

WINTER 2016/17

# promise:

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PAST, PRESENT AND THE POSSIBLE



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DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY: THE POTASHCORP  
**SASKATOON COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION CULTURAL  
GALA**

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**MAKING THE SECRET  
PATH PUBLIC**

SCF'S RECONCILIATION JOURNEY

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WAYNE BROWNLEE

**VISION TO REALITY**

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SUPPORTING THE

**EARLY YEARS**

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INTERVIEW WITH HAROLD EMPY ON

**JUST IN CASE**



SASKATOON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# our promise

TO CONTINUE MAKING SASKATOON THE  
BEST COMMUNITY IN WHICH TO LIVE.



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## MAKING THE SECRET PATH PUBLIC

Saskatoon Community Foundation's reconciliation journey

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## POTASHCORP PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

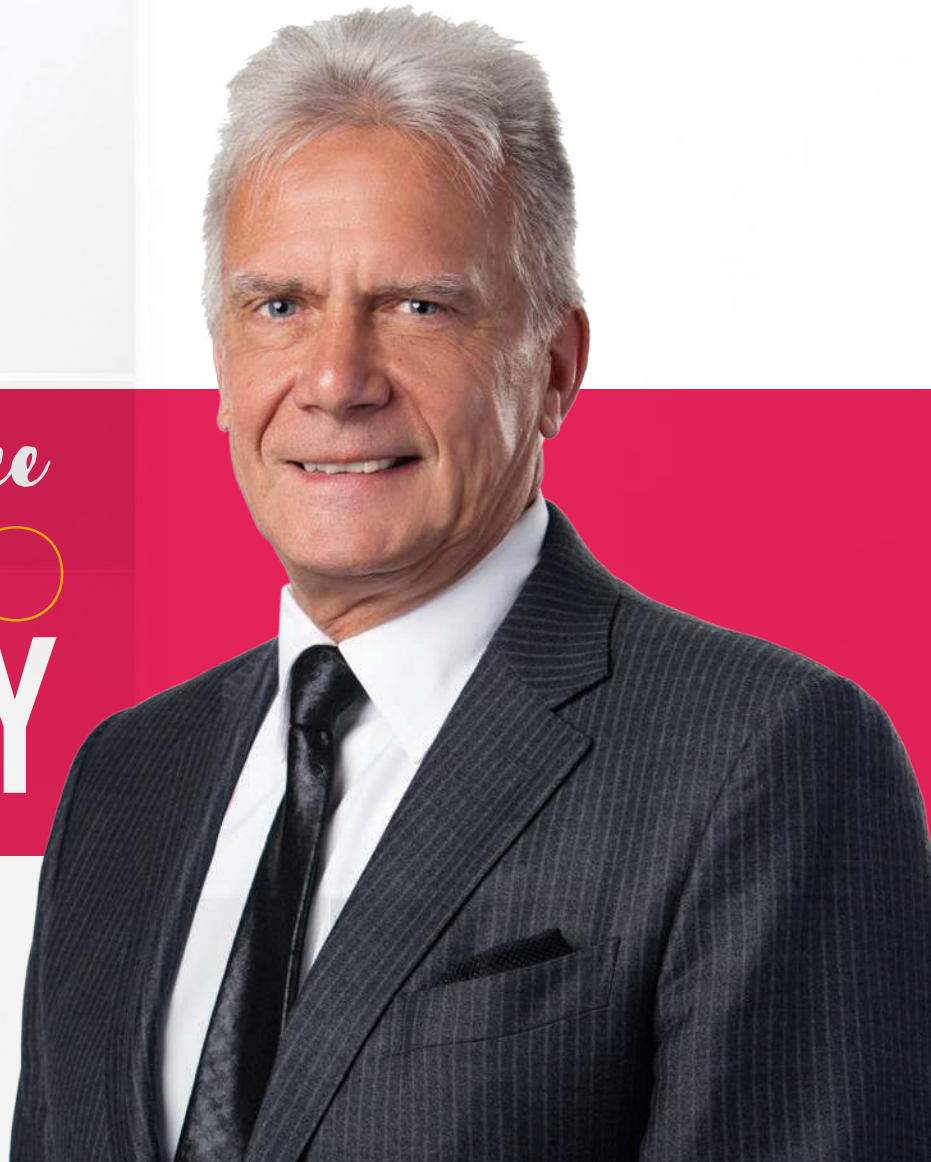
A legacy of community support

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PRODUCED BY:





*wayne brownlee*

# VISION TO REALITY

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Your Saskatoon Community Foundation is a dynamic, thoughtful, and informed giving organization. Its whole purpose is to assist donors in achieving their charitable goals in our community, whether they be for a specific charity or a broader social, economic or recreational initiative. For every wonderful reason you may have for giving, SCF helps Saskatoon give back to the community that gives us all so much. In order to be responsive to the needs of both donors and the charities in Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Community Foundation must always be reaching forward, anticipating social trends and being a leader in philanthropic giving and thought. We pride ourselves in being knowledgeable about the various charities at work in Saskatoon and their ability to help donors effectively achieve their philanthropic goals.

In the past two years, we have placed a special focus on supporting the early years. We have focused our granting in an area which experts have told us will have the greatest potential to positively impact our community in the future. We have seen the first Vital Signs report and begun the work on engaging our community so that the next report is even more purposeful in guiding our efforts to grant strategically and assisting our supporters in making the best possible decisions on how to create their own legacies within our community.

Our Gala has also grown and changed, attracting new supporters, sponsors and attendees, opening new windows into Saskatoon's unique multicultural community, and growing support for our charity partners.

In the last year, our Board has placed a new emphasis on reconciliation, seeing that it is our mandate, and, in fact, the duty of all Canadians to forge a new and more trusting relationship with our First Nations communities, whose land we share.

**As I begin my term as Chair of the SCF Board, I look forward to a future in which we build strong relationships among individuals, corporations, and other community partners, grow the resources to address the root causes of issues in our community, and work together purposefully toward a Saskatoon in which we all share in a wonderful quality of life and each play our role in making a better society. ::**

**Wayne Brownlee, Incoming Chair**



# MAKING *the secret path* PUBLIC

## SCF's Reconciliation Journey

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its calls to action affect every Canadian and rightly complicate and challenge our notions of citizenship. All of us, as individuals and in the roles we perform in our communities, must challenge ourselves to find pathways to healing and reconciliation.

On the evening of Sunday, October 23rd, 2016, SCF assisted in presenting a public screening of the animated film, *The Secret Path*. Written and directed by and featuring the music of Gord Downie of the Tragically Hip, *The Secret Path* tells the story of Chanie Wenjack, a First Nations boy who ran away from a residential school in Kenora, Ontario, 50 years ago in late October 1966. Chanie died in his attempt to walk the 600 kilometres to his home in Ogoki Post, an isolated northern community.

In the face of his inoperable cancer, Downie uses his fame to draw attention to the suppressed history of Canada, noting that "Chanie haunts me. His story is Canada's story. This is about Canada. We are not the country we thought we were.... We are all accountable, but this begins in the late 1800s and goes to 1996. "White" Canada knew – on somebody's purpose – nothing about this. We weren't taught it; it was hardly ever mentioned."

During that period, the residential school system took over 150,000 indigenous children from their homes, families and communities. According to Justice Murray Sinclair, head of the TRC, at least 6,000 children died in the care of that system. However, the federal government stopped recording the deaths around 1920 after the chief medical officer at Indian Affairs suggested children were dying at an alarming rate. The TRC fears that the number may have been as many as 30,000.

Downie's call to action is simple: "Do something," he says.

In June 2016, the Board of Directors for SCF signed the Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action on the TRC. SCF staff participated in the Walk for Reconciliation in June, participated in the National Reconciliation Gathering at Wanuskewin in June, and attended the Wicihitowin Conference on Aboriginal Engagement in October. Also, in recent years, First Nations representation has begun to grow on SCF committees, most particularly the Grants Committee. As our relationships grow, we look to a more inclusive future, with a better representation of all the cultures and concerns that make up our community.

The task is not easy. Community foundations by CRA regulations support registered charities with their grants. However, very

few charities across Canada or in Saskatoon have a distinctly First Nations focus, though many do serve a significant number of First Nations people. So, in order for SCF to focus its granting on themes of reconciliation, we must seek out new partnerships between charities, First Nations groups or programs that may not have charitable status, and other funders who can assist us in projects that can improve indigenous and non-indigenous communities in Saskatoon and area.

Perhaps the most incisive comment that came out of the Wicihitowin Conference was the point that "reconciliation cannot be delegated." It has to be real and genuine. It has to be everyone's job. You have to mean what you are doing with a sincere respect for the people and relationships you are building with them. At SCF, we don't yet know all the possible paths and directions that our reconciliation journey will take. We don't know, any more than any Canadian, where we will end up in our work on reconciliation. But we begin in good faith, by acknowledging the truth of the past, committing as people and as an organization to work toward healing, and seeking a vision of a better future in which we can proudly proclaim Canada the "true north, strong and free." 🇨🇦



# planning YOUR LEGACY:

## Dr. Gordon & Betty Bray Memorial Fund

**On September 15, 2016, our community lost a great friend and supporter, Betty Bray. Her husband, Dr. Gordon Bray, a former Board member of SCF, had predeceased her in 2011. The Brays had been longtime supporters of both SCF and our Saskatoon Community.**

“Dr. Gordon and Betty Bray embarked on their retirement in 1992 with a clear plan to ensure they could continue to contribute to the quality of life in Saskatoon.” The foregoing sentence is reproduced almost verbatim from the Saskatoon Community Foundation’s 1993 Annual Report. It is repeated here to highlight the long-term focus that comes from being a “Community Builder” at SCF. “Community Builder” is our term for those who create a planned gift or bequest that will be realized only after the donors have departed. Only now, 24 years after their plan was created, will their ultimate gift to our community be realized.

The Saskatoon Community Foundation is the recipient of the proceeds from a life insurance policy that will provide grants in perpetuity to support the United Way, the YWCA, the Remai Modern Art Gallery of Saskatchewan, and also the Saskatoon Community Foundation. The fund will be called the Dr. Gordon and Betty Bray Memorial Fund.

In 1992, the Brays were looking for a way to ensure their support for our community would continue forever, but at that time, they could not afford to make a gift large enough to have the impact they desired. After careful consideration, the Brays decided to invest in a life insurance policy. The payments on the policy were manageable, and after their passing, SCF would receive the full benefit of \$300,000.

This insurance policy was not the Brays’ only gift to SCF. In 2011, the Dr. Gordon and Betty Bray Fund for Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan was established, reflecting their support for another favourite local charity. Along with the support for Remai Modern through the current gift, the Brays wanted to be sure that our local arts community was vibrant and sustainable. We are informed by the Brays’ son Scott that there will also be further gifts of \$200,000 from the estate, some of which will support Persephone Theatre and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Gordon and Betty Bray supported and contributed to our community throughout their lives. They will be remembered with love and honour by their children and grandchildren, and by all those who were touched by their lives. The Brays planned a legacy to ensure that their contribution to our community would continue forever. How will YOU leave your mark on Saskatoon? 🌱



# POTASHCORP SASKATOON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *cultural gala*

2016 marked the Diamond Anniversary of the PotashCorp Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala. It also marked the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PotashCorp's title sponsorship of the annual SCF event. The Gala was, as always, a splendid affair, with amazing cultural entertainment and unparalleled gourmet dishes. Performances by the Saskatoon Caribbean Steel Band, Heidi Munro and the ReelGroovyBand and Move N Soar greeted attendees as they entered the Gala. The evening also featured performances by Saskatoon Children's Choir, Metis dancers Warren Isbister-Bear, Neanna Sasakamoose, Steven Prosper, and Courtney Anaquod, the renowned Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble and Durga Fire Dance, followed by a dance with Saskatoon's Legendary Rhythm and Blues Revue. With great auction packages including Saskatchewan Rush and Edmonton Oilers game packages, a painting by acclaimed artist Muveddet Al-Katib, and a signed Gordie Howe jersey, this event raised almost \$300,000 for Saskatoon, Forever! We were also able to recognize the inspiring participation and sponsorship of Don Atchison and his wife Mardele by creating the Donald and Mardele Atchison Fund, a permanently endowed fund which will forever recognize the legacy of their commitment to SCF and to our community.

Over the ten years of the Gala's history, this event has raised a total of over \$3.2M for the Saskatoon Community Foundation. These funds will continue to support Saskatoon charities now and in the future. The partnership with PotashCorp has been instrumental in drawing other prominent local businesses to the Gala, creating lasting partnership between SCF and the private sector. 🌱



## CULTURAL GALA



### THE DONALD & MARDELE ATCHISON FUND

In honour of former Mayor Atchison's inspirational leadership in the creation of the PotashCorp Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala, the Saskatoon Community Foundation has created the Donald and Mardele Atchison Fund, a permanently endowed fund that will forever recognize the Atchisons' contributions to our Gala and to our community!



# POTASHCORP

## PARTNERSHIP GRANTS:

### *a legacy of community support*

One important aspect of PotashCorp's partnership with SCF through the Gala has been the creation of the PotashCorp Partnership grants program, which has supported vital community projects since 2010. Over the six years of granting (as of this writing the 2016 grants have not yet been awarded), the program has made 81 grants to 35 different charities totalling \$448,573. The focus of the granting program is youth and education (though the program will consider applications in any area vital to Saskatoon), so naturally organizations working in this area have received significant support.

#### **Care and Share School Supplies Program**

What could be more vital to the education of kids in our community schools than simply having the necessary supplies to do their schoolwork? The program makes resources available to community school coordinators. These coordinators can quietly ensure that all students have the necessary materials to pursue their education. Caring, sharing, and dignity all play a role in a more equal society.

#### **Columbus Bosco Homes Parent and Tot Programs**

These programs help to provide parents with the necessary skills to raise successful children. Each program is held in a school. Parents and children each have activities to help them learn and grow, as well as activities done together to assist parents in creating healthy bonds and learning patterns with their children.

**Through programs like these and many others, including organizations like Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming, READ Saskatoon, Child and Youth Friendly Saskatoon and Camp Tamarack, PotashCorp is helping to provide a healthy and sustainable future for our community. ☺**



# vereco homes ltd & THE SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY: A SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP

L to R: Ronn Lepage, Vereco Homes Ltd.; Allyson Brady, Saskatchewan Environmental Society; Carm Michalenko, SCF Executive Director; Greg Keller, SCF Chair.

Each year, the Saskatoon Community Foundation honours a Saskatoon business with its Strategic Alliance Award. The Award recognizes the business partner in an ongoing alliance between a business and a charity, with outcomes that enhance the quality of life in Saskatoon and benefit both the charity and the business. The award encourages strategic, sustaining, collaborative partnerships with clearly defined goals and measurable outcomes. The purpose of the award is to highlight long-term win-win partnerships between charities and businesses.

The 2016 recipient of the Strategic Alliance Award is Vereco Homes Ltd. Vereco is at the forefront of green building and environmentally friendly and economical homes. Vereco's support of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society has enabled them to create two very important projects together: the Saskatchewan Living Green Expo and the SES Solar Co-op (the first renewable energy co-op in Saskatchewan). Working with SES brings Vereco Homes in contact with many people in our community who share the same values and interests in environmentally

sustainable building, so it is very much a benefit to Vereco to partner with SES.

**Congratulations to Vereco Homes Ltd. on being the recipient of the 2016 Strategic Alliance Award! As the charity partner, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society receives a \$5000 grant from the Saskatoon Community Foundation. ::**



## WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Shauna Morrison: Marketing Coordinator

Nancy Smale: Finance and Administration Manager

## WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Pina Melchionna: Executive Vice-President, Concentra Trust, Board of Directors

John Lagimodiere: President, ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services; Publisher, Eagle Feather News, Grants Committee

David Larsen: Partner, Retirement Consulting Practice, AON Hewitt, Investment Committee



# KINDNESS IS *contagious*

## RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016

Helping each other is the heart and spirit of community here in Saskatoon. From our pioneer days to our welcoming of newcomers to our city in the last few years, Saskatoon has always been about sharing each other's burdens and pulling together to achieve great things. Even our self-proclaimed title of "Kindness Capital of Canada" keeps getting stronger as more people than ever, all over the city, took part in Random Act of Kindness Day on Friday, November 4, 2016.

Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year in Saskatoon, Random Act of Kindness Day is a city-wide celebration of kindness promoting a "Pay It Forward" movement that takes place annually on the first Friday in November. In 2016, we have more than doubled the number of "Kindness Crews" compared to the 2015 event. These groups actively take to the streets on RAK Day, offering small kindnesses and handing out "Pay it Forward" cards to all those they encounter.

In 2016, RAK Day was driven via social media and our website. Kindness Crews signed up online, and Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (with the hashtag #RAKYXE) were used to document many spontaneous acts of kindness taking place throughout our community. Many people shared their stories of kindness anonymously online, adding momentum to our kindness movement!



Kindness Crews in action!

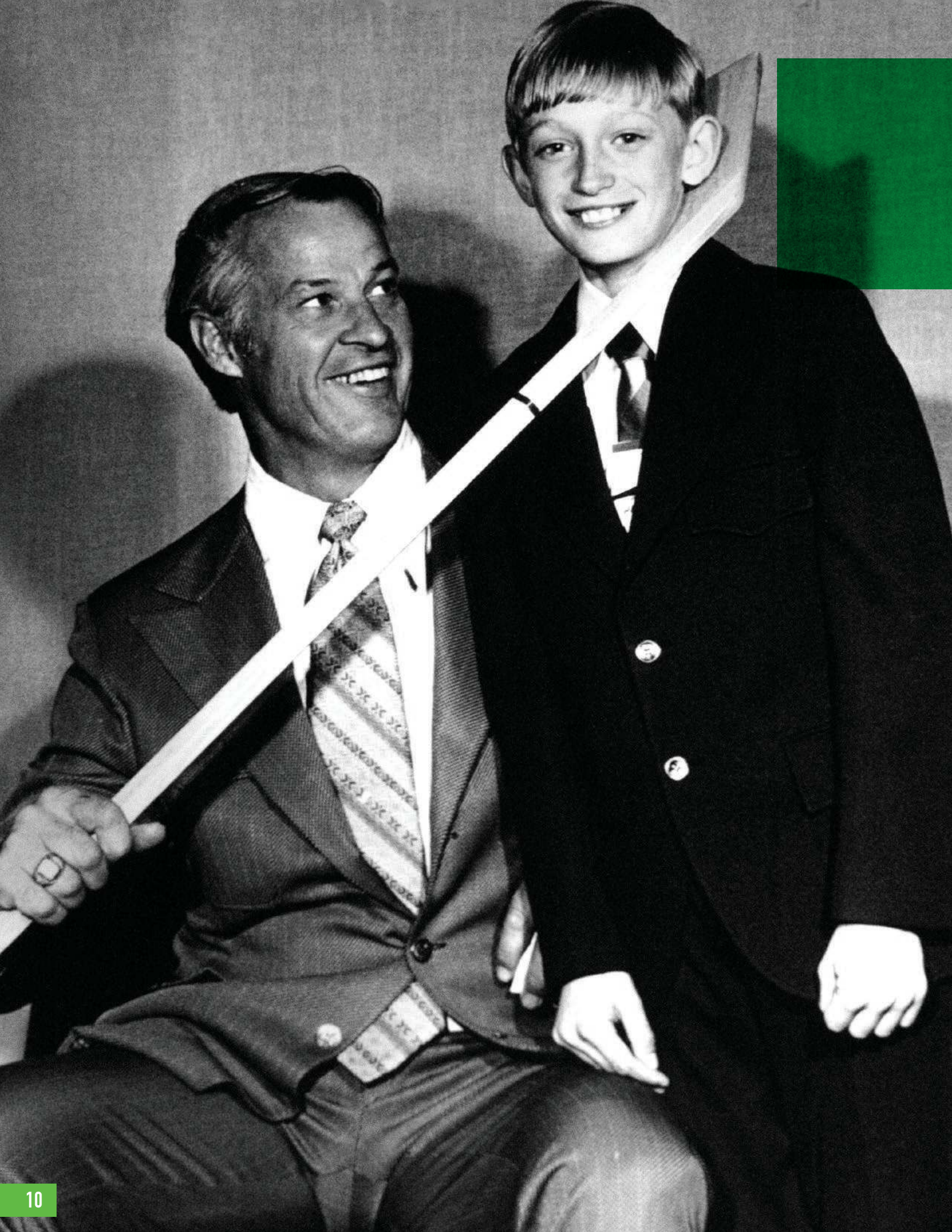
SCF also added a facet to its RAK Day activities, with a Random Act of Granting:

\$2000 was granted to Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre to assist in promoting Indigenous Futures, a federal program which offers low income families the opportunity to create RESPs for their kids' education, with no required contribution from the family. SCF has embarked on its journey toward healing and reconciliation in 2016, so look for more acts of sharing and support for our First Nations friends and communities as we move toward a better future for all Canadians in the knowledge that we are all treaty people.

So many people participating, working separately and in teams, helped our city to retain its self-appointed title of "Kindness Capital of Canada." The Saskatoon Community Foundation would like to thank and commend everyone who helped out by participating (and especially the organizing committee!) to make Random Act of Kindness Day a great success! Don't wait until next November to do something kind for another person! 🙌



Sanford Strongarm, Jr. and his family (partner Kyla Morin and kids Dazlen and Sianna-Lynn) are planning for tomorrow with the Indigenous Futures program.



# HOWE: A HERO is remembered

BY JONATHAN ABRAMETZ

I was asked by the Saskatoon Community Foundation to write a piece on how the Gordie Howe Endowment Fund for Alzheimer's Research came to be. I suppose it's both an honour and a blessing to be able to tell you how I had a small part in making it happen.

My involvement in philanthropy started with being inspired by other local heroes who were willing to put their name up as an example of Saskatoon philanthropy. Les and Irene Dube had their photos in the Star Phoenix honouring them for one of the many donations they have made around the city. I remember cutting their picture out of the newspaper that day and putting it on my fridge. It was a reminder to me that success was something to be proud of, because it empowered people like the Dubes to give back to their community. They are heroes of mine in business and philanthropy.

As a young lawyer, I joined the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon and soon found myself helping with the Kinsmen Sports Celebrity Dinner, an annual event profiling great sports celebrities. We like to say it's a dinner that feeds the entire community because of the money we raise for the community's greatest needs.

The 2015 Dinner was chaired by my very good (and late) friend Scott Clarkson. We paid tribute to our local hero Gordie Howe and invited Wayne Gretzky. My role on the Dinner had evolved over the years to the volunteer legal advisor, lawyer, agent, and recruiter. Negotiating Wayne Gretzky's appearance was fairly straight forward except that we had a small problem: Wayne wanted to make a sizeable contribution to a local fund in Gordie's honour, but as far as I knew, one didn't exist.

After having kids and wanting them to value giving back to the community and philanthropy, my wife Andrea and I had started a named fund with the Saskatoon Community Foundation. It was our big idea that we would build the fund until one day it could be big enough so that it would be donor advised, and our kids would help us decide where to send the proceeds. What we liked about the fund was that we could grow it over the years at our own pace and that a portion of the income it earned would also go to capital appreciation. We liked the idea that the fund would live in perpetuity and become a gesture of goodwill that will outlast our time on this earth.

While negotiating Wayne Gretzky's appearance, I was corresponding with the Howe family on their appearance for the Dinner along with Gordie's. His health was failing and we weren't really sure if he was actually going to make it to Saskatoon. It was in speaking with Marty Howe that I learned of the Howe family's desire to create a legacy fund in their father's honour in support of Alzheimer's research.

I explained the benefits of the SCF to the Howe family, and they were onboard. Wayne Gretzky liked the idea of surprising the Howe family with a large contribution to the fund during the Kinsmen Dinner and so the ball was rolling. Setting up the fund with the Foundation was very straightforward.

**Wayne Gretzky names Gordie Howe as his personal hockey hero, and to this day, refers to Gordie as "the greatest hockey player who ever lived." Because Alzheimer's was important to the Howe family, the Gordie Howe Endowment Fund for Alzheimer's Research is now a permanent fixture on the Saskatchewan philanthropic landscape towards combatting Alzheimer's. The fund embodies what the SCF is all about: find a person to commemorate or a cause you believe in and use the SCF's perpetual giving to be the virtual plaque that will last past your lifetime: to commemorate your hero, to be inspirational. ::**



*Jonathan Abrametz is a local trial lawyer and principal of kmpLaw north in Saskatoon. Jonathan practices primarily in serious personal injury and auto injury law.*



## THE EARLY YEARS: *a promise* FOR THE FUTURE

**Beginning with its 2015 grants, the Saskatoon Community Foundation (SCF) has invested in the future of our community by making numerous grants to support our youngest citizens in the “first 2000 days of life.” A community foundation is by definition a broad-based funder of many projects. Supporting a community through granting is a challenging matter, because funds are always too limited to address every issue. Every funder faces a similar challenge: there are always more requests for support than the funds will allow, and this always means that strategic decisions must be made.**

The decision to focus on the early years was based on consultation with local experts. In the fall of 2014, SCF’s Grants Committee met with various experts, including representatives of the Saskatoon Health Region’s early years initiative. After gathering our data, we decided the best opportunity to make the most impact with our resources was to support young children. The decision was made to focus SCF granting on “the first 2000 days of life.”

In 2015, the Quality of Life Grants Program awarded the first of our “Early Years” grants, with about half of the grants focusing on young children. We granted to The AIM Program to support young children with Down Syndrome. READ Saskatoon offered early learning programs to improve literacy and love of books in young children. The Saskatoon Mother’s Centre created a breastfeeding program focusing on First Nations moms and offering intergenerational support through the challenging early days of breastfeeding, using the most natural solution to close the health gap between First Nations kids and the greater community.

“Early Years” grants continued in 2016, with 17 of our 35 grants focusing on young kids. We supported an early learning program for French families. We granted to assist children and families with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. We helped to fund playgrounds in the community.

We supported the community’s biggest event for young children, the PotashCorp Children’s Festival of Saskatchewan. We even supported early learning for toddlers 6 to 18 months old! As well, we continued our funding for some of the wonderful projects supported in 2015.

The Saskatoon Community Foundation’s core philosophy is to invest now for a better future tomorrow, just as we leverage the support of past donors to make grants today that will change our community for the better. By supporting young children now, we will give them a solid foundation on which to build an optimistic and dynamic Saskatoon of tomorrow. Just as our endowments allow donors to extend their impact beyond their own lives, SCF’s support for early years projects will bear fruit for Saskatoon for many years to come. 🌱





## 2015 SIGNATURE GRANT: SASKATOON FAMILY YMCA OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND

The 2015 Signature Grant was awarded to Saskatoon Family YMCA for a new outdoor play facility. The value of play cannot be overestimated. Through play, children discover social mores, create reality through games and imaginative activities, learn about safety and test physical abilities. Play complements other aspects of learning and development and gives children space to develop their personalities. It helps develop the brain as well as the body. Beginning life with access to play areas also starts kids out with habits that will lead to higher levels of activity, fitness and health later on. 🌈



## 2016 SIGNATURE GRANT: READ SASKATOON'S EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

For the last few years, READ Saskatoon has been exploring options to meet its needs for programming space. In 2016, it found a solution: a space that would meet its needs in the future, and which could be shared with two other agencies: The MS Society and the Arthritis Society. These agencies would also share common spaces. SCF is pleased to award its 2016 Signature Grant to READ to create an Early Learning Centre within its new premises. Not only does the grant support early learning for READ and its clients, but also offers opportunities for the other two agencies, extending the value of the grant and ensuring that as many kids as possible will benefit from the grant. Congratulations to READ Saskatoon! 🌈

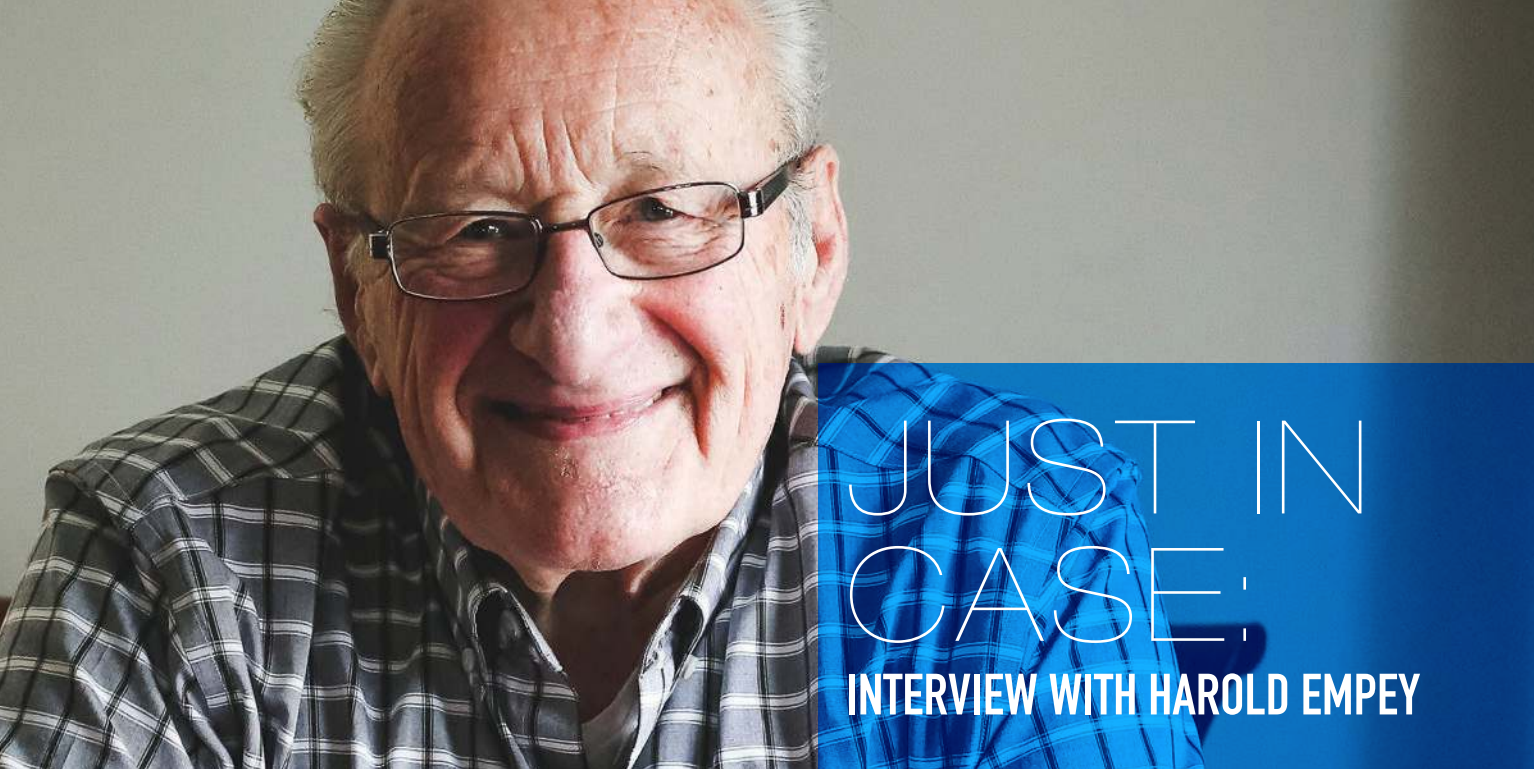


# leadership AWARD: IJEOMA NWAMUO OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF SASKATOON

The Leadership Saskatoon program is a dynamic, nine month adult education curriculum involving mentorship, self-assessments, site visits, interviews with current leaders, seminars with guest experts, group discussions, and projects. The Saskatoon Community Foundation's Leadership Saskatoon Award provides funding for a volunteer or staff member of a local charity to participate in the program, promoting leadership in the charitable sector.

Ijeoma Nwamuo was born in Nigeria and received her Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nigeria in 1999. She worked in many roles in the legal profession in Nigeria before ultimately emigrating to Canada in 2005 after completing post-graduate studies in the UK. Ijeoma has been the Executive Director of International Women of Saskatoon since 2008. Knowing that life for women in developing countries can be very challenging, she has channelled her knowledge and passion toward helping women from other parts of the world find the mentorship, support and resources to overcome vulnerabilities affecting their ability to succeed as new citizens of our community.

The Saskatoon Community Foundation congratulates Ijeoma Nwamuo, the recipient of the 2016 Leadership Saskatoon Award! 🌈



# JUST IN CASE: INTERVIEW WITH HAROLD EMPEY

**Harold Empey is the creator of the Just in Case Binder, a resource for estate planning and much more. Harold has volunteered since 2012 doing presentations in our community and throughout the province about the importance of planning to help your family in times of grief and stress.**

**SCF:** Harold, you received SCF's Cornerstone of the Community Award in 2011 for your community involvement. Tell us a little bit about your background and your work with charities.

**HE:** I spent my career with the cooperative movement, and worked in many communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I came back to Saskatoon in 1973 as Regional Manager at [Federated Cooperatives Limited]. When I retired I was Senior VP of Corporate Affairs, CEO of interprovincial coops and in charge of the Upgrader program. So I had a very busy life. I did a lot of volunteer work in those towns that was very satisfying. When we moved to Saskatoon in 1973 from Portage la Prairie, it just continued. Rotary was a very key part of it. I've been a Rotarian since 1959, and I've served at every level of Rotary including being an instructor in Anaheim of incoming governors. Locally in Saskatoon, I got involved in the Chamber of Commerce and sat on some civic committees. Probably one of my biggest volunteer jobs over and above the work at the [United] Church was the work at Oliver Lodge, which goes back 35 years. Volunteerism is something I've done all my life, and almost every day, every week I get a request from somebody to help with something.

**SCF:** Do you have personal reasons for being so closely involved with Oliver Lodge for a long time?

**HE:** Well, Oliver Lodge was a United Church home, so through the church I went to a couple meetings. At this one meeting this fellow asked if I would

come and talk about fundraising. They brought in a pro to the meeting. He wouldn't do any canvassing personally. He said that his job was to show us what to do. So I decided I wouldn't have any part of it, and said we could do this ourselves. So they said, "Well, Empey, if you're so smart, you do it!" [laughs]

It's been successful ever since and Oliver Lodge has a beautiful facility. What I liked about Oliver Lodge in particular is that it is faith-based. Faith-based care homes have a little different approach, not necessarily better, but it works well.

**SCF:** You've faced some health challenges and losses in your family. How were these situations connected to Just in Case?

**HE:** In 2004, I developed heart problems. Then in January of 2005 I had 4 bypasses and a new valve put in, and in the following two years, I was sent home from the hospital on two occasions and told to do my funeral arrangements. Betty [Empey's wife] was very concerned because if I was to die what would she do about all the things that I handled about the household. I said, "Well, we'll put a plan together," and so we did. About 3 or 4 years later we saw an article in the Good Times magazine called Just in Case, and they had listed in this brief article various things one could do. I phoned them and found out it wasn't a registered trademark and I could use the phrase, so the idea grew and I developed our plan and called it Just in Case. And so when Betty passed away [in November of 2012], we spent very few minutes at the funeral home, very few minutes with the minister. The eulogy was already done, the obituary was done, she had approved her memorial card, and everything went tickety-boo.

Following that, I had a request from a friend who wanted to know how we put that together so fast. He wanted a copy so I said, "Well, there isn't one. It's our plan. It's the answers that we have in my book, and what you need is the questions." So I developed the Just in Case binder from that standpoint of another person being able to take it and use it themselves.

At the time, I was chair of our condo corporation, and one of the members asked how I was getting along now with Betty not here, so I told him what I had done. So they asked me to tell them about it. They got their spouses together and we had a session.

**SCF:** So that was essentially the first “Just in Case” presentation?

**HE:** That’s exactly right, and from there on, 12,000 copies are now out there and I’ve done 260 presentations.

**SCF:** Comparing the plan you did with Betty and the current version of Just in Case, what is different? Have you added a lot of detail along the way?

**HE:** There were a few things that I added after that we hadn’t considered as I started to do seminars and go through the material, some editing changes and so on but basically, it’s an exact copy of everything we had done. For example, I didn’t have anything in there about writing down your family history, so your kids would know your background or your wife’s background. About 90% of it is exactly the same, the same concept and the same sections.

**SCF:** The main comment we get on Just in Case is the breadth of detail.

**HE:** One of the key factors I had to improve was to make it user friendly. I knew of other programs that came as fill in the blanks, so every time you had to make changes, you had to start over. I put the questions on separate sheets with blank pages to record the answers. This way, it can be easily updated, transferred to your computer and so on.

**SCF:** Do you tell a lot of anecdotes about situations you’ve seen in the seminar?

**HE:** I use only my own story. I don’t ask to hear about theirs. I tell my story to make the bells ring. There will be times during my story when they will have tears in their eyes, and the next minute they’ll be laughing. The time goes very fast.

**SCF:** Any final thoughts?


**HE:** The other thing I want to mention is that legal firms, financial planners, funeral homes, etcetera, use Just in Case as a service to their clients. They find it a good tool to show appreciation to their clients.

Also, one of the things I say at every seminar is that people should look at leaving a legacy and giving something either post or pre-death. Very few people will ever spend all the money they have, so why not channel that into something that will help other people.

## ATTENTION FINANCIAL PLANNERS!

Do you want Harold to do a presentation for your clients?  
Contact Harold at 306-244-4954 or [h.empey@sasktel.net](mailto:h.empey@sasktel.net).

# VITAL SIGNS



**In October of 2015, the Saskatoon Community Foundation released its inaugural Vital Signs report. Vital Signs has existed for several years as a program of Community Foundations of Canada. However, 2015 was the first year the report has been produced for Saskatoon.**

The first Vital Signs report drew a great deal of media attention to the Saskatoon Community Foundation. It received unprecedented coverage on television, radio and print media beyond what any other SCF initiative of recent years has received. Almost 100,000 copies of the report were distributed to households in the city via the Star-Phoenix, displayed in racks at coffee shops and libraries, and brought to presentations at schools and businesses.

Vital Signs is a snapshot of the community that looks at 10 areas of focus, such as Safety, Work, Arts and Culture, Education and so on. But Vital Signs is also an ongoing program for community engagement. We all need to play a role in interpreting the data and deciding what needs to be done to improve our community.

In 2017, in preparation for the release of our second report, the Saskatoon Community Foundation is creating a committee of experts who can help us see what questions need to be answered about our community and what data we need to seek in order to make productive decisions about the future of our community. Vital Signs is the beginning of a conversation in our community. We want to involve many voices in this conversation. SCF will be holding a series of community conversations with stakeholder groups. These conversations will help us to find out about the top concerns Saskatoon people have about community issues.

The Vital Signs report is only a snapshot of the state of our community. It can be useful to track our progress on many issues and focus areas. But the real work of the program is ongoing. It happens every day when the people of Saskatoon engage one another on important issues and take actions to make our community better. For the Saskatoon Community Foundation, the Vital Signs program is a tool to assist us all in working together.

Your community makes you, and you make your community. Through Vital Signs, we can all play a more active role in making Saskatoon the best community in which to live. : :



**YOUR COMMUNITY  
MAKES YOU.  
AND YOU MAKE  
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**WE'RE HERE TO HELP.**  
[saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca](http://saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca)



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COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**