



SETTING OUR VISION

DIGGING INTO THE 12 BOLD IDEAS

prepared for September 25, 2023



INCOME & ASSETS

The SPRP is committee to...

- Advocating for a Canadian **Guaranteed Basic Income System** that is cost shared with Federal and Provincial/Territorial governments and is higher than the Market Basket Measure (MBM).
- Advocating for **minimum wage to be brought into line with living wage**.
- Advocating for **improved Saskatchewan income assistance** and increasing awareness around policies and practices that create and perpetuate cycles of poverty instead of building capacity in community members so they don't need income assistance.
- Increasing awareness and providing opportunities to access and learn about **asset building**.

Definitions

Assets can be monetary (like savings, insurance and investments) but more often are non-monetary and consist of things like a house, car, and other possessions, and can include other safety-net-based items such as identification, access to family, friends and other supports.

A **basic income** is a periodic, unconditional cash payment sent to individuals from the government. It ensures everyone can meet their basic needs and live with dignity regardless of their work status

- **Universal Basic Income (UBI)** is a program that provides an unconditional income to a very broad group of people, such as all citizens, or all adults, or all residents, regardless of their income level.
- **Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)** is provided to those who need it. BIG is an income floor beneath everyone's feet that eliminates the risk of falling into poverty should disaster strike

Community Data to Consider

29,840 tax returns in **SK** were filed by a free community clinic
Bringing \$120.4M back into families

The SFBLC tax clinic is one
Saskatoon example

2058 people served **\$9.3M** put back into the families

Conversation Starters:

- What are the potential consequences of income assistance recipients living below the poverty line?
- In what ways can the government and local businesses collaborate to improve the economic conditions for low-wage workers in Saskatoon?
- The money people use in their day to day lives comes from employment, government supports, & system benefits, regardless of your income status
- If you work FT at minimum wage in SK you cannot lived above the poverty line
 - How do we manage small/medium enterprise development with minimum wage pressures?
- Underpaid or unpaid labour on which our economy and communities rely is worth globally \$10.8 trillion a year

1 in 9 people (in Saskatoon) are low income

LIVING WAGE
\$18.95 / HR

MINIMUM WAGE
\$14.00 / HR

If you break down
SIS into an hourly rate
it is approximately

\$9.00 / HR

**1 in SIXTEEN people
are impacted
by income assistance
programs in SK**

Post COVID is showing expected growth in hospitality and retail jobs (many of these jobs stopped due to stay at home mandates).

5700 service jobs of which almost **50%** were hospitality and retail.

The **service industry is one of the lowest paying sectors**, oftentimes staff are **minimum wage earners, without benefits or Full Time hours**.

Demographics most impacted by precarious low paying jobs
(this was also exacerbated during the pandemic)

Seniors **Youth** **Mothers** **Women**
Newcomers **Indigenous** **LGBTQ2S+**



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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The SPRP is committee to...

- Increasing awareness within the business community about the role they can play in poverty elimination and community investment.
- Working collectively with the partners from the Saskatoon Interagency Response to COVID19 to develop a plan to pivot the research/ procurement/ distribution system that was established to provide a social enterprise model for non-profits to increase sustainability and build employment/mentorship opportunities.
- Supporting existing social enterprise models in Saskatoon and working across the sectors to increase capacity for social procurement.

Definitions

Every purchase you, or your agency makes, has a community, social, economic, cultural, and environmental impact.

Social enterprise (SE) is an organization or business, providing goods and/or services but **redirecting its surpluses in pursuit of community, social and/or environmental goals.**

Social procurement is about **using your existing purchasing** to capture those impacts **to achieve overarching** institutional, government, or individual **goals that helps shape inclusive, vibrant and healthy communities**

Did you know?

- In 2015, there were **900+** operating in SK
- In 2023, SEDA launched a SE Hub to support a solutions based economy in SK
- Indigenous economic development has embedded SE into practice as a means to improve social wellbeing in community.

SE can **help non-profits** to engage/expand revenue generating activities that can help to **improve their financial sustainability** and decrease grant or fundraising efforts.

Community Data to Consider



84%
of social enterprises
in SK operate to
achieve a **social mission.**

Social Enterprises in Saskatchewan...

- SEs provided paid employment for **2200+** staff who earned over **\$33M**
- **73%** of SE employees were part of the mission of the SE, such as those with disabilities or other employment barriers.
- SEs **provided services to over 398K** people in SK
- Averaged **\$712,000 in total revenues**
 - \$470,000 in sales
 - Net profit/surplus of \$15,000.

There is a myth that SE's are not profitable. In 2022, Buy Social Canada surveyed Canadian SE's and reported (from those surveyed) a total gross revenue of **\$4.1 Billion**

Of those surveyed **85%** reported providing additional supports for employees that go beyond the standard offerings of medical and dental benefits

"Social enterprises in Canada are solidly embedded in communities, work across business models, deliver a vast array of goods and services, and they create significant revenues, employment, and social impact." – Sell with Impact: Stories and Research from the Canadian Social Enterprise Sector

Conversation Starters:

- What do you think the future holds for social enterprises in Saskatchewan? What emerging trends or opportunities do you see in this sector?
- What are the benefits of collaborating with other organizations, such as nonprofits, corporations, or government agencies, for social enterprises? How can partnerships enhance their ability to create social value in Saskatoon?
- What strategies can social enterprises adopt to achieve long-term financial sustainability? How can they diversify their revenue streams beyond grants and donations?
- When we focus on 'best value for money' procurement is much more than a financial transaction, it is a tool for building healthy communities.



Build Up is a construction SE operated by QUINT that employs and mentors marginalized community members that face multiple barriers to employment.

3143 paid employment hours
14 staff hires with criminal records
72% Indigenous staff
\$150K in community projects

"If it wasn't for Build Up, I would have had no choice but to go back to everything I used to do."



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GOOD FOOD

The SPRP is committed to...

- Advocating for policies that **support people's access to enough income** to support their food needs.
- Advocating for access to food for people in Saskatoon in their neighbourhoods when they need it and what they want to eat.
- Advocating for public policy that supports access to traditional, cultural and locally sourced (grown/ processed and distributed) food options for people (including but not limited to, Indigenous traditional foods (fish, wild meat, berries and medicines), newcomer/immigrant cultural foods, and fresh, locally produced foods) in a sustainable, affordable and safe process.

A snapshot of the cost of food

The federal government tracks food costs month the month – the following indicates the cost % increase from July 2022 to July 2023.



14.3% Apples (/kg)
12.3% Eggs (/doz)
8.7% Dry Pasta
11.5% Infant Formula
17.8% Peanut Butter

"For an average family of four, we're expecting that food bill to **increase by about \$1,000**, which is the **largest increase we've ever predicted in 13 years**"

The number of families reporting household food insecurity has increased **16%** over 3 years.

Did you know?

Household food insecurity, can be triggered by a crisis in finance or personal circumstances but may also be a long-term experience of not being able to access healthy food or not having the facilities to prepare it. It encompasses both the **affordability of food** and its **availability within local communities**.

The SPRP and partners report on "**Food By Ward**" to understand the current **access** realities across Saskatoon

A snapshot about WARD 2

10% of the Saskatoon population lives here

ZERO Supermarkets

16% of Saskatoon's small food stores

63% of Saskatoon's emergency food providers

Median household income is **35%** lower than the MBM.

Community Food Access

30 supermarkets

76 small food stores

8 collective kitchens

62 community gardens

13 community fridges/food boxes

7 community/farmers markets

20% of Saskatoon neighbourhoods do not have access to a Large Supermarket

32,598 CHEP lunches distributed to students at school





1100+ meals are served daily at the Friendship Inn

41% of people accessing SFBLC are children

Emergency food providers expect to see **60% increase in demand in 2023**

16 emergency food providers in Saskatoon

Conversation Starters:

- Emergency food directly impacts **hunger**, they are not a long term solution to food insecurity.
- Food insecurity is directly related to income. People need \$\$ to buy the food they need.
- Reducing household food insecurity requires the **commitment of public revenue and resources** to ensure that income supports for low-income, working-aged Canadians and their families are adequate, secure, and responsive to changing costs of living, irrespective of their income source
- Research at PROOF shows that **\$1/hr** minimum wage  creates a **5%**  in food insecurity BUT a **1%**  in low-income tax rates creates a **9%**  in overall food insecurity.

The RIGHT public policy is essential.



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HEALTH

The SPRP is committee to...

- Working collectively with community partners to ensure **Harm Reduction principles are built into policy and practices**, including, but not limited to safe consumption, overdose prevention, 24/7/365 access to mental health services, expansion of managed alcohol and other innovative approaches to support people who use substances.
- Working on the intersection between poverty and the Health system, particularly regarding how vulnerable, marginalized and oppressed populations, who are often over-represented and living in poverty, access and move through the system, including delayed discharge, medical discharge to homelessness and the intersectionality of the other Bold Ideas (with an emphasis on income, transportation, housing and food).
- Supporting the design of innovative system navigation approaches and tools that will ensure people accessing health services, whether through clinics or emergency departments, are engaged in a wholistic support approach that identifies and addresses housing, food and income insecurities that negatively impact health outcomes.

Community Data to consider

Access to a regular health care provider is very important for preventative health care and the management of ongoing medical conditions. In 2019....



14.5% of Canadians didn't have access **17.2%** of SK residents didn't have access

More recent data was not available, but conversations with community members and health care providers indicate that this number may be substantially higher.

Reporting ED visits for those experiencing homelessness changed in 2022. Between **2018-2021 coding was mandatory for patients homeless on admission**. In 2022 it was mandatory for patients at any point in time.

309 coded in 2019 **1448** coded in 2022

4.7% of PIT count respondents cited hospitalization as the cause of their homelessness

It's not possible to compare these data points. It is critical to understand how many homeless residents end up at the ED and to note that release/discharge without supports/ back into homelessness occurs regularly.

41% of Canadians said they'd always or usually had support when navigating mental health and substance use services in the past year.

31% of SK residents said they'd always or usually had support when navigating mental health and substance use services in the past year.

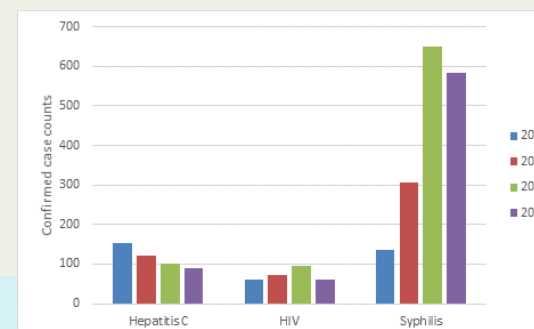
20% more self-harm, including suicide, in SK than in Canada

27% more hospitalizations for self-harm, including suicide, in SK than in Canada

40% more hospitalizations entirely caused by alcohol (age 10 and older) in SK than in Canada

84% in the numbers of loose needles since 2010

73% in the needle drop box usage 2010



Conversation Starters:

- The principles of harm reduction can be included in policy level decisions and directives. At high level it simply means **"do no harm"** with your solutions. If your decision or policy creates harm, you need to re-evaluate it.
- How can community partners collaborate effectively to integrate harm reduction principles into policies and practices? What are the key roles of various stakeholders in this effort?
- What are the connections between poverty and health outcomes, particularly for marginalized populations? How do social determinants of health, such as income, transportation, housing, and food, impact health disparities? How can community and health work better together around **DATA collection and reporting**?
- What are the potential benefits of addressing housing, food, and income insecurities alongside health care?
- In 2023 - the US Surgeon General announced that **LONELINESS poses health risks as deadly as smoking**.

Did you know?

Harm Reduction seeks to reduce the health, social harms and stigma associated with addiction and substance use, without requiring people who use substances from abstaining or stopping.

Prairie Harm Reduction distributed **4500+** Naloxone Kits in 2022



Prairie Harm Reduction operates the City's only Safe Consumption Site. It opened in **OCT 2021**.

In 2021 they saw **240+** people/month
In 2022 they saw **380+** people/month
Since opening they have reversed **8** overdoses and made almost **1000** referrals to programs

367 CSO calls for service in the month of June 2023

452 encampments as of Aug 2023

The rates of HIV and STBBIs in Saskatoon are alarming.

There have been **SIX** confirmed congenital syphilis cases from 2018 to 2020



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HOUSING

The SPRP is committee to...

- Working with Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and other community partners to **achieve Functional Zero Homelessness**
- Action teams to support the Functional Zero Homelessness priority regarding “system taps” to develop policy briefings and recommendations to eliminate the release into homelessness in the Health and Justice systems.
- Working collectively with community partners to **operationalize the housing continuum**.

Community Data to consider

4% of Saskatoon housing is affordable

there are roughly **4500** affordable housing units in Saskatoon managed by over 30 cooperatives and non-profit organizations along with the Saskatoon Housing Authority (SHA) which is responsible for **>50%** of these units.

Almost **One in FIVE** of these SHA units is vacant

In 2021, SHIP investigated wait times for affordable rental units in Saskatoon. On average, people waited

26 months for a 1bdrm

25 months for a 2bdrm

14 months for a 3bdrm

28 months for a 4bdrm

In July 2023, the average cost of 2bdrm rental was **\$1,243**

3.4%

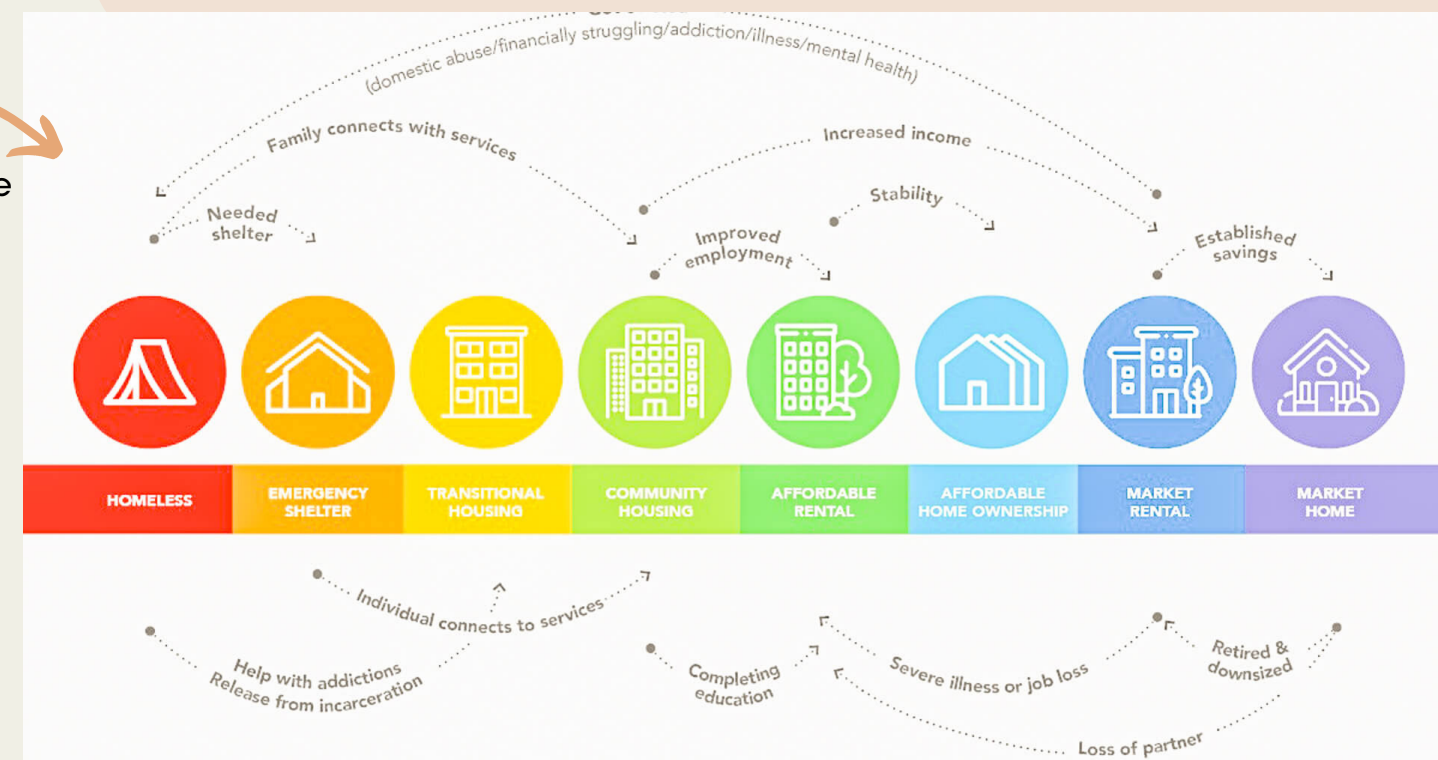
The vacancy rate in Saskatoon is **DANGEROUSLY LOW**

3.4%

What is the Housing Continuum?

Things to remember about the continuum:

- people move throughout it and that is OK
- people are not required to be “home owners” to be considered successfully housed
- systems and services “shelter” people and then release them to nothing



Did you know?

SYSTEM TAPS are the point where people fall into homelessness – Health, Justice, Education, Social Service and community are often involved

55%

Of homeless people report a historic connection to foster care

People are released from corrections & health daily with limited to no support in place

Conversation Starters:

- Functional Zero Homelessness – is when homelessness is **RARE, BRIEF and DOES NOT REOCCUR**
- Emergency shelter is not a housing solution.
- The housing system: the full spectrum of the housing continuum is not operationalized in Saskatoon. There is a lack of transitional/supportive housing, systems repeatedly discharge people into nothingness.
 - Agencies are forced to respond with “**better than nothing**” options for community members
- Low income families have limited access to housing options – most of the affordable options are **ONE BEDROOM units** – not suitable for a family.
- Rising interest rates are keeping more potential home buyers in rental units – contributing to the low vacancy rates, and increasing rents.



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JUSTICE

The SPRP is committee to...

- Working with community partners across the continuum of services within the Justice system to map the points of contact from the point of criminal offense to release from the system (and all points in between) to develop policy briefing and recommendations that stop the “revolving door” and address the systemic barriers, racism and inequities that cause recidivism.
- Create awareness about the inequities facing women and children who are connected to the justice system and how community-based alternatives to remand are required to halt cycles of apprehension and recidivism.

Community Data to consider

Ministry of Social Services eliminated the practice of birth alerts in February of 2021, **21 babies under 30-days-old were apprehended by the Ministry from January 1 to March 31, 2021**. During the same period in 2020 and 2019, **23 and 22 infants were taken into care**, respectively. **Community advocates are still raising the birth alerting alarms in 2023.**

In 2020-21 Indigenous peoples were incarcerated **9x** more frequently than non-Indigenous people.

The over-representation of Indigenous women in Provincial correctional facilities is **15.4x** times higher than non-Indigenous women and is **8.4x** times higher than Indigenous men.

In SK, individuals held on remand represent almost **$\frac{2}{3}$** of individuals admitted into custody, and over **40%** of the annual average daily counts of individuals in custody.

The average length of remand custody is 100 days

What is Remand?

Remand is defined as a place for “people who have not been convicted or sentenced, but are held in custody awaiting court appearances.”

The number of people Saskatchewan is currently holding in remand is **2x** the national average.



The use of short-term remand continues to be the primary reason why there are more and more adults in jail in Saskatchewan every year.

July 2023 data indicated that there were 270 women in Pine Grove (Prince Albert, SK) which is 162% capacity. **156, (more than half) of the women were on remand.**

Conversation Starters:

- **Remand can last more than 2 years.** When creating policy that hold people for this long, without supports or access to services, there are ripple effects – including loss of children, loss of employment, debt accumulation, and mental health implications.
- What types of rehabilitation and support services can be provided to individuals at different stages of the justice system to reduce the use of remand and the likelihood of reoffending?
- What are the key points of contact within the justice system from the point of criminal offence to release? How can mapping these points identify opportunities for intervention and support, particularly when it comes to finding alternatives to remand?
- There is an alarming increase in the number of hate related crimes – what changes are needed to address this growing phenomenon?

Did you know?

In 2021, the number of police-reported hate crimes in Canada **increased by 27%**

In 2022, **46 hate crimes** were documented and in **10 cases** charges were laid or SPS worked with the Crown to make sure it was noted at sentencing for those offences

Most women are incarcerated for non-violent crimes that are directly related to poverty.

16% Of the cases seen by CLASSIC in 2022-23 were criminal charges related to poverty

10.4% Of PIT count homeless respondents said incarceration was the cause of their homelessness

Mental health and substance use increase the likelihood of criminalizing poverty – SPS is working with community partners to address this.

38% Increase in SPS PACT dispatch – reaching **2,614** situations and were able to divert people from arrest/health **513 times**.

210 SPS calls were transferred to Saskatoon Crisis (SCIS) as suicide intervention protocol.



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TRANSIT

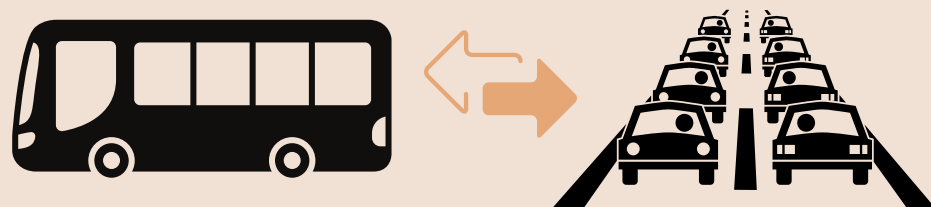
The SPRP is committee to...

- Advocating for a "free-to-use" transit system for the City of Saskatoon.
- Re-convening the Transit Action team to develop policy briefings and recommendations to achieve a free to use system.

Community Data to consider

- **During peak hours, Saskatoon Transit has 84 buses on the road.**
- Saskatoon Transit offers a **Low-Income and a Discounted Bus Pass** issued in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Services to those who are on social assistance.
- The City also has a **low income bus pass** connected to their **low income Leisure Pass**
- **16% of riders** using electronic passes with Saskatoon Transit **rely on discounted passes.**

Transit ridership has significantly decreased since 2019 (COVID). In 2021, ridership had only returned to about **55% of pre-pandemic ridership levels**, which has resulted in a scaling back transit services.



One bus with 30 passengers is equal to 27 cars

In 2022, **8500+**
Low Income Leisure
Access Cards issued

10%
since 2019



Did you know?

- Most of the human service ministries (Health, Social Services, Justice/Corrections, Education, etc.) have provincial budget lines to support access (for individuals) to public transit/transportation.
- **Currently there are 2 BIG transit decisions on the City of Saskatoon's table:**
 - increase fares
 - allow children under 13 to ride the bus for free
- The **City of Regina has a children under 13 ride for free policy** - Initial evidence indicates (through conversation with local officials) that ridership is up and paying fare customers is up because families with children under 13 can afford to ride the bus.



What the scoop? Bus Rapid Transit - BRT

Saskatoon's growth plan includes BRT - The buses don't go faster - they are more efficient and frequent making them more reliable, getting you where you need to go faster.

Larger shelters (with heat), real time information, dedicated bus lanes and a traffic signal priority system

A BRT route with a **five-minute frequency** would have the capacity to move up to **1,440 passengers per hour in each direction of the route**. along the same route. By reducing the number of vehicles along major routes, the BRT system will reduce traffic congestion and the need for parking across the city.

The City is
reporting these
potential benefits



\$4.1M

in other benefits - like
improved health outcomes

\$72M

economic development

\$17.6M

fare revenues

Conversation Starters:

- How might a free transit system contribute to the social and economic well-being of the city and its residents? What ripple effects could it have on employment, education, and quality of life that we should be thinking about?
- What are the potential benefits of a "free-to-use" transit system in Saskatoon in terms of equity and access to public transportation? How might this policy change impact underserved communities?
- Are there examples of cities that have successfully implemented free transit systems? What lessons can Saskatoon learn from these experiences?



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TECHNOLOGY

The SPRP is committee to...

- Working collectively with the City of Saskatoon free public wifi project to develop policy and practical implementation strategies to work towards fully accessible wifi across the city.
- Committed to working collectively with agencies and partners to determine a sustainable and appropriate process to ensure access to technology (including data and devices) is a priority for all residents in Saskatoon.

Did you know?

The continuation of this pilot is on the City of Saskatoon's budget considerations for 2024 and the total cost to continue this investment for another year is

\$5,000.00

Community Data to consider

The 2022 Point In Time Homelessness Count showed that the Public Library is the #1 community space to get access to services and supports.

73%

of PIT count respondents identified the library as their go-to space for service support

The Saskatoon Public Library 2022-23 annual report indicates that there were

243,181

public computer sessions

262,015

wireless device connections



**Access to unlimited
free wifi saves a family
\$800/year/device**

Public Library access is not 24/7/365, leaving community members without internet access after 9pm on weekdays and 6pm on weekends.

Definitions and Background

In December 2016, the Canadian government declared internet access a basic right of all Canadian citizens. The COVID crisis – including the imposed isolation and the move of more and more services online – further highlighted the need for equitable access to internet services.

Community agencies, systems supports and charitable giving strategies often focus on device access, which is necessary, but devices are rendered useless without consistent access to data.

In the early advocacy for a free wifi pilot, community advocates focused on what 24/7/365 access to consistent data would provide for low income residents in the Core Neighbourhood. **This included: capacity to keep connected to family outside of town, access to health records, job searching, entertainment, combating loneliness, helping students with school, access to employment and school.**

Conversation Starters:

- Community agencies report that this pilot has dramatically changed their capacity to reach clients who don't have access to wifi/data
- Ending this pilot now would be a considerable waste of the initial investment. A growing city needs to invest in technology infrastructure.
- Having access to data is not a luxury, it is a requirement in 2023.
- In times where employers create hybrid models for workspace, having free access to wifi, in a lower paying job is a substantial cost savings.
- In a home with children in school, access to the internet without having to leave home is both a money and time saving investment.



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WASHROOMS

The SPRP is committed to...

- Working with community partners, including the City of Saskatoon, to develop a 24/7/365 accessible and safe public washroom infrastructure.

a 24/7/365 public washroom model includes **options to utilize existing infrastructure** more effectively and equitably, includes **supports for both the agencies/businesses hosting the washrooms** and their visitors, and **looks to future capital investment including new civic structures** – whether standalone or integrated.

Did you know?

In 2015, the United Nations declared access to sanitation a basic human right.

Amoowigamig – Winnipeg's Core neighbourhood washroom response



Community Data to consider

In 2021, after lessons learned from COVID closures, a community survey was conducted:

94%

of respondents were in favour of a 24/7/365 public washroom system

80%

of respondents said they would feel comfortable using a 24/7/365 public washroom system



The top 3 concerns identified were:

- Safety (for all)
- Cleaning (costs)
- No Concerns (with proper funding)



Between 10pm and 8am there is nowhere for people to access a washroom

When asked "who should fund the washroom system"

- 34%** City of Saskatoon
- 20%** Provincial Gov
- 14%** Federal Gov
- 20%** Combo of all 3
- 12%** Community

200⁺

people used the single 24hr washroom (opened as a pilot project) at Prairie Harm Reduction

Winnipeg gets it....

Amoowigamig provides dignity and equity to a community that lives and gathers downtown. It provides toilets, handwashing stations, and clean drinking water to those with few or no alternatives.

Since opening its doors last June, **more than 25,000 people** have visited Amoowigamig.

Staff with lived experience support a harm reduction infused space with safety at forefront and access to critical needs such as naloxone, needles, pipes, condoms, lube, hygiene products, pads, tampons, food and a sense of belonging.



The project cost \$925,000 to build with funding from the Canadian Medical Foundation and the Canada Healthy Community Initiatives fund, a program administered by The Winnipeg Foundation, which granted the project \$250,000

Conversation Starters:

- This 24/7/365 model is a continuum of services and accessibility. It **does not mean** that all businesses/agencies must open their washrooms up all day, every day.
- It impacts everyone:** Transit and trucks drivers, utility workers, people doing street repair, local pedestrians, citizens young and old, and tourists are all users of public washrooms. It is especially critical for seniors, pregnant women, little children, those with medical conditions, and those who are faced with housing pressures.
- It is not just about toilets:** Public washrooms provide a safe place to warm up, access to drinking water, a safe place to dispose of sharps and manage health needs, a place to wash and clean, a place to change a diaper, a place to take medications, a place to change clothing. As a community it is imperative that the complex and multifaceted uses of public washrooms be considered and supported.



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EDUCATION

The SPRP is committed to...

- As we pivot from COVID into a new reality, the SPRP is committed to reconvening the conversation about alternative school models, school calendars and opportunities for a pilot in Saskatoon to look at a new delivery model that takes the lessons from COVID and builds a systems designed for students and their families.

Community Data to consider

Between 2012 and 2021, public school spending went up by \$261 million, **but factor in inflation and spending is down 11%** over that period. **Making SK 2nd LAST** in **provincial spending per student in the Canada.**

The **summer slide** is when students lose skills that they gained during the previous school year over the summer break. On average, **children can lose two months of reading skills and two and a half months of math skills**

In 2022, the United Way of Saskatoon and Area reported that of **95%** children, whose attendance at their summer success programming was 80% or greater, **maintained or increased their reading levels.**

Between 2016 and 2022 school years the province has seen a **9%** decrease in non-Indigenous students' grade 3 reading and a **19%** decrease in Indigenous students' grade 3 reading.

Homeless youth surveyed in 2019 said that their first experience with homelessness came when the schools "kicked them out"



Indigenous student achievement in grade 3 reading was **50%** lower than the non-Indigenous student outcome.



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Did you know?

That **Kindergarten is NOT MANDATORY** in Saskatchewan?

That there are **2 sets of outcomes** outlined by the Ministry – those for Indigenous students and those for non-Indigenous students.

Between 2012 and 2022, on average, **85%** of non-Indigenous students graduate on time, compared to only **38%** of their Indigenous peers.

Despite numerous calls to close this gap, the disparity remains.

Definitions and Background

Under the Education Act, school attendance is compulsory for children between the ages of 7 and 16 years, and schooling is provided to anyone between the ages of 6 and 21 years.

Currently there are specialized K12 programs in Saskatoon, that target elite athletes, intergenerational learning, the environment and the arts. It is reasonable to think that land based learning, alternative calendar options and hybrid online/in class learning could be established to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

Alternative calendar options exist across Canada and within SK.

- 4 day school weeks, year-round school (no summer break), alternatives to Christian calendars, staggered (generally later) start times, trimesters, quints and hybrid options.

\$23M

was allocated to support the start-up and operation costs of the new Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation (Sask DLC) for the 2023-24 school year



Conversation Starters:

- Community agencies and outside funding are required to gap fill the inadequacies of the K12 model, particularly for Kindergarten readiness and grade 3 reading.
- A single delivery system for K-12, particularly 9-12, doesn't take into consideration the diverse needs of students and families. Lessons learned over the COVID delivery models could have been integrated into a hybrid delivery system allowing student (and family) choice.
- The conventional model of summer off, times of day and holiday calendars are rooted in industrial, colonial and outdated ideologies.
- K12 educators consistently share that school is often the only safe and consistent space for students, particularly those living in poverty. Creating a 2+ month gap in the summer not only creates "summer slide" but eliminates access to other supports like food, mental health supports, and the overall sense of belonging.



SETTING OUR VISION

DIGGING INTO THE 12 BOLD IDEAS

prepared for September 25, 2023



CHILD CARE

The SPRP is committee to...

- Increasing awareness about investment in the Early Years being a critical investment to stop cycles of poverty and to provide children with what they need for the best start.
- Advocating with Child Care Now Saskatchewan for the development and implementation of a \$10/day childcare system for the province (as outlined in the Canada-SK Child Care Agreement)

Community Data to consider

Infant spots (6 weeks to 18months) are the hardest to find.

In 2022, there were approximately **7500+ infants**. Only **9%** have access to regulated, funded government licensed child care.

20% of all children (in Saskatoon) up to age 6 have access to regulated child care

70% of women with children work outside of the home.

\$10/day child care is a step in the right direction.

However, this \$217.50/month cost is still unaffordable for low income families with multiple children.

A family of 4 living at the poverty line now spends **10%** of their income on child care. A huge improvement from the previous **40-60%** (noting that unregulated private child care is still this expensive)

39%

of children aren't ready for Kindergarten

Definitions and Background

Regulated Child Care is government licensed, financially supported (\$10/day), high quality, monitored and accountable. In Saskatoon, it is offered as child care centres and child care homes.

Quality, affordable, accessible and regulated child care is an essential service in community. While many believe that this is to increase access to employment, the importance of quality Early Learning services is directly connected to brain development, educational outcomes and health/wellbeing.

Conversation Starters:

- Saskatchewan's child care policy continues to be based on outdated and inaccurate family models in which one parent (the father) goes to work and the other (the mother) stays at home.
- There is no centralized, consistent access point for child care in the city.
- Many Child Care providers work for minimum wage (or well below a living wage). The government of Saskatchewan is committed to developing a wage grid for all ECEs. However, this investment has not been released (as of Sept 2023).
- All children turning 5 years old by January 31 of the next year can enter Kindergarten in September of that year. Kindergarten is part-time, **requiring child care** for the remainder of the time in a preschool space. Children under 6 are eligible for the child care subsidy, however, if a Kindergarten child turns 6 in the school year, their child care fees return to full cost.

Did you know?

Longitudinal studies of children in early years programs/child care shows a range of **returns between \$4 and \$17 for every dollar spent** on that program. The return on investment is highest for low income, marginalized and/or racialized students. In the US, A comprehensive, national early education program would **add \$2 trillion to the annual GDP within a generation.**

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT:

7-10% ROI

"The rate of return for investment in quality early education for disadvantaged children is 7-10% per annum through better outcomes in education, health, sociability, economic productivity and reduced crime."

James Heckman
Nobel Laureate in Economics

[LEARN MORE AT HECKMANEQUATION.ORG](https://heckmanequation.org)

Investing in early years education is a cost effective strategy. **Even during a perceived budget crisis.**



Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction Partnership

