



SDHHS

Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services

Bridging the Gap

Annual Report 2025/2026

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Follow On Social Media



Website: www.sdhhs.com



Instagram: @sdhhsinc



Facebook: SDHHS





Vision & Values

OUR MISSION

TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE OF DEAF, DEAFENED AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS 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.

SDHHS HAS BEEN PROUDLY SERVING SASKATCHEWAN SINCE 1981

Who We Are

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVID FOURNEY.....	PRESIDENT
ALLARDTHOMAS.....	VICE PRESIDENT
LEZLI-JO TROFIMENKOFF...	TREASURER
GORD HEIN.....	SECRETARY
MUSTAFA ALABSSI.....	DIRECTOR
FATIMA NAFISA.....	DIRECTOR
PATTI TROFIMENKOFF.....	DIRECTOR
ALLISON VANDE VELDE.....	DIRECTOR
PAULETTE SMITH.....	DIRECTOR



SASKATOON OFFICE

NAIRN GILLIES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KAMI HARBIDGE	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
REN PERRA	OFFICE COORDINATOR
BRANDIE RADCLIFFE ...	INTERPRETER
KATE JAMES.....	INTERPRETER
JODY THOMPSON	VOCATIONAL WORKER & YOUTH WORKER
KRISSY HAINES	SIGN SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL
ROBYN HOLMES	ECFS WORKER
ALANDA MCLEOD	SIGN SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

4C PRESCHOOL IN SASKATOON

NICOLE MUSEY	4C LEAD EDUCATOR
TYLER BURGESS	4C LEAD EDUCATOR
ASHLEY BUCKNALL.....	4C PRESCHOOL EA
DENNY MAURICE.....	4C PRESCHOOL EA

REGINA OFFICE

KAREN NURKOWSKI.....	INTERPRETER
SHAYNA HOGGARTH	INTERPRETER
PATTI SPICER.....	VOCATIONAL WORKER & ECFS WORKER

SASKATCHEWAN NORTH

SUE SCHMID	INTERPRETER
RAE-MAIRI RICHARDSON.....	SIGN SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

SASKATCHEWAN SOUTH

BARB FROESE	INTERPRETER
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Freelancers & Contractors

FREELANCERS

JANET DITTRICK DEAF INTERPRETER
RHONDA LEIER COMPUTERIZED NOTE-TAKER
CARLA KLASSEN INTERPRETER
RACHEL JANZEN INTERPRETER
TYLER BURGESS INTERPRETER
ANNE WEBSDALE INTERPRETER

CONTRACT WORKERS

ADAM STRATYCHUK VIDEO EDITING
LESLIE DUNN SSP
DENNY MAURICE YOUTH LEADER / EA / OFFICE CLEANER
FATIMA NAFISA YOUTH LEADER
AMNA WAHID REGINA OFFICE CLEANER
ROCHELLE KLASSEN..... SASKATOON OFFICE CLEANER



Volunteers

**Thank you for bringing your incredible energy
and unwavering support – you are truly
the heart of what we do!**

Cam Auser

Burton Bird

Danica Dunn

Leslie Dunn

Amanda Ehnisz

Cinonso Ferdinand-Iwu

Kianna Gallegos

Oscar Grodecki

Michelle Grodecki

Meghan Hein

Gord Hein

Laurie Hessdorfer

Bob Hutchinson

Lucille Hutchinson

Amorita Hvorka

Kate James

Rochelle Klassen

Andrew Knorr

Chelsea Krahm

Katie Krahm

Kaileigh Manastyrski

Isaac Marsden

Alanda McLeod

Clinton Miller

Cassidy Moulson

Ashley Nemeth

Ken Noesgaard

Bron Nurkowski

Sarah Opekekow

Vicki Ostaffy

Mackenzie Poppleton

Kiara Riou

Mark Rittinger

Nova Rittinger

Carli Robertson

Mary Sapchuk

Sue Schmid

Mustafa Seefan

Maryana Shamoon

Waterfall Solilo

Sara Tetland

Karla Thiel

Allard Thomas

Jody Thompson

Kenton Trofimenkoff

LezliJo Trofimenkoff

Paulette Smith

Ray Smith

Kainat Wahid

Sadie Weimer

Mishe Woollam

Leon VandeVelde

Vivian Vien

Hassan Zaka

President's Report

This year marks the 45th anniversary of Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, and it begins our five-year run-up to our 50th in 2031. Thank you for being part of an organization that has now spent more than four decades supporting d/Deaf, Deafened, and Hard of Hearing people across this province, and intends to continue doing so for many more.

For your Board, this has been a year of foundation-building: the steady, less visible work of making sure SDHHS is sturdier going forward than it was coming in. We met a few times through the year to discuss the business of SDHHS. We have invested in modernizing our information technology so that the systems our staff depend on are secure. We have begun an organized effort to preserve the records documenting our work and that of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing organizations that preceded us. Working with our Executive Director and staff team, we have also continued a five-year strategic plan for where the organization is going and how the Board can best support it in getting there.

Our advocacy work has carried weight this year as well. We are pressing the Government of Saskatchewan to address the isolation of d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors in long-term care, where too often staff cannot communicate with the people in their care. We have also welcomed a meaningful change in provincial referral practice: Hearing Health Services now refers families only to providers that acknowledge ASL, with referrals flowing directly to SDHHS. That is a significant change. More d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing children will now grow up with ASL, the beautiful, living language of our community, and the culture it carries.

SDHHS continues to provide a range of programs and services and ensures that the community gets the support it needs to thrive and grow.

This past year was my first as your President, and I am keenly aware that I did not navigate it alone. I want to thank our staff and contractors, our volunteers, my fellow directors, and our members and supporters. SDHHS exists because of you. As we move into year forty-six and toward fifty, you are why we keep going. Together we build a more accessible Saskatchewan for our community.

David Fourney, PhD
Board President

Executive Director Report

The Strategic Plan:

- 1) Remove Barriers in Health
- 2) Remove Barriers in Education
- 3) Every Child has Language
- 4) High Quality Interpreting Services
- 5) Outreach to the Lost Generation

The SDHHS Strategic Plan outlines key priorities focused on eliminating barriers in education and health, ensuring that every child has access to a language that works for them, providing outreach to the “lost generation,” and delivering high-quality interpreting services.

This year has been highly successful. In collaboration with government representatives, the SDHHS Board, and members of the DHH community, we have strengthened relationships and made meaningful progress toward achieving our strategic goals. Our engagement included attending the Provincial Budget announcement and Tea at the Legislature, as well as holding both formal and informal meetings with several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Through the outreach efforts of our staff, in partnership with Hearing Health Services, we have made significant strides—particularly through the work of Kinley Winter, who has collaborated closely with our team at the 4C Preschool. Together, we have developed an approach that ensures all children have access to a language that works for them.

As a result, we have observed tremendous growth among the children at the preschool. They are reaching language milestones and developmental benchmarks at an impressive pace, demonstrating the effectiveness of these collaborative efforts.



This year, we were honored to welcome the Minister of Health, the Honourable Jeremy Cockrill, to our office. During this visit, we discussed the importance of the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) referring children identified as Deaf or Hard of Hearing to a language-rich model of care—one that includes American Sign Language (ASL) as a key component of their development.



The Minister also recommended that SDHHS establish a relationship with the Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program at the University of Saskatchewan. In response, we have initiated discussions and begun exploring ongoing opportunities for collaboration, including future training initiatives that will strengthen services and support for children and families.

The College of Education's ECUR 874 Curriculum Development class undertook a project focused on understanding both the educational needs of DHH students and the preparedness of future teachers who may have these students in their classrooms. As part of this initiative, the class developed a micro-credential course in consultation with a DHH community panel. This course is designed to educate future educators on Deaf culture, language accessibility, and inclusive practices, while providing a deeper understanding of what inclusion looks like from the perspective of a DHH individual.

The Minister of Social Services, the Honourable Terry Jensen, invited four Deaf professionals to the Legislature, where they were recognized during the spring sitting of the House for their contributions toward building a more inclusive province. Robin Holmes, Joanne Weber, Gary Malkowski, and Wyatt Scott were formally acknowledged for their leadership and advocacy.

In addition, these professionals presented to both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Services. They shared a forward-looking vision that includes the implementation of LEAD-K legislation and enhanced services for DHH children. Their goal is to ensure that DHH children can enter kindergarten linguistically on par with their hearing peers, equipped with the language foundation necessary for success.

Gary Malkowski and Wyatt Scott also delivered a presentation at Winston Knoll Collegiate, where they met with students who are exploring and developing their DHH identities at the high school level. This engagement provided a meaningful opportunity for students to connect with community leaders, see themselves reflected in their success, and envision what is possible for their own futures.

I am encouraged by the openness shown through ongoing discussions with both government representatives and the Official Opposition. Their willingness to engage with the DHH community and explore practical, forward-looking solutions demonstrates a shared commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable future.



Check out my
ASL Handshapes necktie!

We continue to advocate for improved access for all DHH in the province so we can achieve our goal of a *World Without Barriers for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*.

Have a wonderful summer.

Nairn Gillies
SDHHS Executive Director

SDHHS Office Coordinator

Hello from the Front Desk!

2025/2026 was another great year!

We had a strong number of ASL classes this year. We run classes 3 times a year, Spring, Fall, and Winter. It's great to see so many students continue through multiple levels. This year, for the first time in a long while, we were able to run ASL level 201 in-person in Saskatoon.

Our community events were a great success again – the Fall Fundraiser was a great night out, raising money through our live and silent auctions, as well as our online Auction.

The Holiday Craft Market continued for it's second year, this time in Saskatoon AND Regina. We even had a visit from CTV to interview us about the market and SDHHS. It was a cool opportunity to represent SDHHS and show off some of the cool work from our community!

If you have questions about SDHHS, Interpreting, or Accessibility – I'm here to answer!

I can book interpreters and explain every step of the process.

I can help connect you with other services or staff members who can offer their support.

I can give you up-to-date information about community events, workshops, or ASL Classes.

Need help adding live transcription to your cell phone for phone calls, videos, etc? I'm your guy.

You can contact me by:

Text: 306.229.2010

Facetime: 306.229.2010

Call: 306.665.6575

Email: saskatoon@sdhhs.com



Ren Perra

2025 - 2026



Year in Review



Youth Programming

SDHHS received funding from the Annual Activity grant through the City of Regina and from the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation to fund the SDHHS Youth Programming this year. Thank you to both of these grants for helping offer fun, safe experiences for the DHH youth in Saskatchewan!

There are many things that the SDHHS DHH Youth Programming accomplished this year, with the top priorities of providing a sense of belonging and lessening isolation for DHH youth ages 6 all the way through to 28! The youth that joined us were D/deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafPlus, Hearing CODAs, and Hearing nieces of a Deaf adult.



The events I hosted throughout the year were SO great! They were positive experiences for everyone. I could see all the youth having a good time, meeting new people, being less isolated and socializing with other youth and some learned new stuff that they hadn't tried before. The SDHHS DHH youth programming gave them those opportunities!

We hosted crafts and game nights, went to MARS minigolf (always a fun time!), had different activities for children and youth at the Holiday Cheer parties, did Jurassic Laser Tag, wakeboarding, and so much more! Throughout the year I also helped out at things like the Children's Festival where the City Police tried their hand at our animal signs game - pretty sure I won! I also helped with the Kids Summer Day Camp, at the Holiday Cheer party in Saskatoon, and was able to film, in ASL, The Orange Shirt Story. It was a busy and fulfilling year!



David & Kamil Burnat Presenting in Regina Feb 2026!

We also hosted a 3-day February Break in Regina this year. We invited the Burnat brothers, Kamil and David, from Alberta, to come join us for the 3 days so the DHH youth in Saskatchewan could see the impact the brothers, as young adults, are having on the community. They presented about exploring the world and what the best way is to achieve your dreams and/or goals. The youth really enjoyed themselves, and there were some new faces making connections in the group! It was good for us to be able to host an informal "provincial" gathering of the youth and allow them to meet other DHH youth in Saskatchewan, while still having fun!

While we were in Regina, we went to the Science Museum, Rock Wall Climbing, and stopped at the Parliament Building.

The youth are still talking about the memories made during those 3 days. I love seeing their beautiful smiles showing the positive outcomes of a small adventure!



Roadtrip Feb 2026!

Denny Maurice 😊

Vocational Education & Employment

Hello Everyone!

The 2025 – 2026 fiscal year went by so fast! It was a year full of opportunities & challenges. The Vocational department at SDHHS was busy with workshops and with individual supports all year.

April 4, 2025 – Vision Board workshop in Regina w/Deaf presenter Lisa Anderson.

April 5, 2025 – Lisa Anderson then drove to Saskatoon to host the Vision Board workshop a second time for us.



May 10, 2025 – SDHHS hosted a Spring Expo

We set up signage & promoted the Vocational program.

July, 2025 – SGI driver training classes in ASL online.

July 16-17 – Steer Skid Training in Regina

September 10, 2025 – First Aid/CPR/AED training

SKID STEER TRAINING

Wednesday, July 16 & Thursday, July 17, 2025
8:00am - 4:30pm

This two-day training is designed for vocational clients registered with SDHHS who are 15 years old or older.

Learn how to safely operate a skid steer, including essential driving skills and safety procedures. Perfect for preparing for your new job!

REGISTER BEFORE NOON ON
JULY 9, 2025 BY EMAILING:
PATTI@SDHHS.COM

SDHHS
Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services
Bridging the Gap



September 19 & 20 – Hosted an Entrepreneur Workshop w/presenter from the Ability Hub.

Entrepreneur Workshop
 noun: /əntreˈprəɪzər, -ˈnɔːr/ a person who attempts to make a profit by starting a company or by operating alone in the business world.

Interested in learning how to start your own business??

SASKATOON WORKSHOP
 Sept 19 FRIDAY: 4PM - 9PM - Supper included
 Sept 20 SATURDAY: 9AM-5PM - Lunch included

Friday: Find out the plan & get started making products
 Saturday: Product making

Our plans have changed!

CHANGED DEADLINE!
 Still want to join?
 Email by Monday, September 15th to register!

Email to Sign-up and join!
 Saskatoon: jody@sdhhs.com

WHAT'S INCLUDED??
 Friday: Find out the plan, eat supper, & get started making crafty products.
 Saturday: Product making, eat lunch, discussing small businesses, selling products, and keep making products.
 Then we'll be ready to sell at the Holiday Craft Markets that SDHHS is hosting this year!

Email to Sign-up and join!
 Saskatoon: jody@sdhhs.com

If you live outside Saskatoon, and are interested in joining, please let us know. We may be able to provide accommodations if enough people from outside Saskatoon want to join this workshop.

Presentation by:
 The Ability Hub
 EDP
 ENTREPRENEURS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM



ASL Classes starting September 22, 2025 had a few of our clients and their families attend.

February 25, 2026, a second First Aid CPR/AED course was hosted wherein 5 individuals successfully obtained certification.

SASKATOON
 BLENDED LEARNING
FIRST AID CPR & AED
 TRAINING

+++
 IN PERSON:
 Wednesday, February 25th, 2026
 8:30am - 4:30pm
 +++
 8HRS ONLINE | COMPLETED BEFORE
 FEBRUARY 24th, 2026 | 8HRS IN CLASS

BasicPlus
 First Aid Training
 Helping You Help Others.

TRAINING INCLUDES:
 • CPR
 • AED
 • Wound Care/bandaging
 • Choking Relief
 • And more!

SDHHS
 ASL INTERPRETING WILL BE PROVIDED

MUST REGISTER BEFORE Friday, February 13th!
 EMAIL TO REGISTER: JODY@SDHHS.COM

We found this year that the term “transferrable skills” is something we need to elaborate on with a lot of our consumers. Many don’t know that some of the skills and abilities they already have can be transferred into skills on a resume or can be used at a new job.

We still did our regular duties that are annually ongoing, in the aspect of helping consumers with training, resume development, interest surveys, job applications, interview supports, orientation to a new job, job maintenance for a few people, and of course with assistive technology for school and work.

**April 1 2025 -
 March 31 2026**

**66 Registered Consumers
 26 Employed**

**2 Continuing Education
 2 Starting a New Business**

Patricia Spicer & Jody Thompson

Interpreting

The 2025-2026 year flew by. Some of the highlights include Kate James doing her practicum in the spring of 2025, then being hired to work full time out of the Saskatoon office as of August 18th. Welcome Kate to the SDHHS Interpreting team.

We are now a team of six. Karen Nurkowski and Shayna Hoggarth work in the Regina office, Brandie Radcliffe and Kate James work in the Saskatoon office, Barb Froese and Sue Schmid primarily work remotely out of their home offices, Swift Current and Prince Albert respectively.

Karen, in Regina, has transitioned into semi-retirement as of January 1st, 2026. Karen has reduced her hours and is now working a 3-day work week. All interpreters travel to locations other than their primary locations throughout the province as needed.

Over the past year, the freelance roster has remained solid with Carla Klassen, Rachel Janzen, and Anne Websdale. There was an increased number of requests for DeafBlind interpreting. We will be in a better spot to report on those statistics in the 2026/2027 fiscal year. SDHHS continues to provide both in-person and virtual interpreting across the province. As in previous years, SDHHS continues to contract with companies to provide translation services to make documents accessible in ASL.



2025 - 2026 total interpreting requests: 1,592

SDHHS has supplied the following hospitals with iPads to enhance accessibility to ASL Interpreters:

City Hospital, Saskatoon
Dr. FH Wigmore Regional Hospital, Moose Jaw
La Ronge Medical Centre, La Ronge
Pasqua Hospital, Regina
Regina General Hospital, Regina
Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon
St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon
Victoria Hospital, Prince Albert

Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm, both emergency and non-emergency bookings, please contact SDHHS for an Interpreter.

Phone: 1-306-665-6575
Toll free: 1-800-667-6575
Text/FaceTime: 306-229-2010

Before & After Hours

**Emergency Interpreting:
306-514-7644**

Emergency interpreting is limited to: being questioned, arrested, or charged by the police; 911 calls; emergency health issues at the hospital Emergency Department or Urgent Care Centre.



SDHHS

Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services
Bridging the Gap

Accessibility Badges

Do you know about SDHHS Accessibility Badges?

These badges include a quick explanation of Deaf/Hard of Hearing accessibility needs and a pocket for SDHHS business cards. They come in a clear pouch with a lanyard.

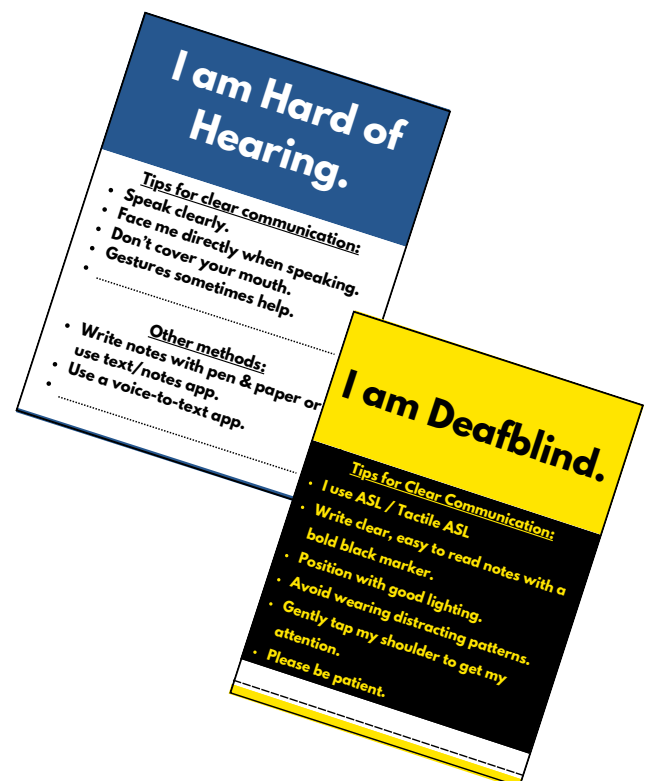
We have some pre-made badges, but we can make a custom badge with your personal accessibility requirements. Contact the SDHHS Office Coordinator for more info!

Prefer digital? We can help with that too!

I am Deaf.	How to book a Sign Language Interpreter:
<u>I use these communication methods:</u> • American Sign Language (ASL). • Write notes with pen & paper. • Use text/notes app. • Use a voice-to-text app. • Face me directly when speaking. • Speak clearly. Don't cover your mouth. • •	Contact Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. Phone: 306.665.6575 Text: 306.229.2010 Email: saskatoon@sdhhs.com I need an interpreter for my next appointment. I need an emergency interpreter. SDHHS Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Bridging the Gap

FRONT

BACK



Sign Support Professionals

As I reflect on another year as a Sign Language Support Professional (SSP) with Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, I am amazed at how quickly time has passed. It has now been four years since I first started in this role, and each year continues to bring new opportunities, experiences, and connections within the Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and Indigenous communities throughout Saskatchewan. This year, I was pleased to welcome many new clients and families, including Deaf and Hard of Hearing children ages 1–5 and several teenagers. It has been rewarding to support language development, communication access, and community connections for individuals of all ages while watching our programs continue to grow throughout the province.

This year was both busy and rewarding. I had the opportunity to support individuals and families through a variety of services, including Northern Outreach visits, Dragonfly Camp, Youth ASL Classes, temporary respite support, virtual sessions, and in-person community visits. It has been encouraging to see more individuals gaining access to ASL, community resources, and support services. The number of clients and communities requesting services has continued to grow, demonstrating the importance of accessible programming throughout Saskatchewan.

Working across northern and rural Saskatchewan presents unique challenges, particularly during the winter months. Snowstorms, road conditions, and long travel distances occasionally created barriers to in-person visits. However, the arrival of spring and summer has allowed for increased travel and face-to-face support, strengthening relationships with community members and improving access to services.

I would like to express my gratitude to SDHHS for providing a vehicle for outreach travel. Having access to a reliable vehicle has made a significant difference and has allowed me to safely travel throughout the province without relying on my personal vehicle. This support has greatly enhanced my ability to serve clients in remote and northern communities.

Most importantly, I am grateful for the ongoing support, encouragement, and collaboration provided by the SDHHS team throughout the year. It is an honour to work alongside dedicated staff who are committed to improving accessibility and quality of life for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals across Saskatchewan. I look forward to continuing this work and building even stronger connections within the communities we serve.



Rae-Mairi Richardson



This year, my work as a Sign Support Professional continued to grow through stronger relationships, consistency, and a deeper understanding of client needs. Supporting the same clients over time allows me to witness meaningful growth in their confidence, communication, and independence, reminding me why consistency and patience matter. I also expanded my work with people of different ages and abilities, especially individuals with learning disabilities, which strengthened my ability to adapt support to each person's unique needs. Day programming also helped keep everyone engaged in learning while still having fun.

I also continued promoting awareness of ASL and Deaf culture through presentations in schools and community spaces. I had the opportunity to present in several different community settings:

- SWITCH Saskatoon: sharing ASL and cultural awareness within a community health and outreach setting
- A high school alongside the CNIB DeafBlind community: raising awareness among young people about Deaf and DeafBlind experiences and communication differences
- Martensville Recreation Centre: connecting with families and community members through ASL and culture awareness
- University of Saskatchewan

Collaboration remained an important part of my year. Rae-Mairi and I continued leading ASL youth sessions over Zoom and contributed to a digital resource portal for ASL and Plains Indigenous Sign Language (PISL) with Northern Voices Speech Services. We filmed ASL and PISL vocabulary to help create future resources for families and Indigenous communities. The project recognizes that ASL is closely connected to English and has historical roots in French Sign Language and early American Deaf education, while PISL is often better suited to Indigenous languages, cultures, and communication styles. Alongside these projects, I continued assisting at CCCC Preschool and teaching ASL classes.



My first SSP year was about discovering what this role could be, and the second was about expanding it. This year deepened my confidence, adaptability that is helping me grow in working with different client needs, community situations, and teamwork. I continue to learn all the time, which is something I appreciate about this position. I am grateful for the clients, communities, and colleagues who make this work meaningful. I look forward to seeing what 2026–2027 brings.

Alanda McLeod

The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) is legislation that requires federally regulated entities to report on their policies and practices in relation to identifying and removing existing barriers, and preventing any future barriers in their organizations. The ACA is a key part of working towards the realization of a Canada without barriers by 2040.

The ACA includes seven areas for action:

- **Employment;**
- **Built Environment;**
- **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);**
- **Communication (non-ICT);**
- **Procurement of goods, services and facilities;**
- **Design and delivery of programs and services; and**
- **Transportation**

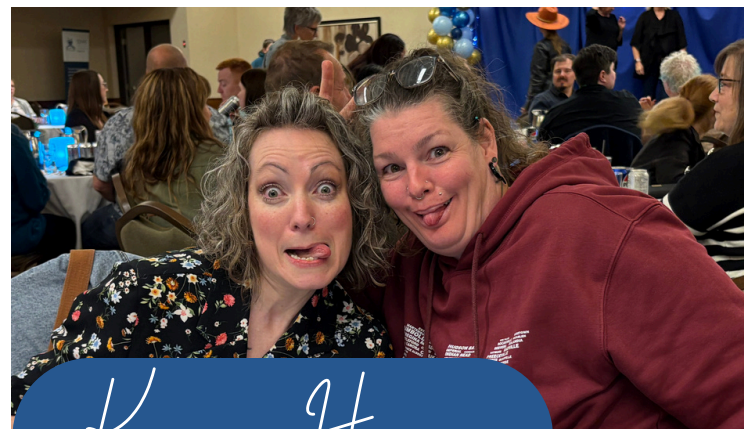
I represent SDHHS on the City of Saskatoon's Accessibility Advisory Committee and with this, I was contacted by businesses who are looking for ways to support inclusivity for both employees and customers.

I gathered information and feedback from community members, and from my lived experience in a support role to provide reasonable accommodations specifically for the DHH community to ensure they would be included in the 3-year Accessibility Plans for 2026–2029.



We are providing successful barrier free access to programs for DHH, including those with developmental and physical challenges that are designed to help foster creativity and personal self expression. Using a variety of artistic media to promote skill and language, and building through creative expression. This year as we wrapped up our Senior program pilot, we found how valuable it is to provide access to programming for seniors to prevent isolation and promote positive community experiences.

I even did my own creative expression project and made 3 dolls with ILY hands to add some identity awareness and donated them for our online auction



Krissy Haines



SDHHS FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising this year was amazing thanks to the community and those that support SDHHS programs & services!

As per usual, our Fall Fundraiser & Quilt Raffles were super popular, & this year we tried a pre-order sale - & you made it awesome!



SDHHS T-SHIRT AND BUNNYHUG Fundraiser!

Available for Pre-Order!

Toddler, Youth, & Adult Sizes!

Variety of colours available!

Proceeds support SDHHS programming!



Order your T-shirts &/or Bunnyhugs from SDHHS before NOVEMBER 23rd, 2025!

Go to sdhhs.com to purchase!



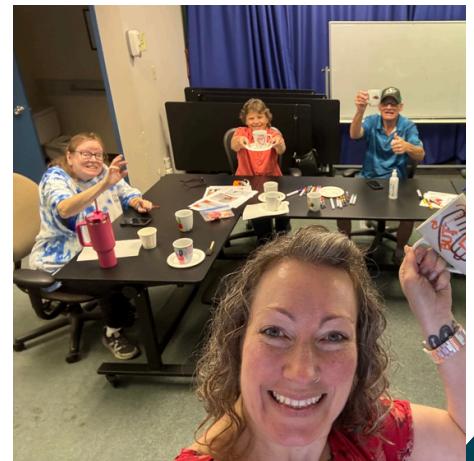
Senior's Programming Pilot

SDHHS received funding from the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation to facilitate a Seniors Programming pilot in 2025. Our group of seniors were enthusiastic about having accessible activities that they could participate in without having to worry about whether or not they would have full understanding of concepts and directions. This is so important for our seniors as they don't always have the ability to participate in regular community events and activities that are not "Deaf Friendly". They appreciated the ability to try something new, and break up their days of noticeable isolation, while enhancing their physical, mental, emotional and social well-being. Participant ages ranged from 55 to 78 years old.

A popular class/activity was chair yoga. The age range of seniors and their level of ability was not a barrier in this, and the positive benefit had an obvious impact on our aging community. Yoga being offered by an Instructor in ASL was an inspiring to have access to! This was requested the most out of all of the programs we offered.

We had regular games and puzzle days to ensure not only the mental stimulation, but the social connection among their peers to provide them with a sense of fulfillment. This seemed to be the highest attended day in all of the programs we offered. Other activities offered included Mug painting, Banner making, Zentangle, History day, Paint by Numbers, and many others.

The workshops that we provided were typically 1-3 hours in length and earlier in the day to ensure no issues with transportation and traffic for the participants. We hope to see everyone return, and have more seniors join in participating in the SDHHS Seniors Programming next year!



Camp Dragonfly

May 26 - 30
2025



Celebrating Connection, Confidence, and Community

Camp Dragonfly continues to provide a unique and transformative experience for DHH children across Saskatchewan. Held annually each May at Redberry, this five-day camp creates an accessible, inclusive, and language-rich environment where children can thrive. Camp Dragonfly is much more than a recreational experience—it is an opportunity to belong. Some participants are the only DHH student in their school or community. At Camp Dragonfly, they are surrounded by peers who share similar experiences, creating a sense of equality, acceptance, and connection that is often difficult to find elsewhere.

A Beautiful Setting for Growth

Redberry Camp offers a safe environment where campers can explore, learn, and build friendships. Campers, staff, and support workers are well cared for throughout their stay, enjoying nutritious meals and comfortable lodging while immersed in a supportive community.

Learning Through Adventure

Camp Dragonfly provides a wide variety of activities that encourage personal growth, teamwork, leadership, and self-confidence. Throughout the week, campers participate in Paddleboarding and kayaking, archery, rock climbing, swimming and water activities, team games and challenges, water fights, arts and crafts, and other recreational programming. Activities are designed to foster independence, resilience, literacy, language, communication, and cooperation while ensuring campers have fun and create lasting memories.

Language and Communication

One of the most valuable aspects of Camp Dragonfly is that programming is delivered in American Sign Language (ASL). For many participants, Camp Dragonfly is one of the few opportunities they have to spend extended time in an environment where ASL is the primary language. This immersive experience strengthens language development, communication skills, self-expression, and confidence.

The Power of Mentorship

Campers benefit from positive role models and mentors who are DHH themselves. These mentors demonstrate that DHH individuals can achieve success, pursue their goals, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. The presence of DHH leaders helps campers envision their own possibilities while developing self-esteem, independence, and a strong sense of identity.

Celebrating Culture Through ASL Storytelling

One of the highlights of Camp Dragonfly is our annual ASL Storytelling Evening, held on Thursday night around the campfire. This culturally rich event celebrates Deaf culture, language, creativity, and community connection. Throughout the week, campers work together to develop and practice stories using ASL. Families, friends, and members of the public are invited to attend and experience the campers' hard work firsthand. Participants use visual storytelling, expression, movement, and sign language to bring their stories to life in a way that is engaging, entertaining, and uniquely reflective of Deaf culture. The evening is filled with laughter, excitement, and a strong sense of accomplishment. For many participants, it is a chance to overcome shyness, discover their voice through sign language, and experience the pride that comes from performing before an audience. The ASL Storytelling Evening has come to be one of Camp Dragonfly's anticipated traditions, showcasing the growth, creativity, and confidence that campers develop during their time together.

Building Lifelong Skills

Throughout the SDHHS Camp Dragonfly experience, children develop:

- Social and interpersonal skills
- Leadership abilities
- Communication and language skills
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Self-confidence and self-advocacy
- Problem-solving abilities
- Meaningful friendships and support networks

These outcomes extend well beyond the camp experience and contribute to campers' success at home, at school, and within their communities.

Looking Forward

Camp Dragonfly remains committed to providing a safe, accessible, and empowering environment for DHH children. Through recreation, language access, mentorship, and community building, the camp continues to create life-changing experiences that help children grow into confident, connected, and capable individuals.

We are grateful to our staff, volunteers, support workers, families, donors, and community partners whose dedication makes Camp Dragonfly possible each year.

Scan here for a
Camp Dragonfly video:

Brandie Radcliffe



<https://youtu.be/tG8ipdyMUEA>



Early Childhood & Family Services

This year has been one of growth, collaboration, and a deeper connection within Saskatchewan's DHH community. We could see some increased awareness and support from families, educators, healthcare professionals, and community partners who all share the same goal — ensuring DHH children thrive with full access to language, identity, and belonging.

Throughout the year, we continued to strengthen relationships with professionals in Health and Education who reached out seeking ways to better support DHH children through language access and inclusive practices. It has been uplifting to witness more collaboration and a growing understanding of the importance of early language exposure, family connection, and identity. Together, we are seeing positive changes that place the child and family at the centre of support.

Our vision goes beyond language development alone. We want DHH children to feel proud using ASL, experience joy in communication, develop confidence in who they are, and know they are never alone. Seeing children and families build these connections continues to inspire our work every day.

We felt hopeful this year seeing more DHH youth become involved in the community by volunteering at children's events and in exploring how they may contribute to the future of the DHH community. Their leadership, enthusiasm, and willingness to give back are important to the community connection across generations.

Little Buttons continued to be a meaningful program for families. With help from Contract Worker, Denny Maurice, we were able to create welcoming spaces for children and caregivers to connect through ASL play and exploration while partnering with Saskatoon Early Years Family Resource Centres.

We also continued presenting ASL signs and early language activities at several libraries in partnership with Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan. These sessions provided valuable opportunities to increase ASL awareness and introduced inclusive communication practices within the broader community.





Robyn continued to sit on several committees and joined collaborative discussions focused on improving support and outcomes for DHH children and their families. Being involved in these conversations allows us to advocate for accessible services, stronger partnerships, and community-informed approaches that benefit children across Saskatchewan.

This year, we also continued hosting the SDHHS booth at various expos and community events, helping families and professionals learn more about available services, resources, and the importance of early language access.

In partnership with families and organizations across Canada, we continued offering Parent Webinars during the Fall season. These sessions created opportunities for parents and caregivers to connect, learn from one another, and discuss topics related to raising DHH children.

We would also like to sincerely thank Deaf Service Canada (formerly Silent Voice) for their continued support of the ECFS Program and for helping strengthen services for Saskatchewan children and families.

While there is still much growth ahead, we feel hopeful and optimistic about our direction. More people are coming together with the shared understanding that DHH children deserve accessible language, meaningful connections, and opportunities to thrive in every part of their lives.

As we reflect on this past year, we are deeply grateful to the families, professionals, volunteers, partners, and community members who continue to support this work. Your collaboration, trust, and dedication make it possible to create spaces where children and families feel welcomed, empowered, and connected.

We look forward to another year of learning, advocacy, and community building together.

Robyn Homes & Patricia Spicer

This year 4C Preschool has been full of language, laughter, movement, discovery, and remarkable growth. We were pleased to welcome 10 registered students in the Fall into our preschool community, each bringing their own personality, communication style, strengths, and spark.

At 4C Preschool, we support DHH, CODA, and language-learning children as they develop communication through both American Sign Language and spoken English. Our goal is not simply to teach words, but to help children discover that language is powerful. Language helps them ask, answer, choose, explain, joke, wonder, repair misunderstandings, advocate, and belong.



This year, our students continued to grow in both receptive and expressive communication. We tracked student progress using tools such as the MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventory and ongoing classroom observation. Many students expanded their vocabulary across familiar and meaningful categories, including animals, clothing, routines, food, colours, action words, people, toys, places, and social language. Even more importantly, we saw students use language with increasing confidence during play, transitions, group learning, peer interactions, and family activities.

A bilingual-bimodal approach

Our program continues to follow a bilingual-bimodal approach, supporting children in both ASL and English. Rather than treating one language as a substitute for the other, we recognize both as rich, valuable, and meaningful.

Strategies we used included:

- sign-supported spoken language
- ASL modelling during routines and play
- visual schedules, pictures, objects, and gestures
- repetition within meaningful classroom routines
- pauses to encourage expression
- individualized vocabulary goals
- small-group and one-on-one language support
- family-centred practice and carryover

Learning through themes and play

This year's learning themes included All About Me, Food, Winter, Dinosaurs, Space, Colours, Animals, Community, and seasonal celebrations. These themes gave students repeated opportunities to build vocabulary in playful, practical ways. Whether we were naming fruit, pretending to be dinosaurs, exploring colours, building with blocks, reading stories, or greeting friends, language was woven into the day like bright thread through a classroom quilt.



Classroom growth

Our classroom blends structured teaching with play-based learning. Influenced by Montessori principles and aligned with Saskatchewan's early learning framework, our program supported growth in language, motor skills, early literacy, social-emotional development, independence, and identity. Students learned through songs, stories, sensory play, art, movement, pretend play, outdoor experiences, and hands-on exploration.



Family and community connection

Family involvement remained a central part of 4C Preschool. Our Friday Family Days gave students, parents, caregivers, and siblings opportunities to connect in community spaces such as the Wonderhub, Corn Maze, Saskatoon Zoo, and other local venues. These outings support communication, social connection, confidence, and shared joy beyond the classroom walls.

Our team this year included:

Nicole Musey, Lead Educator (Sept 2024 through June 2025)
Tyler Burgess, Lead Educator (Sept 2025 through 2026)
Ashley Buckland, Deaf Educational Assistant, ASL and spoken English
Denny Maurice, Deaf Educational Assistant and Youth Leader, fluent in ASL
Kinley Winter, Speech-Language Pathologist, supporting both languages
·SDHHS Early Childhood Family Services, with support from Robyn Holmes



The strength of 4C Preschool has always been found in its people. Our students learn from adults who model language, patience, humour, flexibility, and care. They also learn from one another. Some of the most meaningful moments this year happened quietly: a child signing to a friend, a student using a new word at just the right time, a peer helping another during a routine, or a family seeing their child communicate something new. We celebrate not only the vocabulary learned, but the confidence gained. We celebrate the children who took risks, tried again, joined in, made friends, used signs, used words, watched carefully, laughed loudly, and grew beautifully. 4C Preschool continues to be a place where communication is treated as more than a skill. It is connection. It is identity. It is community. It is the little key that opens a very large door.

As we look ahead, we are grateful for the children and families who have filled 4C Preschool with courage, curiosity, and connection. Each student leaves a mark on our classroom community. This year reminded us again that communication growth is not always loud or sudden. Sometimes it arrives in a new sign, a longer sentence, a shared smile, a confident choice, or a child finally being understood. Those moments are the true measure of our year.



With gratitude

Tyler Burgess

ASL Classes

Twyla Chartrand has taught 4 sessions of ASL classes virtually between Spring 2025 to Spring 2026. Her ASL Classes were on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm - 9pm for 10 weeks.

Several of the students emailed me how much they enjoyed learning ASL. Generally they developed their confidence by using ASL through practising with one-to-one partner sessions during class. There were a few students that could not continue due to personal reasons, however, they want to come back and take the classes in the near future.

Teaching online can be challenging yet it is rewarding to see them communicate back and forth using ASL. It is fun to see the students committed to learning ASL and see the big improvements in their ability and understanding of ASL. They just need to remember to use their Signing Naturally workbook and stay focused. Overall, I always have great experiences teaching to all kinds of people in my classes and I look forward to teaching again.

Alanda McLeod: This past year has been a rewarding experience teaching ASL classes through the Fall, Winter, and Spring semesters. I had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people with different goals for learning ASL, and it has been encouraging to see the ASL community continue to grow each year. One of the highlights was teaching many of the same students as they progressed from ASL 101 to ASL 102 and now ASL 201. It was exciting to watch their confidence and signing skills improve over time through regular practice and participation. The dynamic of new and former students created a larger and more vibrant community feel in the ASL class.

Our in-person classes were filled with interactive activities, conversations, and opportunities to practice ASL in a fun and supportive environment. Overall, it has been a wonderful year of learning, connection, and community building. I am grateful for the opportunity to support students on their ASL journey and contribute to the continued growth of our community.



Rae-Mairi Richardson: This year has been another successful and rewarding year teaching American Sign Language (ASL) classes through SDHHS. I continue to teach many of the same ASL levels and programs that I have offered in previous years, and it has been wonderful to see both returning and new students participate in the classes.

The majority of classes were delivered virtually, allowing students from across Saskatchewan to access ASL education regardless of their location. Online learning continues to provide flexibility and accessibility for individuals, families, professionals, and community members interested in learning ASL and increasing communication access with DHH individuals.

One of the highlights of this year has been watching students gain confidence in their signing skills and seeing their understanding of Deaf culture continue to grow. Many students have demonstrated strong commitment to learning and have actively participated in class discussions, activities, and community events. Youth ASL programming also continued to be an important part of this year's work. Supporting young learners and providing opportunities for language development helps strengthen future accessibility and inclusion within our communities.

I look forward to continuing to offer ASL classes and supporting students in their language-learning journey in the years ahead. I am especially excited about opportunities to expand ASL education within Saskatchewan schools and hope to see more ASL courses recognized for academic credit. Providing students with the opportunity to earn credits while learning ASL would help promote language accessibility, Deaf awareness, and greater inclusion within the education system.

Caroline Bergbusch: Another year has gone by already! From Spring 2025 to March 2026, I had the opportunity to teach ASL 101 and ASL 102 classes via Zoom. This teaching experience was both rewarding and enjoyable.

Believe it or not, 2026 marks 30 years of service teaching with the Regina ASL Program, where I have been an instructor from 1996 to the present. It has been a privilege to teach American Sign Language and witness students develop their skills, appreciation for the language, and understanding of Deaf culture and the Deaf community.

I am pleased to see many of my students successfully completed ASL 101 & ASL 102. Watching their confidence grow and seeing them communicate more comfortably in ASL has been one of the most rewarding parts of teaching.

Over the years, it has been inspiring to see so many students embrace ASL and become more aware of the richness and value of our Deaf community. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue sharing this language and culture with others.

Treasurer's Report

Hello Members,

I would like to introduce myself to you as some of you may not know me. I am Lezli Jo Trofimenkoff. I used to work at SDHHS in Saskatoon, but I have been retired for a few years. I have been a member of SDHHS for several years. This year, I was appointed as Treasurer. It is my first year of being Treasurer and am still learning.

Kami Harbidge, who works on finance with SDHHS and also is an Executive Assistant, has been working on finance for years. She was advised to make a transition from the old financial program into a new program on the computer. This was a huge project and it took her months to make the change. She had help with the transition from Vicki McLaughlin, Certified Accountant. Kami submitted the year end tax documents to MCW Chartered Professional Accountants (MCW CPA) in Regina at the end of March 2026. The board anxiously waited for completion. The Board of Directors, Kami and Nairn Gilles, Executive Director met with MCW CPA on June 3, 2026. All went well with almost no errors. MCW CPA were impressed with Kami and Vicki doing their job well even though the submission was long and complicated. No deficits nor abnormalities at all. Kami has managed so well, keeping accounts punctual and under control. MCW CPA had asked us to transfer funds into different categories which can be more easily managed. This was approved by the board of directors. It will be on the agenda of the AGM for your review. If you have any questions, please ask for Kami as she will be able to answer.

Thank you!

Lezli Jo Trofimenkoff
Treasurer

Financial Audit Report

SDHHS contracted the services of MWC Chartered Professional Accountants to complete the 2025-2026 Financial Audit.



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

Funder Recognition

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SDHHS Seniors Programming

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
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Connect • Engage • Thrive



Access Communications

Children's Fund



To our Donors,

Thank you!



Mike
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Leslie Dunn



Kami Harbidge



Rachel Janzen
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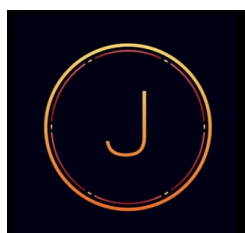
J J J
JO'S JEMS & JUNK
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Sisters
CREATIONS MADE BY SONORA AND VIVienne

MOONLAKE
Golf and Country Club

Redhead
EQUIPMENT

Please take a moment to note
all the wonderful businesses
and individuals across SK who
donated to our auctions!
When you can, please
Shop Local!



SDHHS

Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services

Bridging the Gap

**From the Staff and Board at SDHHS:
Thank you for your continued support of the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing community! ♥**