



SDHHS

Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services

Bridging the Gap



Winter

Newsletter 2023



NEWS | EVENTS | SOCIAL MEDIA

CONTENT



SDHHS Contact Information & Social Media.....	Page 3
SDHHS Vision & Values.....	Page 4
Who We Are.....	Page 5
Thank You	Page 6
Executive Director’s Message.....	Page 7
Front Desk.....	Page 8
Interpreting.....	Page 9
Vocational Education & Employment.....	Page 10
Sign Support Professional.....	Page 11
Youth Programming.....	Page 13
Early Childhood and Family Services.....	Page 14
CCCC Preschool.....	Page 16
ASL Classes.....	Page 18
SDHHS Upcoming Events.....	Page 19
Dates to Remember.....	Page 21
More Upcoming Events.....	Page 22
Thank You to Our Supporters.....	Page 23

CHECK US OUT ON:



Facebook



Instagram



Website



Social Media
Handle

@sdhhsinc

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Toll Free Phone

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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.



SDHHS Staff, Board, & Freelance Interpreters October, 2022.



WHO WE ARE:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

REGINA OFFICE:

Karen Nurkowski..... Interpreter

Patti Spicer..... Vocational Worker
Early Childhood and
Family Services

Rae-Mairi Richardson..... Sign Support Professional

SASKATOON OFFICE:

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

Ren Perra..... Office Coordinator

Brandie Radcliffe..... Interpreter

Jody Thompson..... Vocational Worker
Youth Worker

Robyn Holmes..... Early Childhood, Youth
and Family Services

Krissy Haines..... Sign Support Professional

Nicole Musey..... Preschool Teacher
Robyn Holmes..... Substitute EA

REMOTE OFFICES:

Sue Schmid..... Interpreter

Barb Froese..... Interpreter



THANK YOU!

FREELANCE CNS PROVIDERS

Rhonda Leier
Donna Whitelaw

FREELANCE INTERPRETERS

Carla Klassen
Rachel Janzen

DEAF INTERPRETERS

Janet Dittrick
Rae-Mairi Richardson

Office Cleaners

Dena Johns
Kainat Wahid

ASL INSTRUCTORS

Caroline Bergbusch
Twyla Chartrand
Nicole Musey
Rae-Mairi Richardson
Alanda McLeod

VOLUNTEERS

Lisa Cheyne-Zanyk
Bob Hutchinson
Lucille Hutchinson
Clinton Miller
Ashley Bucknall
Nicole Musey
Darrell Horychun
Obii Udemgba
Art Hillcox
Students from DHH Program at WKC
(Winston Knoll Collegiate)
Allard Thomas
Kayleigh Manastyrski
Michelle Grodecki
Bron Nurkowski
Kainat Wahid

Executive Director's Message

Nairn Gillies

Happy New Year!

New Years is always a great opportunity to look back and be thankful for the year that was, and is a chance to look forward to the year that will be. This last year we saw the end to most of the Covid restrictions, and people started to return to a normal life... for that I am truly thankful.

While we continue to meet on Zoom often, it's nothing like the fellowship of being together in person. This fall we had an in-person strategic planning meeting, to plan for the future of Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. The Board and Staff met to discuss how we can improve services for d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Saskatchewan, and how we can continue to eliminate barriers. The basic outcome of the meeting was that there needs to be "Community Resource Centre" hubs in both Saskatoon and Regina. These community resource centres would be a place for the community to meet and develop life skills, language, and education, and to function as a resource centre for family and community.

We discussed having a satellite office in La Ronge to meet the growing needs of the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing community that is north of Prince Albert. Currently we are supporting 20 children and their families north of Prince Albert. The distance education hybrid model of accessible education and inclusion seems to be working.. but we still have work to do to meet the needs. We have also begun wellness checks and home visits for seniors and people who continue to be isolated. As always, we advocate for enhanced services for d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Saskatchewan.

In November, The Government of Saskatchewan's Minister of Social services, Honorable Gene Makowski stood in the house to raise a second reading of Bill 103 "The Accessible Saskatchewan Act". On numerous occasions members of the community across Canada have reached out to the provincial governments and the federal government to advocate for the recognition of ASL (American Sign Language) as the language of the Deaf in Canada. This bill, called Bill 103, "The Accessible Saskatchewan Act", will formally recognize ASL as the language of the Deaf in Saskatchewan.

In Minister Makowski's speech about Bill 103 he quoted the disability strategy "nothing about us without us" and mentioned there needs to be members from the disability communities involved in helping craft this legislation. One of the things missing from their policy and procedures is referral for sign language programs for every child who has been diagnosed with a hearing loss. The United Nations Charter of Rights for Persons with Disabilities guarantees access to sign language programs for all children who have a diagnosis of a hearing loss.

As they have already, the government will continue to have formal consultations with members of the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to ensure that they get the legislation and policies right.

2023 brings a very positive outlook.

Nairn

Front Desk Ren

Hi everyone!

Working as the Office Coordinator at SDHHS, there is always something to do! Scheduling interpreting assignments, working on fundraisers, ASL classes...I'm always busy with something, but always happy to do it!

If you need anything, don't be afraid to reach out. You can connect with me on Facetime, Skype, Google Duo,

Text, Email, Phone Calls –

I'll always do my best to help!

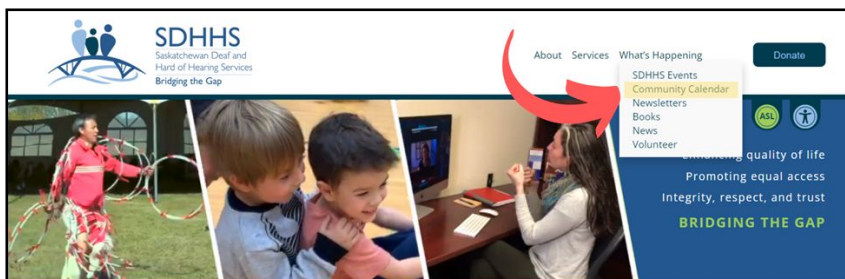
saskatoon@sdhhs.com (email/facetime/skype/google duo)

306.229.2010 (text) 306.665.6575 (voice)

Did you know?

I created a new **“Community Calendar”** for our website! This calendar is for any event in the DHH community – **Not just SDHHS events!** Be sure to check it out so you can find events going on in our province! If you have an event you want to add, follow the link below the calendar on the SDHHS website.

You can find the Community Calendar under the “What’s Happening” menu on our website:



Year 2022 In Review

Are you curious about how the year 2022 went? Well come and have a look at it here, and enjoy! https://fb.watch/ix8Av48_Wd/



Interpreting

Karen, Sue, Brandie and Barb



February, 2023 already!! Time seems to be flying by so quickly these days! The staff interpreting team remains to be consistent with Karen in Regina, Sue in Prince Albert, Brandie in Saskatoon and Barb in Swift Current. The schedule has picked up with the lifting of Covid restrictions. We appreciate the support of the Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing community when we need to switch around the schedules in order to provide services to as many requests as possible. On average, less than 2 requests per month are not able to be filled. The in-house team of interpreters along with freelance interpreters have been working together to provide services to the entire province. Our roster of current freelance interpreters consists of Carla Klassen and Rachel Janzen.

As a reminder, if there is a medical or legal emergency during office hours, please call our Office Coordinator to arrange to have someone interpret. If the emergency occurs before or after office hours, on statutory holidays or the weekend reach out to the Emergency On-Call Interpreter. All of the details about how to contact them, are on the SDHHS website here:

<https://sdhhs.com/2020/12/02/interpreting/>

Fingers crossed that the mild temperatures leading into Spring will continue. Keep safe and healthy!

Sue, Brandie, Karen and Barb



Vocational Education & Employment

Jody & Patricia

Patti and I have been extremely busy again in the Vocational Department here at SDHHS.

We have just completed our first quarterly report for this contract year, and we are currently working with 49 d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing people throughout the province. We have attended a couple information sessions with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training (MICT) to learn about our new reporting and registration processes. Our new MICT reporting spreadsheet is much easier to report with than last years'. This is saving us both time and energy!

I have had quite a few college and university students contacting me recently to ask about accommodations and technology to support people in the classroom, and for when they are going forward into the workplace. Finding assistive technology for specific types of hearing loss, distinct models of hearing aids and certain makes of cochlear implants is challenging, but we have a good relationship with a few audiologists across Saskatchewan, and they do make this a bit easier because of their training.

In Regina, Patti has been busy helping people update resumes and two of her clients have completed their Forklift training. One of Patti's clients has found part-time employment working as a Kitchen Helper at a child care center.

In Saskatoon I have been updating a few resumes, helping with job searching, and supporting people needing assistive technology. One of my clients recently found a full-time job in a warehouse, and another client has been hired for a part-time cleaning position.

We have both been making sure our clients have Computer Note-taking Services and ASL Interpreter supports for job interviews, orientations, training on-the-job, for workplace reviews, a couple staff meetings, and for short training courses.

If you have any questions about training, education, or employment, please feel free to call us or email us so we can help support you in achieving successes. Our goal is to help our clients accomplish their goals!

Jody Thompson
Saskatoon Vocational Worker
jody@sdhhs.com

& Patti Spicer
Regina Vocational Worker
patti@sdhhs.com

Sign Support Professional

Krissy

Krissy continues investigating barrier-free accessibility for the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing community so they don't have to use their own personal resources.

She's been contacting internet and cell phone companies to looking into their accessibility accommodations for online interpreting when Canada VRS is not an option, and neither is using their own cell phone data. Finding alternatives to personal cell phone data for communication support, for example: seeking access to wifi hotspots specific to video interpreting, finding resources to better support persons with disabilities, and then adapting them to fit the needs of the DHH community, has been the main focus for Krissy - - ensuring the accommodations match the needs of the client, not the label.

With no availability to teach ASL in the Saskatoon and area high schools, Krissy has been doing some research to find other ways to make learning ASL accessible and still gain high school course credits through alternative options like clubs or special student projects.



Sign Support Professional

Rae-Mairi

Rae-Mairi has continued to provide weekly online Zoom Sessions and 1 day/month In-Person visits to Northern communities. The communities so far include: Beauval, Spiritwood, Hall Lake, La Ronge, Sucker River and Prince Albert.

The use of ASL with youth, their Educational Assistants and family members has increased in Indigenous communities throughout all of Saskatchewan. Rae-Mairi has witnessed a positive transformation from the students who initially knew next to no signs, to being able to express themselves in basic ASL. She is looking forward to continuing the work with them and encouraging their successes in ASL literacy. She will have a few new schools and families to add to her list for similar supports in additional Northern Saskatchewan communities.

Rae-Mairi has visited Leask Community School. They are the only school program in Saskatchewan that is offering ASL classes. They are doing GREAT! The teacher there encouraged five students to perform songs in ASL at the Winter Festival. Everyone in their community loved it.

Rae-Mairi enjoyed presenting at the Saskatoon Inn for the Indigenous Education Conference. She has been working with several high school students focussing on life skills and preparing them for life after graduation.

To add to her plate, Rae-Mairi has been enjoying her role as an ASL instructor, teaching Level 2 (201 & 202) online through Zoom. She hopes to continue teaching in the springtime.

It has already been a year and half since Rae-Mairi began her employment at SDHHS. She looks forward what the new year has to offer her.



Youth Programming Regina

The Youth Activities Program has been quite successful in Regina. They have been active and enjoying their time together. They have had opportunities to socialize and thrive with their Deaf Culture & ASL.

There are more activities scheduled for this month and more to be planned for throughout the year. See posters on page 20 and our SDHHS Facebook page for the next events.

A few of the youth also volunteered to help with the Holiday Cheer party.



Early Childhood & Family Services

Robyn & Patricia

We are now in the middle of Winter and Spring is getting that much closer! WooHoo!

The Holiday Cheer Party was a huge success in both Regina and in Saskatoon. We were able to see old and new faces, including some who had not met anyone Deaf before. We were proud that we were able to welcome everyone to join in this Holiday Cheer. We saw kids playing together that haven't seen each other in such a long time. Adults talking about their big news and seniors talking about the old days. Thank you Santa for visiting in Saskatoon and in Regina. A huge thanks to the elves for wrapping the presents. Thank you to the volunteers for helping us make the party happen, and to the extra hands who decided to help clean up at the end of the parties. We were really glad to see all of you in person for the first time in a long time!

Here are the Holiday Cheer Photos from Regina and Saskatoon
More photos on our SDHHS Facebook account!



Early Childhood & Family Services

Continued

ECFS has been actively supporting CCCC Preschool. It is wonderful to see the kids signing and comfortable expressing themselves so much more, thanks to their teacher Nicole. Don't forget that the Saskatoon CCCC Preschool is having an Open House on Tuesday, February 28th. Let others know about this exciting school. If you are not able to make it to the Preschool for February 28th, come visit us at the Saskatoon Family Expo on March 18th in Prairieland Park Hall B!

ECFS continues to be busy in many ways. We do in-home and Zoom visits with families and clients. In Saskatoon we will be hosting Little Buttons signing sessions at the Saskatoon Family Centre every Tuesday at 9:30am for the month of March. In addition to this, there will be sessions that will be hosted by Rae-Mairi on Zoom for little students. The goal is to educate parents, teachers and little ones about ASL and Deaf Culture. These are exciting times, watch for upcoming presentations!

Did you know we do information sessions and presentations? If you want to learn more about ECFS, SDHHS or increase your awareness about hearing loss, you can contact our Office Coordinator, Ren, at the Front Desk, saskatoon@sdhhs.com to arrange a time to host a presentation!

Sincerely,

Robyn Holmes (Saskatoon)

Patricia Spicer (Regina)



Deaf Staff from SDHHS - Staff Retreat

CCCC Preschool Nicole

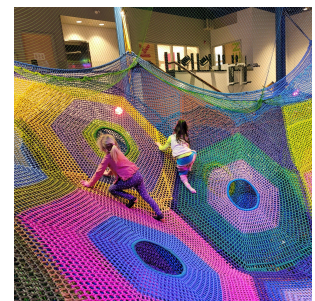
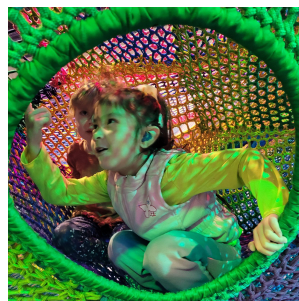


Happy February to the community!

Things have been very busy at the 4C Preschool! There have been many great Friday Family Days venturing out to Wonderhub, the Western Development Museum, the Wildlife Festival at Prairieland Park, a Farm Corn Maze, DJ's Adventureland, and The Park YXE. In addition to these outings, we have also hosted activities in our classroom such as Pumpkin Carving, Gingerbread House decorating and more! The goal is to provide every opportunity for children to socialize, develop their identity, and to develop language. Each student's parents, siblings, and family are encouraged to join in the events and activities. We have also opened up the Friday Family Days to include students from other schools that are connected to the SDHHS Early Childhood Family Services (ECFS) program. Robyn Holmes, the ECFS Worker, supports these students and their parents when they opt to attend the Friday events.



Our Dinosaur theme is over and the class is now focussed on the Ocean. We ensure that access is provided to both languages for the students in the classroom. Everything is labelled in written English, ASL, and includes visual pictures of the vocabulary. This allows Miss Nicole to naturally expose students to ASL and written English. Daily language learning happens when communication and understanding occur.



CCCC Preschool Continued

Miss Nicole continues to teach and develop the program by expanding resources, such as **Language First** and **Visual Language Visual Learning**. These are highly recommended for new parents and professionals. She has reached out to other Deaf teachers from Alberta and Manitoba to see what they offer for their d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. They were kind enough to share various ASL assessment tools and resources. Our plan is to stay in touch with them in the future. The ongoing support this Winter is greatly appreciated by Miss Nicole!

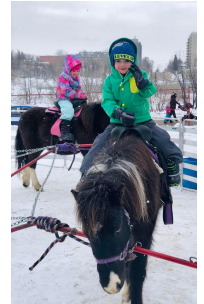
We have a new student joining us at the 4C Preschool. If you know any d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing children in the community or children that are a part of a d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing family, we can easily be contacted to register children with the 4C Preschool. The 4C Preschool classroom operates from Monday to Thursday, 9 am to 12 pm and every Friday we build parent connections with Family Day events.

The 4C Preschool **Open House is on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm**. More information on the poster on page 20!

Please feel free to come visit our classroom and see what we do!

Have a wonderful Spring,

Nicole Musey
4C Preschool Teacher
preschool@sdhhs.com



ASL Classes

Interest in ASL classes is very high – We have 74 students in our current classes! In-person classes are hosted in both Regina and Saskatoon. The online classes are open to registrants across the province. In total there are 7 classes: 3 in-person, and 4 online.

This season, we have five ASL Instructors: Caroline Bergbusch, Twyla Chartrand, and Rae-Mairi Richardson in Regina, Nicole Musey and Alanda McLeod in Saskatoon.

Registration is now open for our Spring 2023 classes! Classes will start the week of April 17, 2023. Registration is open for both in-person and online classes.

Spring 2023 registration deadline is April 7, 2023 . If you know someone wanting to learn ASL, please tell them to register!

Here is the link to the registration form on our website:

<https://forms.gle/MXseg1SMwZMF7wUA8>



Alanda's students, Winter 2023

REGISTER NOW!

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES SPRING 2023

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 7 2023

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR **ONLINE AND IN-PERSON CLASSES** START **APRIL 17 2023**

10 WEEK COURSE (40 HOURS) - TWO NIGHTS PER WEEK

7PM-9PM - **TUESDAY AND THURSDAY***
(SASKATOON ASL 101 (IN PERSON) IS ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY)

CLASSES: \$210.00
TEXTBOOK: \$115.00

CLASS AVAILABILITY IS DETERMINED BY REGISTRATION TOTALS
MON. AND WED. CLASSES TO BE ADDED IF ENOUGH REGISTRATIONS
MUST BE 16+ TO REGISTER
1-YEAR SDHHS MEMBERSHIP IS INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION

FIND THE REGISTRATION FORM ON OUR WEBSITE!

SDHHS.COM > SERVICES > AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

SDHHS Upcoming Events:

CCCC PRESCHOOL

COME AND VISIT US AT THE SASKATOON FAMILY EXPO

**SATURDAY MARCH 18TH
10AM TO 5 PM
PRAIRIELAND PARK HALL B**

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICES

SDHHS Camp Dragonfly
May 29-June 2, 2023



REGISTRATION PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE!

Email sue@sdhhs.com to receive a registration package by email.

Camp Dragonfly is for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students and their school support workers.

NEW LOCATION
Redberry Camp SK!



REGISTER NOW!

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES
SPRING 2023

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
APRIL 7 2023

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR **ONLINE AND IN-PERSON CLASSES**
CLASSES START **APRIL 17 2023**
10 WEEK COURSE (40 HOURS) - TWO NIGHTS PER WEEK

7PM-9PM - **TUESDAY AND THURSDAY***
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SDHHS.COM > SERVICES > AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES



SDHHS
Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Bridging the Gap

TICKETS
\$40 EACH

SAVE THE DATE

FALL FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 2023

WATCH SDHHS' SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ALL THE DETAILS!

TICKETS ON SALE IN AUGUST!



SDHHS Upcoming Events:

**CHILDREN, COMMUNICATING,
CONNECTING, IN COMMUNITY
PRESCHOOL**

OPEN HOUSE!

We provide access to American Sign Language and English using a bilingual, bicultural approach and its strategies to help children in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community develop fluency in both languages. The program is play based, family oriented and uses real life experiences to provide meaningful learning opportunities.

Register Now :

Email: preschool@sdhhs.com
or saskatoon@sdhhs.com
Phone: 306-665-6575
Text: 306-229-2010

When: Tuesday, February 28th, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Where: St. Augustine School - 601 Boychuk Dr, Saskatoon, SK Classroom #6

- * Early Childhood Family Services
- * A Speech Language Pathologist
- * Access to ASL and English

ESCAPE ROOM

Sunday March 26, 2023

7pm-9pm **\$10**
Per Person

**2410 Dewdney Ave,
Regina, SK S4R 1H6**

**Age:
13-25**

Please email
raemairi@sdhhs.com to register
before Friday, March 24, 2023

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN!!! Get Air Trampoline Park

**Saturday,
March 11, 2023
7pm - 9pm
\$5
Per person**

**Age:
13-25**

**1902 Turvey Road,
Regina, Saskatchewan**

Please email
raemairi@sdhhs.com to register
before Friday, March 10, 2023

Dates to Remember



Click here to find out more!



Click here to find out more!



More Upcoming Events:



DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE POSTS FROM THE DEAF/HH SASK DISTRIBUTION LIST?

Approximately once a week, the Deaf/HH Community receives e-mails from the Sask Announcement Distribution list of different posts related to events happening in Saskatchewan, and which Social Media pages to check out, or news that someone feels are important to share in the community.

To sign up, please E-mail to saskannouncement@gmail.com to subscribe

If you have something you want to share with the community, please E-mail and it will be shared when available.



Forest Grove Community Church Attridge is excited to be providing ASL (American Sign Language) interpretive services during their 10am Family Experience (FX) and 11am Corporate Worship service to serve those who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. They are excited for the ways that offering this will help a segment of our population understand the good news.

Please do invite your family and friends who may be Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to join us on Sundays!



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Website:

<https://www.forestgrovecommunitychurch.com/attridge/>

Little Buttons

Every Tuesday, March 07-March 28
From: 9:30-11:00am



Set aside time to learn some American Sign Language with Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services!

There are times, when as parents, we wonder what our young ones are trying to tell us. Studies have shown that a baby can pick up signs before they are able to speak. Here is a great opportunity to meet as a group and pick up a few signs that will help alleviate some of those potential frustrations.

Our goal is to help create improved communication and bonding for you and your child. We will have a chance to learn some signs for different foods, family members, animals, clothing, manners, and more! Come out and meet other families in your community!

The Little Buttons program is for children ages 0 - 5 years old.
If you know you plan to join Little Buttons on a regular basis, please register.
However, if you just want to drop-in, you are welcome to join us!

Registration opens on February 28th



Phone: (306) 244-2446 | Email: frc@ymcasaskatoon.org | Website: www.saskatoonfamilycentre.ca



THANK YOU!
to SDHHS'
FUNDERS, SPONSORS, & DONORS!



Connect • Engage • Thrive



City of Regina



REGINA
Infinite Horizons

