors. The Covid-19 pandemic continued to challenge how SDHHS could support and continue services for the Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. Staff cautiously continued to work primarily from the offices with occasional days worked from home. February 4th, 2022 the SDHHS offices re-opened to the public. The Deaf seniors were very excited to resume their in-person coffee time in April. Seniors who are not able to attend in-person can still join the group via Zoom.

This has been an exciting time in Deaf awareness especially with the movie CODA. The movie won several awards including Best Picture, Best Actor in a Supporting Role and Best Adapted Screenplay. Congratulations goes out to Troy Kotsur for winning the BAFTA and Oscar for Best Actor in a Supporting Role. The movie also was named as one of the top 10 outstanding films by the American Film Institute. I hope that you were able to watch this award-winning movie. For me, I had to watch it twice. The first time was for pure enjoyment and then after discussing it with others and the different techniques that created an impact on hearing audiences, I had to watch it for a second time. The movie brought back memories for me as a parent of CODAs. My daughter grew up being the one to answer the phone in our house. There were many times when telemarketers would call the house and ask if her parents were home. She would reply, yes but they are deaf. The response that followed was often one of sympathy. Sympathy because we were deaf or sympathy because they thought she had said dead or death. Life with CODAs was never dull.

In February, I was able to visit the CCCC Preschool and as part of my visit, I was able to read a story in ASL to the students. On April 28th, a group of us travelled to the Legislative Building to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education, Gene Makowsky, to discuss various issues pertaining to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. Some of those issues included ASL being recognized in Saskatchewan, education, lack of referrals to ECFS, etc. The group consisted of myself, Nairn Gillies, Art Hillcox, Patti Spicer and Lezli-Jo Trofimenkoff. In my role as President, I regularly met with Nairn to discuss the issues relating to the agency and the community. I would like to say a special thank you to Nairn and Kami for the great work that they do.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Smith,

President of SDHHS Board of Directors

SDHHS Executive Director's Message Nairn Gillies

It has become absolutely clear to me that there are two things that each and every individual needs to survive.

One: Community

Each and everyone of us needs to be a part of a community. A community where we can be safe, protected, loved, and accepted for exactly who we are. Covid added emphasis to the huge impact of isolation. Isolation is the biggest enemy of us all. The reality tv series "Alone", where people are left alone in the woods to survive for a chance to win a million dollars, shows us how fast people will give up a million dollars to be in a community. Some people don't last 24 hours! Few last a month. Usually, it's the isolation that causes people to quit.

Two: Language

We need a common language. A d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) person can be completely alone in a crowd, not because no one speaks to them, but because the language being used is unintelligible to them. Imagine a small child without access to language in a school full of children that run, play, yell, scream, discuss, and argue. The small child gets nothing from the discourse.

Being included in the DHH community and by so many wonderful friends has been an unbelievable blessing for my family and me. Actually, being involved with the DHH community has been one of the greatest blessings of my entire life. I remember my firstborn child being told stories and being read books in ASL by members of the DHH community and I remember how we took the time to draw handshapes into the alphabet books that she was given. My children were included in this community that is so rich with culture and language. My grandchildren were way ahead of their peers linguistically, because of early access to ASL. The DHH community has volunteered their time to tell stories in ASL and made videos of books in ASL to be available online to those in rural and remote areas. This effort has been well received by the Ministry of Education and we are discussing ways to make them available to all teachers at all schools in the province.

Looking back at this last year really makes me realize how far we've come. In 2014 Roger Carver took me and the parent of a Deaf child to meet with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. In that meeting Roger outlined some of the issues facing the DHH community to the commission and advocated for change. Roger included me in meetings with the Children's Advocate and the Ombudsman as well. Roger made it clear that the needs and necessary direction was not only for Saskatoon, or Regina, but rather was a Canadian vision, a Canadian movement for equal access. Sadly, Roger was gone by the time Bill C81 passed, recognizing ASL, LSQ, and Indigenous Sign Language in all of Canada... that's when it really felt like things started to change.

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The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC) released their first DHH Stakeholders Report in 2016 and then a second report called Update to Stakeholders 2021. The SHRC made 15 recommendations. If followed, these recommendations would go a long way to remove barriers, and reduce isolation for DHH people in Saskatchewan. One of the successes of the SHRC's work is the relationships that have been developed with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Office of Disability Issues, and the Ministry of Education. A few of the accomplishments since the SHRC produced these reports include:

- Newborn Hearing Screening Program
- DHH Preschools in Regina and in Saskatoon
- ASL curriculum in the province for grade 10, 11, and 12 students
- Designated funding for Deaf-Blind and Deaf-Plus individuals
- Text 911

The Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD) has established ASL standards, utilizing what is called an ASLPI (American Sign language Proficiency Interview). This allows organizations to gauge proficiency and make informed choices when selecting sign language instructors, interpreters, or intervenors.

One area of concern that has not yet been addressed is the high cost of hearing technologies for people on a fixed income, or who cannot afford access to high-quality hearing aids, cochlear implants and their upgrades, batteries, or the assistive devices that support the use of aids and implants. I cannot imagine how frustrating it must be for a parent to have to decide whether they purchase a new hearing aid for themselves or buy groceries for their family.

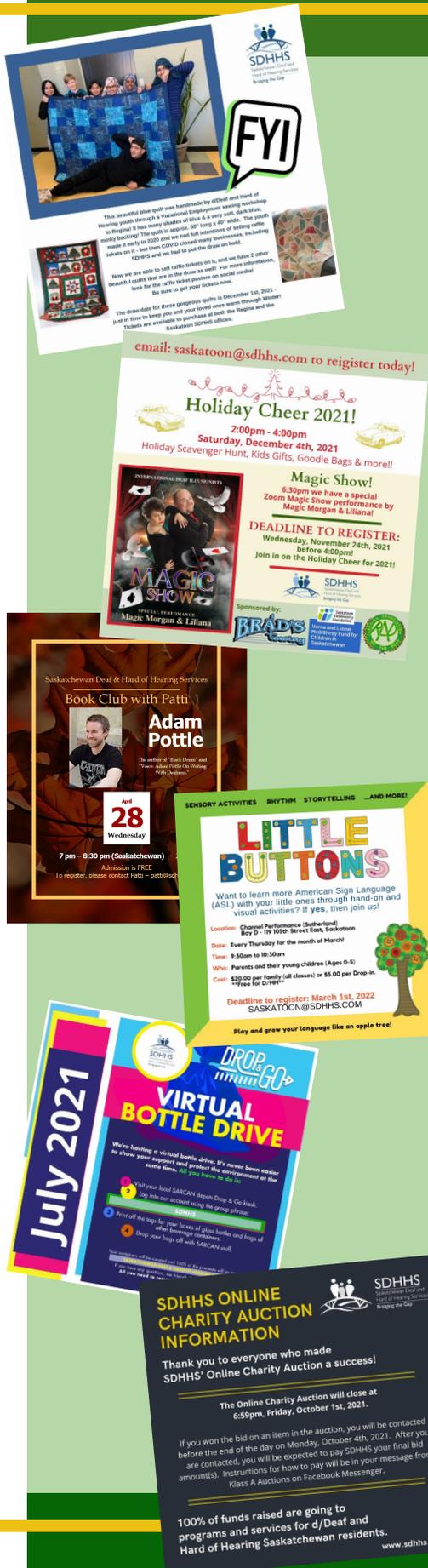
One of the recommendations from the SHRC was to increase awareness for DHH issues across the province. This has been a discussion at many staff meetings and at the board level. There is an amazing grassroots movement by young people in the DHH community to raise awareness. A large group of young people is often seen in Regina having a blast at public events, restaurants, etc. Deaf mentors and language role models lead the activities and provide support for all the young participants involved. The Deaf Crows Collective, a DHH youth drama team located in Regina, continues to produce amazing drama stage performances, second to none. The first Deaf Crows performance I saw left a lasting impression on me and should be a mandatory experience for every high school student in Canada.

CBC Regina produced a news report on hearing interventions over ASL and language deprivation that received a Canada-wide audience. They stated the need for an accessible language at the earliest possible age and made it clear that access to sign language programs is a human right. They interviewed young people, parents, teachers, and staff revealing the need for further change in Saskatchewan. [Click here to link to the CBC article.](#)

Accessibility is a right. It is not an option.

Nairn Gillies
Executive Director

SDHHS: A YEAR IN REVIEW



- Zoom Staff Meetings were hosted every Wednesday morning.
- Regina and Saskatoon offices hosted a Holiday Cheer Scavenger Hunt on the same day in both cities in December to spread cheer.
- Connected with clients and community through video calls and in-person when our offices were open.
- 4C Preschool moved and opened at St. Augustine School and resumed in-person classes in September, 2021.
- Interpreting for Saskatchewan residents was offered through Zoom, FaceTime, Skype and in-person.
- SDHHS offices re-opened to the public starting on July 7th, 2021.
- A few extra days of working from home happened this year, but that was due to inclement weather and the large amount of snow!
- SDHHS, with help from Klass A Auctions, hosted our first ever online auction fundraiser.
- ASL classes continued online through Zoom.
- Karen continued to interpret for news releases/announcements related to Covid-19.
- Showed a Sneak Peek video of the ASL Activity Kit pilot project on December 23rd, 2021.
- SDHHS hosted a Quilts Raffle and Drinks Raffles with draws on December 1st.
- Monthly Book Club continued in 2021.
- Little Buttons in-person classes started in the spring of 2022.

Youth Events

SDHHS recognized there was a need in Regina for youth activities so we applied for a grant from the City of Regina to make sure the youth had opportunity to network, socialize, and to learn from mentors and from each other.

The dollars granted from the City of Regina allowed SDHHS to hire a couple part-time, DHH, contract youth workers to help plan, facilitate, and organize events. This also gave SDHHS an opportunity to help these contract workers gain experience and earn a bit of money. A big thank you to both Isaac Marsden and Fatima Nafisa for stepping into this role for youth programming in Regina! They both put in many hours planning, creating advertisements and videos in ASL, and running the events to help engage the DHH youth in Regina.

Here is just a small list of some of the events that were hosted throughout the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year:

- Game Night on Zoom
- Baking with Isaac on Zoom
- Decorating cupcakes with Sue on Zoom
- Drawing with Jenny on Zoom
- ASL Story on Zoom
- Saskatchewan's Got Talent
- Kids Gardening with Patti on zoom
- Get Air Trampoline
- Bowling
- Biking at Wascana
- Regina Climbing Centre
- Sky Park
- Escape Rooms
- Planet Laser
- Baller's Rec Room
- Shock House
- Ice Fishing
- Swimming
- Skating

Ice Fishing!
WITH AN INDIGENOUS FISHERMAN
Age: 13-21
Sunday, March 13, 2022 10am-2pm
REGINA BEACH (LONG LAKE)
16 & OVER, need to purchase a 1 day fishing license!
15 & UNDER, do not need a license!
Info & Registrations: email raemairi@sdhhs.com

SDHHS Sky Park
Friday, March 25, 2022
6 PM - 8 PM
Please bring your own bottle of water and running shoes.
545 12 Ave E, Regina, SK S4N 7M5
\$15/person Age 13 - over
\$10/person Age 12- under
To register!!
Email: raemairi@sdhhs.com
By Monday, March 21, 2022

Decorating Cupcake with Sue!
A collage of photos showing people participating in the cupcake decorating activity.

SDHHS Youth Club
FREE PROGRAM!
WHO: DEAF, HARD OF HEARING AND CODA
AGES: 6-13
WHERE: ZOOM
TIME: 10-11AM
MAY 1: ASL ACTIVITIES/GAMES
MAY 8: DECORATING CUPCAKES WITH SUE!
MAY 15: DRAWING WITH JENNY!
MAY 22: LONG WEEKEND
MAY 29: ASL STORY
Youth Club is a chance for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and CODA youths to gather and enjoy ASL friendly activities, games, stories and guests!
Is your child interested in joining the Youth Club?
Please send an email to rochelle@sdhhs.com

SDHHS Youth Club
FREE PROGRAM!
WHO: DEAF, HARD OF HEARING AND CODA
AGES: 6-13
WHERE: ZOOM
TIME: 10-11:30AM
WHEN: JUNE 19
Gardening with Patti
SDHHS provides the garden kits!
Pick up garden kits at the SDHHS office in Regina & Saskatoon.

ESCAPE ROOM
register by emailing: raemairi@sdhhs.com
COST: \$8 PER PERSON
AGE: 10-21
WHERE: ESCAPE MANOR, 1975 BROAD ST IN REGINA
Saturday, November 20, 2021
5:30pm - 7:30pm

ICE SKATING
Date: Tuesday Feb. 22, 2022
Time: 1-3pm
Age: 10 - 21 (Family Welcome)
Cost: FREE!!
Skating Rink on Wascana Lake (Walter Scott Way - near Legislative Building)
Register by Emailing: raemairi@sdhhs.com

BOWLING NIGHT
Wednesday Feb. 23, 2022 6-8pm
GOLDEN MILE BOWLING ALLEY
3806 ALBERT ST. REGINA, SK S4S 3P1
raemairi@sdhhs.com
\$6.00
Age: 11-21
Under 11 age. Bring your parent with you.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT
All Provinces are welcome to participate!
Join us for a night of games, laughs and good conversation.
When: Friday, April 23 2021
Where: Zoom
Time: 7pm-9pm
Saskatchewan Time
Ages: 13 - 21
To register, please email rochelle@sdhhs.com

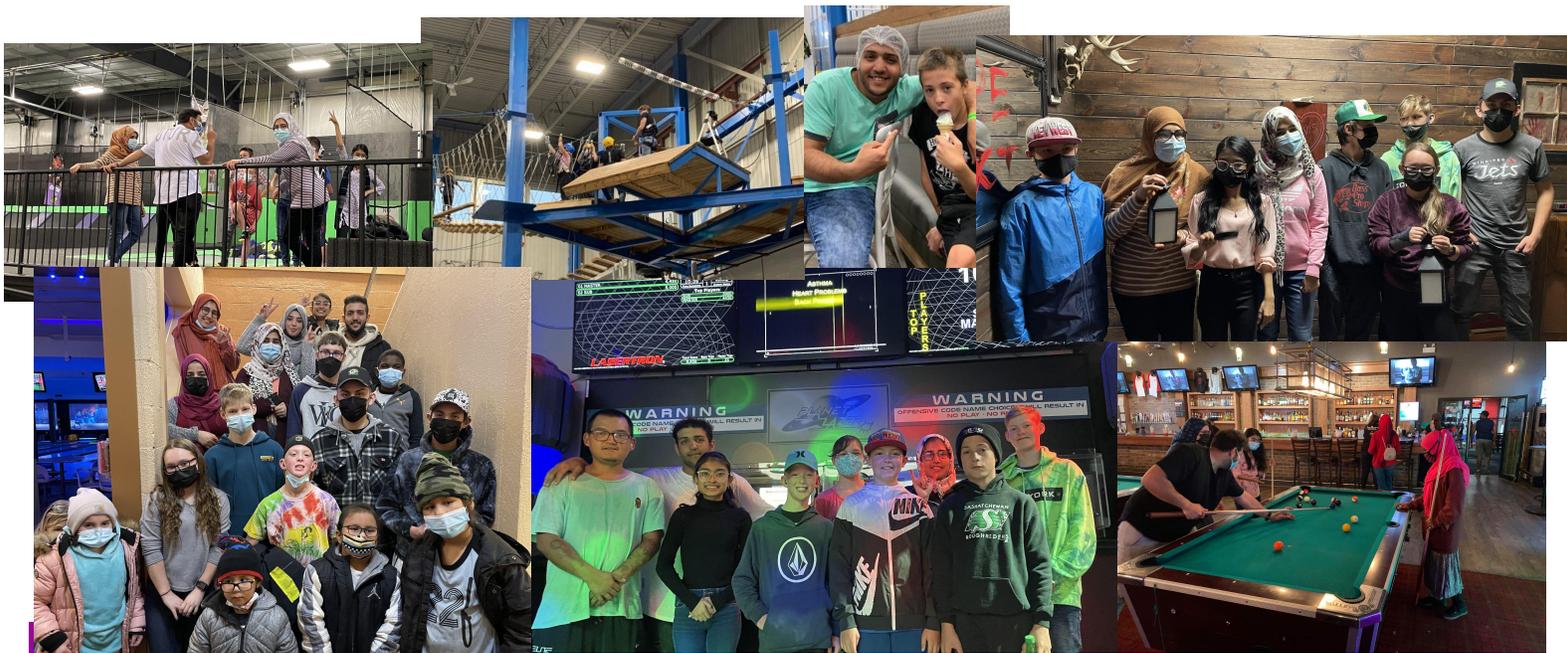
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We emailed the DHH youth, asking about what they enjoyed most and they responded with: rock-climbing, sewing workshops, swimming, escape rooms, baking, and Get Air (trampolining). So as you can see there is a variety of diverse answers here, but realize, all these activities were made accessible through communications supports such as Interpreters, Sign Support Professionals, and other support workers and volunteers who are fluent in both English and ASL.

Some of the older DHH youth that responded to the emails said they would like to have some informational workshops provided in the future on topics such as Budgeting, Finances, Job Skills, Future Preparedness, Employment Insurance, Income Assistance, Retirement Funds, Small Business Set-up, Ice Fishing, etc. Some of the younger DHH youth prefer more physical activities that are accessible such as: paintball, photography, video editing/filmmaking & animation; more team-building activities.

The total number of youth participants involved in the youth programming in Regina for the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year was 212 people (some of these were the same people attending different events). There were over 40 hours of programming offered over the 12 months. 7 people from outside Regina participated in programming at different times in the year. Thank you to the volunteers that donated their time at some of the events and activities with the youth!

Fun outcomes from the youth programming included a worker at the bowling alley learning how to count in ASL so they could communicate shoe sizes with the participants who wanted to bowl! Another business has suggested forming a partnership to create DHH specific events. And a father of a HH youngster saw the ads on Facebook and brought his son to events - the SDHHS staff had never met this boy before! As we can all see, the impact of the youth programming from SDHHS has been huge to the community in Regina! It has increased awareness, given skill-building and life skills to the DHH youth participants, businesses are becoming more aware on how to book and use an interpreter, and of course it has provided opportunity that wasn't there before to the DHH youth in Saskatchewan.



Front Desk

Hi everyone, I'm Ren Perra the new Office Coordinator at SDHHS. Our past Office Coordinator Rose Wu moved on to new adventures in British Columbia, and I've been lucky to fill her spot here in Saskatoon. It's been great meeting so many new people, learning new things, and practicing ASL.

It's been very nice to be a part of so many different projects within the last year. We were able to run quite a few community events:

- We ran a booth at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival, teaching kids to fingerspell their names and educating families about our services.
- Our Online Fall Auction was a success! Businesses across the province kindly donated auction items, and we were able to raise \$6300 for SDHHS.
- The 2021 Holiday Cheer event was lots of fun... gifts for the kids, a scavenger hunt, and a visit from our very own Santa Claus.
- ASL classes have been very popular... we've had 97 registered students over the past year! With online classes, we have been able to reach students from all over Saskatchewan, from the very top to the very bottom of the province.
- Every two weeks we host the folks from the Senior's Coffee Group, it's been very nice to have people in the office meeting and chatting over coffee.



With the province re-opening, there is a lot to look forward to in the next year! I'm looking forward to more fun events and experiences with SDHHS!

Vocational Education & Employment

On April 24 and 25, 2021, we hosted a two-day workshop with CAV Connect to make sure individuals know how to use VRS Canada for employment and educational purposes such as phone interviews, follow-up calls, and more! On the second day, we were presented with various topics related to installing VRS Canada on a phone or a computer, how to use 9-1-1 on VRS Canada, and good discussions were had about VRS Canada supports and help topics as well. These two days were extremely informative to those who participated.

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, we hosted a Gardening Zoom workshop. We learned how to grow our herbs and vegetables, how much to water, when to plant and of course, add gardening knowledge to our resumes. This workshop was intended to give participants an opportunity to see if they enjoyed working with plants and possibly move onto an employment opportunity in a seasonal position with a greenhouse. Our participants really enjoyed this workshop.



Later in May, we hosted another workshop called, “Google Drive, Google Docs & making a resume”. The participants learned how to sign up for a Google Drive account and how to be more comfortable working on resumes, cover letters and other documents in Google Docs. They learned so much from this workshop! We had much fun and learned various way to use Google Drive. We plan to host this workshop again.

On June 10, 2021, we provide an important workshop called, “How to book an Interpreter”. Our participants learned how to book an Interpreter at SDHHS for appointments, interviews, presentations, training, meetings, and other events going on in their life. After this workshop was completed, the Interpreters at SDHHS were super busy!

One of the other workshops we hosted was about photography. It was 4 sessions throughout the month of July. We had an inspiring professional Deaf Photographer, Rylyn Delaney, present and talk about her work, and she assigned street photography as homework to the participants. It was great to see their creativity shine

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through! We also had a CODA (Child Of a Deaf Adult) professional Photographer, Kristina Haines, join us for a session and present on some tips and tricks for portrait photography - she showed everyone cool footage from a drone capturing a photoshoot that she did as well. It was great to see her in action! We discussed the possibility of creating a DHH Photo Club that meets a few times a year, and there seemed to be some interest in that as well. Becoming an entrepreneur and starting your own business can be difficult, but it is a possibility! Proven by our guest speakers, Rylyn Delaney and Krissy Haines. Below are some of the participants' photos that were submitted during the workshop.



We also planned and facilitated a workshop called "Online Job Search Skills" in July 2021. Our participants learned how to search job listings online on various websites, create networking contacts and use social media for job searching, understanding recruiting, hiring, resume selection and interviewing, how to apply for jobs in response to job postings and how to research local employers and the hidden job market.

We are so excited that we had many fun and educational workshops this year! We are planning for more information sessions and skills building workshops and will be super busy once again in the coming year.

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022 SDHHS Vocational Department Statistics

During this 12 months, Patti Spicer and Jody Thompson worked with d/Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and DeafPlus consumers from all across Saskatchewan.

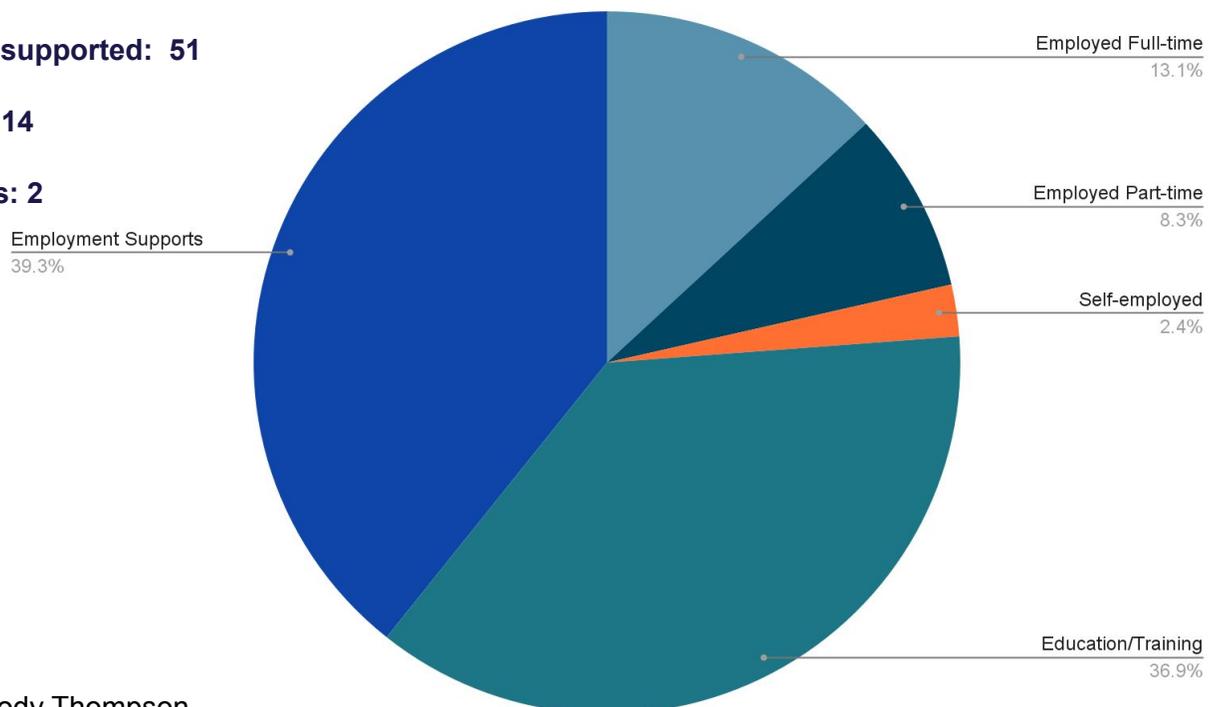
Total Consumers supported: 51

d/Deaf: 34

Hard of Hearing: 14

d/DeafPlus: 4

Cochlear Implants: 2



Sincerely,
Patricia Spicer & Jody Thompson

Interpreting

In light of Covid 19, Saskatchewan has experienced so many changes in how services are offered. Within the SDHHS interpreting department, this has been very evident. Now is our opportunity to gleefully update you on what has transpired over the past year. During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, SDHHS fluctuated between three and five staff interpreters. In September of 2021, Brandie Radcliffe joined the interpreting team, and later that month Tyler Burgess left to start a new position at CNIB. Not too long after, Dean Wiebe also left to pursue other work. We thank them for their years of service and wish them the best in their future endeavours. Toward the end of the fiscal year, Barb Froese was hired on as our fourth staff interpreter with an April 1st, 2022 start date. A special thanks to Karen Nurkowski who interpreted 130 Government of Saskatchewan press releases! A majority of the updates were done in person and they wrapped up February 8th, 2022. Karen became the most recognizable interpreter in Saskatchewan!

With Karen in Regina, Brandie in Saskatoon, Sue in Prince Albert, plus Barb joining the team from Swift Current, SDHHS is well-positioned to serve the entire province both in-person and virtually. Along with staff interpreters, SDHHS freelance interpreters, Carla Klassen, Krissy Haines, and Maureen Stewart, have been instrumental in the provision of interpreting services. The interpreting team continues to mentor and support each other. There is a strong commitment to ongoing learning, and to the building of a strong team. SDHHS requires the interpreting staff to be assessed by Sign Language Institute Canada (SLIC) through the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) interpreting assessment.



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Thanks to Ren, the SDHHS Office Coordinator, the efficiency of processing requests has greatly improved this year. He has guided us away from the arduous paper trail of request forms to a simpler process, and has streamlined the scheduling process for interpreters. This new process allows the team to have clear, effective, and efficient communication.

In 2022, the interpreting team had the opportunity to mentor three interpreting students during their practicum placements. Each of the students came from a different interpreting training program in Western Canada: Rachel from Red River College; Rebecca from Douglas College; and Lindsay from Lakeland College. We would like to thank these students for choosing to do their practicum in Saskatchewan. We would also thank the community for welcoming these students into your personal lives and community events. This experience allowed the students to hone their ASL skills, to practice their interpreting skills, and increase the breadth and depth of their cultural awareness.

When Covid 19 shut down access to services in 2020, SDHHS provided Saskatchewan's major hospitals with iPads that could easily connect to interpreting services. Those iPads are still available at the hospitals, and we are continuing to work on how to offer flawless access given the limitations of hospital wifi.

In the event of an emergency before or after office hours, SDHHS continues to have an emergency interpreter available. To access an *emergency interpreter after hours:

Call, text or Facetime: 1-306-514-7644

Skype: sdhhs911

An *EMERGENCY is defined as:

- **Arrested or charged by the police**
- **Emergency health issue at the hospital**
- **911**

Sign Support Professional

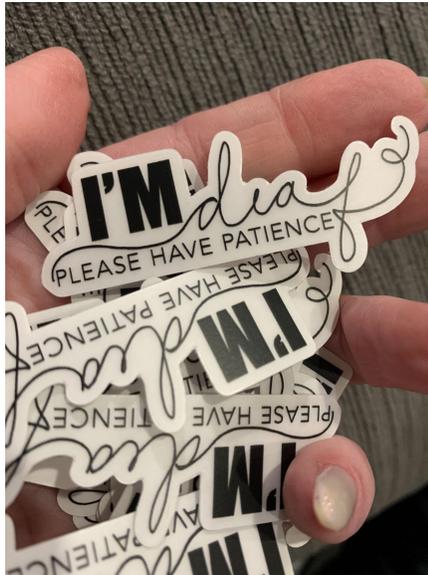
Krissy Haines (Saskatoon)

Krissy joined our family in June 2021 as a Sign Support Professional (SSP) out of the Saskatoon office, and Rae-Mairi was welcomed as our new addition for Regina SSP. Krissy worked closely with Rae-Mairi, Jody, Patti and Robyn throughout the year on a variety of projects.

The SSP position is an interesting position because it involves so many different roles in the office and in the community. It has been a great year to bring awareness and advocacy to support the individual needs of our extremely diverse d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

Krissy has taken her ASLPI through Sign Language Institute Canada (SLIC) and rated at a 4.0, while Rae-Mairi rated at an amazing 4.5!

Krissy, being a CODA (Child Of a Deaf Adult), has an interesting set of skills and perspective that she brings to the table when it comes to advocating for full access to language and communication. Being able to reach out to organizations and advocate for an established barrier-free network of supports, and educating those about how crucial it is to book interpreters for full access to communication, to ensure all basic human rights are honoured.



Krissy has worked closely with clients who have more than one signed language as their method of communication. By learning their main language, whether it be Arabic sign language (ArSL), Jordanian (LIU), and having Rae-Mairi mentor Krissy in learning Plains Indigenous Sign Language (PISL), it has helped support those clients in comprehension, using simultaneously, two signed languages for full access to communication. It has also increased their retention of ASL and is proving to have more successful understanding when utilizing interpreter services.

Sign Support Professional Rae-Mairi Richardson (Regina)

Gwe, Pjila'dik. (Hello, Welcome) Rae-Mairi joined our family in September 2021 as a Sign Support Professional (SSP) out of the Regina office. She was honoured to be part of the SDHHS staff and a resident of Saskatchewan. Rae-Mairi has enjoyed working as a part of the SDHHS team since September. She has hosted and helped with many things including: Youth Events, Indigenous Community, ASL Community, Professional Services and has done some Deaf Interpreting.

The SSP position is a fascinating position because it involves so many different roles in the office and in the community. It has been great to bring awareness and advocacy to support the individual needs of our extremely diverse DHH community.

Rae-Mairi has been interviewed by CBC along with Saskatchewan DHH residents on topics related to Hearing Loss and Sign Language Rights. She has helped with interpreting for some DHH workshops and has been teaching ASL to students and their families, professional staff, and Indigenous families.



Rae-Mairi has provided a variety of supports and services in-person and online. She has been travelling across the province and was successful in providing support to DHH people in the Saskatchewan community while understanding their needs and their ability to be independent.



Looking forward to another exciting, diverse, and interesting year with SDHHS!

Wela'lin

Early Childhood and Family Services

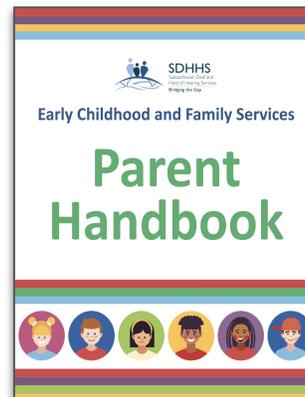
The Early Childhood and Family Services (ECFS) program had another good year. There were fun times and challenging times, but Robyn and Patti were determined to continue the SDHHS ECFS program with the hope that things would continue to grow!

This past year, we worked on an exciting pilot project called the ASL Activity Kits. These are kits designed for children age 0 - 5. We are very excited and have opened the registration for this pilot project and are connecting kids and their families with these resources. We look forward to testing our ASL Activity Kits with families to see what they can learn with us and what kind of feedback they have for our project! If you want to watch a sneak peek video of the ASL Activity Kits and the people who made this pilot project possible, follow this link: https://youtu.be/g_VRn44viH4

At the beginning of September 2021, Robyn helped at the 4C Preschool with Teacher Nicole and EA Ashley. It was a treat to work at a different environment and meet the kids who were eager to learn! Since then she has subbed-in as an EA at the 4C Preschool when they needed and enjoyed it every time!



Robyn has worked on several different projects: Continued filming and editing ASL Stories through our partnership with Scholastic Canada. A huge Thank You to Scholastic for allowing SDHHS to use the books to provide ASL to children at different times throughout the year. She also has created a new Parent Handbook to give to families who register with ECFS.



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In December 2021 we hosted a Holiday Cheer event in Saskatoon and Regina on the same day, and it was truly successful. The families had fun participating in a Holiday Scavenger Hunt and we loved seeing all the fun on everyone's faces in their photos. SDHHS Staff and volunteers always look forward to this type of event because we get to reconnect in-person with those who we haven't seen for such a long time.



Robyn was running Little Buttons again this spring, from March until May, on Thursdays. It was wonderful to see the little kids aged 0-5 and their mothers interacting with each other. Robyn has also been representing SDHHS on the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee. This allows for the agency to have input and give advice on DHH issues, as well as have knowledge of other accessibility happenings in Saskatoon.



Several webinars and workshops were accessed by the ECFS Workers this past year which has allowed them to provide more information and resources to parents involved with SDHHS. Patti, Robyn and Rae-Mairi continued meeting with kids and families on Zoom and in-person to provide informational learning sessions. We have notice a number of differing abilities wanting and needing to access our ECFS programming for language access. Some of these include children with Down Syndrome, some who are Non-verbal, and others with physical limitations.

We look forward to the next fiscal year for ECFS!

Sincerely,

Robyn Holmes (Saskatoon) and Patricia Spicer (Regina)

This year is our first “normal” in-person class since June 2021! Teacher Nicole, Teacher Assistants Sonja and Ashley and the kids enjoy our time in the classroom daily.

In June 2021, we moved our supplies and classroom furniture from St. Therese of Lisieux School to the new school. Our new classroom is located at St. Augustine School on Boychuk Drive and class operates Monday to Thursday, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We are thankful to both schools for providing us with a classroom for our students to learn in a rich Bi-Bi (Bicultural/Bilingual) environment.



Our routine starts with Free Play, then Circle Time (including song videos, ASL rhythm, student attendance, weather, brain break body movement, targeted skill activities on PPT, and short station learning activities (split into three groups). After Circle Time, we have a bathroom break and snack break. We move on to Free Play again before going back to main classroom activities such as storybooks, crafts and so forth.

We have Family Involvement Day every Friday. These Family Involvement Days include activities such as going to the Wonder Hub, Nairn’s farm, the Berry Barn, Strawberry Ranch’s Corn Maze, YXE Park, Apex Trampoline, the Western Development Museum, Clip and Climb and more! There are times we stayed in our classroom for holiday-themed activities such as pumpkin carving for Halloween or building gingerbread houses for Christmas.



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When parents come to our class during Family Involvement Day, it is also an opportunity to show them what we have been working on. We re-tell story books in ASL and involve them in some classroom activities that were done during the week. It is important for us to connect with our students' parents to update them on the language development that their child is exposed to. This helps the students to continue to work on their language acquisition at home with family support.

We had about 9 themes in total, not including the regular holiday themes: Fall/Apple, Halloween, Community Helpers, Christmas, Winter, Emotions/Body Parts, Outer Space, Spring, and Dinosaurs!

We have nine students enrolled this year. Nicole is looking forward to having more students register and adding more resources and expertise to the program for next year. 4C Preschool wants to stay connected to the community and expand social media to increase public awareness about the importance of Bi-Bi education for DHH children.

We look forward to seeing the 4C Preschool program continue to grow. We are thankful to all the staff, board members, government officials, and parents for their ongoing support for this program!

We hope you all have a great summer!

Sincerely Nicole Musey



ASL Class Virtual

Caroline (Regina)

I had a wonderful year teaching online with the students last year but it was always challenging for me to deal with the problems with my computer. 9 Students were registered for ASL Class 102 in Fall 2021. 11 students were registered for ASL Class 201 in Winter 2022. I would like to continue teaching because I enjoy meeting new people all over from Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Meadow Lake, Waterloo, Ontario and Edmonton, Alberta and having fun!!

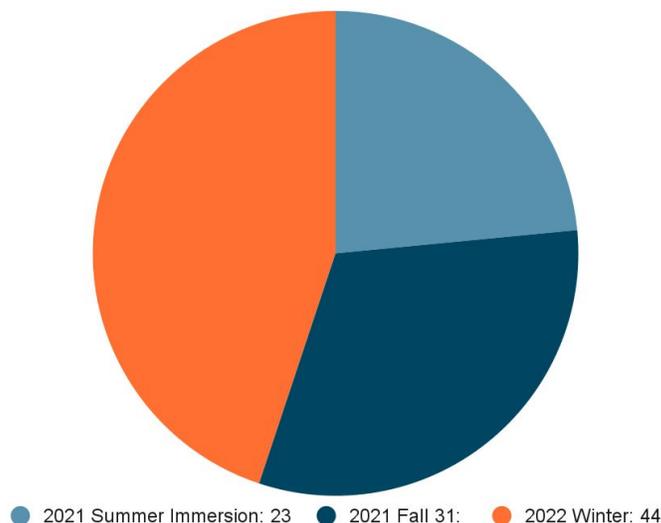
Twyla Chartrand (Regina)

In the Fall 2021, 11 students registered and in the Winter 2022 12 students registered both for Level 101 classes through Zoom. They all worked hard learning new signs and have kept up with their weekly ASL homework. I was proud of their hard work. We had a Canada VRS representative provide an ASL 1 hour workshop through Zoom and the students found it worthwhile learning how to communicate through a phone call with DHH people using VRS. I enjoyed the 10 weeks of teaching. The ASL students were fun to work with.

Rae-Mairi Richardson (Regina)

In Fall 2021, Rae-Mairi had 11 students participate in level 101. For the Winter 2021 class, she had 14 students participate in level 101 and 7 students in level 102. She continued teaching ASL level 101 & 102 in the Spring of 2022. Rae-Mairi's students were from all over Saskatchewan on Zoom. She held classes from 7pm to 9pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for level 101 and on Mondays and Wednesdays for level 102. She had lots of fun with the students. They were eager to learn and were motivated to participate in dialogues and discussions about ASL Culture and the Deaf Community. She enjoyed this past season and looks forward to teaching ASL again.

ASL Classes: Students



Total: 98 Students

SDHHS TREASURER'S REPORT

SDHHS contracted the services of MWC Chartered Professional Accountants to complete the 2021 - 2022 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

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