

WINTER 2019/20

# promise:

past, present, and the possible



2019 NUTRIEN SASKATOON COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION CULTURAL GALA

**THE MANY VOICES  
OF EARTH SONG**

THE ROBERT A. STEANE LEGACY FUND

**BE A BOB**

CAMECO: STEPPING UP FOR

**MENTAL HEALTH**



SASKATOON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



# our promise

to continue making Saskatoon the  
best community in which to live



Photo by Joshua Reddekopp

On the Cover: fiddlers from St. Michael's School perform at the Gala

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SASKATOON  
COMMUNITY  
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## Curtis Kimpton and Carm Michalenko



# What a Difference 50 Years Makes!

Every so often, when you look up, you can see how far we've come. The Foundation celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2020, so it is an important moment to express appreciation, take stock of our journey and plan the next steps forward.

We look back on five decades of honouring the gifts so many donors have given for the vitality of the community. It's humbling to know that our role is to keep those legacies alive, and that we will steward them forever. If you are a past Board member or committee volunteer, we want to capture your story of how you became involved... please contact us!

Our board continues to evolve, including new voices and relationships that reflect the growing diversity in Saskatoon. You can see our newest members in this issue. As we look forward, we acknowledge the people whose leadership has brought us to this point. Wayne Brownlee and Tracy Muggli, each of whom served on the Board for eight years, and Ken Juba, who served for four years, have made invaluable contributions through their leadership. We express our thanks and appreciation for all they have given us, and our community.

As we look ahead to the next 50 years for Saskatoon Community Foundation, we continue to focus on serving donor directed granting, strengthening our community funds for youth and reconciliation,

and maintaining our broad granting through Quality of Life. We have made it easier for donors to track the progress of their funds: the new Charitable Fund page on the website profiles each donor's story, your story. Have a look...

**The Foundation has been built by many supporters and donors just like you. In this issue of *Promise*, you will find a card inviting you to think of us when you are speaking with your advisors and family about your legacy.**

In this issue of *Promise*, we profile the largest individual gift ever made to the Foundation through a bequest. We are truly honoured by this gift, and will direct grants from the fund to promote the arts and address homelessness.

Whatever your cause or your way of giving, or size of your gift, we will help keep your legacy alive.

Join us as our journey continues in 2020!

**Curtis Kimpton, Incoming Chair  
Carm Michalenko, Executive Director**



2019 Nutrien Saskatoon  
Community Foundation  
Cultural Gala

# The Many Voices of Earth Song

The 2019 Nutrien Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala continued its exploration of the four elements to bring you Earth Song, in which song, dance and poetry gave voice to the significance and meaning of the land to Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures. Through this unforgettable evening, attendees experienced the healing and nurturing power of the feminine, seeing how Mother Earth connects us as we bridge relationships and find new ways of living together.

Hip hop artist Eekwol used her unique and original voice to showcase Indigenous shawl dancers Kimowan Kisik Ahenakew/Raining Sky and Kakishew Watcewkamik Ahenakew/Body of Love, along with traditional dancer Sekwun Achak Ahenakew/Spring Spirit. The long tassels of the shawls represented the prairie grasses, and the dancers wore soft-soled shoes to maintain the important connection with Mother Earth, yet walk softly upon her. The shawl dance inspired the exceedingly talented seamstresses Emelia Villebrun and Candace Gadwa to create six wearable works of art that were taken home by successful bidders that evening.

The voices of Little Opera on the Prairie blended with the passionate strains of flamenco from Duendecillo.



In 2018, through the Quality of Life Grants Program and the Community Fund for Reconciliation, Saskatoon Community Foundation planted seeds of change by granting to projects that nourish stronger relationships among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. In 2019, we begin to see this work bear fruit through projects like Saskatoon's Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation, ConnectR, and nêhiyawak Language Experience. We heard also from sponsors and partners who are changing the way they do business and participate in community as they envision new opportunities created by new connections. New partnerships among many organizations are beginning to change Saskatoon's identity and sense of community.

The diversity in our communities makes us better, stronger. The diverse audience in attendance has planted seeds for the work of Reconciliation to continue: changing our community through projects that build partnerships among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. We were honoured by the presence of elders and survivors of residential schools and the sixties scoop, and we were inspired by the participation of young leaders such as Emcees Neal Kewistep and Steph Clovechok and the youth participants from the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program. Each added their voice to Earth Song, connecting our past, present and future.

Through Earth Song, we honour the past. We look to the future. We share our commitments to engage in the work of Truth and Reconciliation. Earth Song was not a gala—it was an opportunity to open our hearts, shift our perspectives, and find the roles we can each play. This is the transformative power of community! We are honoured by all of you who have chosen to walk with us, and we invite everyone in Saskatoon to join us on this path.





TCU Place decorated in the colours of the earth



Invocation by Maria and Teedly Linklater

# Voices of Earth Song

“The Gala is not only sowing the seeds of reconciliation, but it is doing so in a beautifully impactful way.”

**Charlene Rehn**  
Wiegens Financial & Benefits



“Bringing our whole selves to work fuels our spirit of the earth.”

**Brittany Walker**  
KPMG in Saskatoon

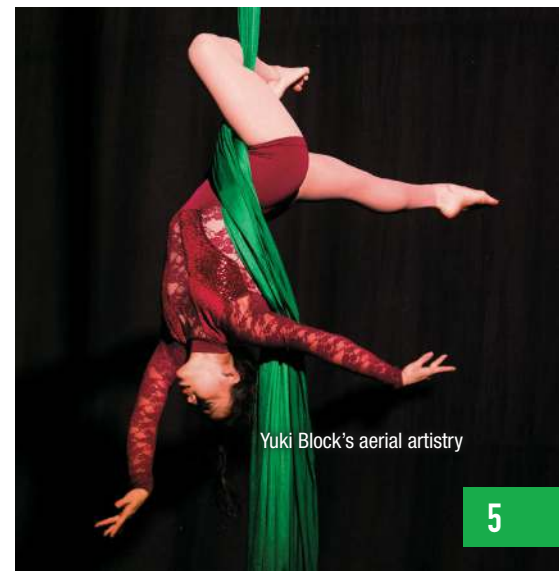


**Eugene Arcand, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation**  
St. Micheals Residential School 1958 – 1967 (#781)  
Lebret Indian Residential School 1967 – 1969  
**Lorna Arcand**

“We applaud the Saskatoon Community Foundation for providing a comfortable, engaging space to share at Earth Song. Thanks for the generous investments by many individuals and corporate partners for the promotion of understanding and positive relationships.”

**Louise Peters, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation**  
St. Michael's Residential School 1958 – 1966 (#792)  
St. Phillip's Residential School 1966 – 1967

“I felt a sense of belonging and recognition at the 2019 Nutrien Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala. It was very emotional but the main thing is that we were heard and people understood how we became survivors of abuse for so many years. It was such a warming event, all the loving and caring support that we received from all the people that were there.”



Yuki Block's aerial artistry



# Voices of Earth Song



Karmnel's fiddle magic



**Gloria Myo, Moosomin Cree Nation**  
Child of Residential School Survivors

"In honour of my Mom and Dad, I thank the Saskatoon Community Foundation and Earth Song Gala, who helped me out so much. My experience in Earth Song was so healing in a time when I needed a safe space. hai hai."

"It doesn't matter where you come from, it doesn't matter who you are, you're part of Park Derochie."

**Doug Barker**  
Park Derochie



"We all come together to promote trust, understanding, and the power of community in building a culture of diversity and inclusion."

**Mark Thompson**  
Nutrien



"For reconciliation to take place, we must have an open heart. Reconciliation requires understanding. Understanding is possible by listening and learning."

**Marc Taillon**  
Precision Electro Mechanical



"Through the Wicihitowin Conference we got to know the ConnectR program, we invited them here to actually get our employees involved."

**Marc Paquette**  
Dymark Industries Inc.



Poet Louise Bernice Halfe

Shawl dancers





# Voices of Earth Song



**Florence Highway, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation**  
Beauval Residential School 1960 – 1964 (#32)  
Guy Hill Residential School 1964 – 1968 (#18)

“Trauma, shame, blame and guilt. For years I tried to protect my inner child by self medicating with alcohol, only I almost destroyed the adult I became. ekosi, thank you for everything you are doing for us.

Attending the Gala helps. It gives us a chance to exchange our stories and support each other. We know now that we are not alone in our journey of healing and should no longer feel ashamed of who we are. Thank you to the Saskatoon Community Foundation. tiniki.”



Shawl dancers

# Be a Bob – The Robert A. (Bob) Steane Legacy Fund

Bob Steane once referred to philanthropy as his second career, a career he never knew he was taking on until he found himself involved in the community.

As a former COO of Cameco, Bob was a citizen of Saskatoon, Canada and the world. Bob was born in Mpanda, Tanzania into a mining family. The Steane family emigrated to Canada in 1953, living in a small mining community near Salmo, BC and then Vancouver. He attended BCIT and then completed a Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. During his mining career, he worked in Papua New Guinea, Namibia, and Australia. He was recruited by Cameco, returning to Canada to run the Key Lake mine in Northern Saskatchewan. This was an opportunity to work in a deposit with incredibly high levels of uranium ore. The opportunity marked the beginning of a 34-year career with Cameco. He also spent eight years leading Cameco's fuel services operation in Port Hope, Ontario.

Once Bob had retired from his mining career, he found many opportunities to become involved in community projects. When he got involved, he did not simply provide funds. He rolled up his sleeves and enjoyed the work, striving to understand the issues at stake and find the means to effect real change and real impact. He felt that he received more than he gave to the charities. In reference to his philanthropy, Bob's thinking was modest and pragmatic:

**“What good is wealth if you don't do something with it?  
I'm just happy and fortunate I'm in a position to do  
something like that.”**

He worked with many charities during this “second career.” Bob served on the board of Royal University Hospital Foundation. He volunteered at The Lighthouse and participated in United Way fundraisers (including twice climbing the CN Tower in Toronto during the time he was living in Port Hope). He also sponsored the Saskatoon Friendship Inn for a day, volunteering to serve breakfast with other members of his family. He made significant gifts to Royal University Hospital Foundation, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, Saskatoon Summer Players, Persephone Theatre, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, and other charities too numerous to mention.

Bob's partner, Kathy Berg, observes that “Bob was a gentle person, but possessed the mental capacity and ingrained curiosity that led him to naturally challenge himself and others. He loved life and had the confidence to embrace many people and, really, a multitude of global initiatives. Ultimately, Saskatoon was his home and we should be very proud that he chose us.”

The Robert A. (Bob) Steane Legacy Fund reflects the commitment he showed during his life to community work that could make Saskatoon a better place. Three organizations will receive equal portions of his estate. Royal University Hospital Foundation will receive funds to support work in the areas of medical imaging, mental health and trauma. St. Paul's Hospital Foundation will receive funds to support work in the area of hospice care. Saskatoon Community Foundation will receive funds to support the arts and to alleviate homelessness, with an emphasis on measurable change and lasting impact. The gifts represent the largest single donations received to date by all three foundations. Thanks to Bob's incredible generosity, all three Foundations have resources to change Saskatoon for the better.







# New Ways of Living Together: The Community Fund for Reconciliation

From wâseskwan in 2017, the first Nutrien Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala focused on reconciliation, the Community Fund for Reconciliation was created. The Foundation committed a minimum of \$400,000 over 4 years, \$100,000 per year for 2018 through 2021. 2019 saw the second round of grants, as well as reports on the impact of the 2018 grants.

## 2019 GRANTS

The 2019 round of grants included continued support for three projects funded in 2018. In 2018, the grants committee awarded four years of support for the Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation, which continues to grow, this year attracting over 5000 people. As well, the ConnectR project from Reconciliation Saskatoon and the Indigenous Ensemble of Saskatoon (a partnership of SIIT, Saskatoon Public Schools and the Indigenous Ensemble's leaders and teachers) received continued support.

In 2019, grants were awarded to several new and innovative projects, including opportunities for citizens to immerse themselves in Indigenous language and culture through a partnership between the nêhiyawak Language Experience and READ Saskatoon. This program involves both six-week courses and week-long immersion experiences with acclaimed educator Belinda Daniels, to help both

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people understand the connection between nêhiyawak language and traditional ways of living. The Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan brought Métis culture to the core community through its partnership with YXE Connects.

In 2019, the Foundation granted to support the first ever conference on economic reconciliation, in partnership with Nutrien and Whitecap Dakota First Nation. Tribal chiefs, business leaders and community stakeholders came together to hear about the best current initiatives to promote a more positive environment for the successful inclusion of Indigenous people and First Nations in the economic growth of the province.



Indigenous Ensemble dancers



Dean Smith fiddles at MACSI event



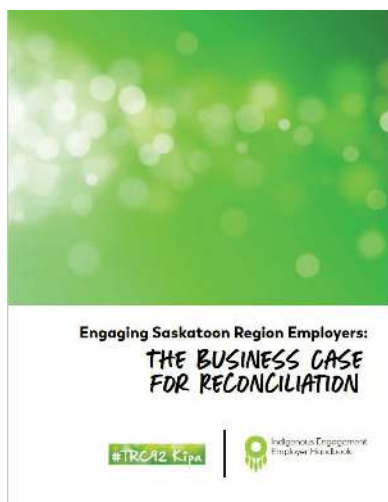
Belinda Daniels teaching nêhiyawak language



# Community Fund for Reconciliation Talking Circle: **Outcomes of the 2018 Grants**

On August 28, 2019, the Foundation hosted a Talking Circle to give recipients of the 2018 grants from the Community Fund for Reconciliation an opportunity to share the outcomes of their projects. This event was a first in the history of the Foundation. It signals a new approach to reporting on grants, with information being shared among community-based organizations, rather than simply being forwarded to the Foundation. Our vision is to make grant recipients partners with the Foundation, sharing as equals in successes and challenges so that we can all grow and improve our efforts to make Saskatoon a more connected and inclusive community.

Participants talked about what worked and what needs work in terms of their community partnerships and projects. What follows are some of the highlights.



## ENGAGING EMPLOYERS: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR RECONCILIATION:

*Partners: City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Office of the Treaty Commissioner*

In a community of mostly small businesses, there are challenges in including

Indigenous workers, and many workers feel alienated. The handbook focused on how to provide the support and mentorship to get good results in the workplace. The handbook acknowledged that our efforts don't come easily, but emphasized the importance of being open to change. Paper and online sources for the information suit different generations of both employers and workers.

## RECONCILIATION THROUGH LAND, PLANTS, AND LANGUAGE ON MÉTIS LANDSCAPES:

*Partners: Gabriel Dumont Institute, Friends of Batoche*

With the assistance of elders, a Michif Plant Guidebook was created. This unique piece not only preserves Michif language and culture but also explains the traditional cultural and medicinal uses of local plants.

## CONNECTR:

*Partners: Reconciliation Saskatoon, City of Saskatoon*

This online platform explores ideas for personal calls to action. The program acknowledges that the website itself may not inspire change, but it can offer resources when someone is inspired to change. The true goal of the program, through its youth initiative, is to get people together and working on change. Youth have spoken at schools and community events, driving traffic to the website and spreading the word about Reconciliation Saskatoon's work.



## ROCK YOUR ROOTS WALK FOR RECONCILIATION:

*Partners: Reconciliation Saskatoon, City of Saskatoon*

The only project so far to receive a multi-year commitment from the Community Fund for Reconciliation, the walk continues to grow each year, attracting approximately 4000 participants in 2018 and 5000 in 2019. The walk encourages all cultures to share their regalia. Cultural performances along the route acknowledge each culture's contribution to the community.

## INDIGENOUS ENSEMBLE OF SASKATOON:

*Partners: Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies*

This program of dance and culture immerses young people in their history, addressing past trauma and present realities. The program has grown from 8 students in its first year to 63 students in 32 schools. Thousands more have seen the performances. Students learn skills and earn school credit.

## TRUTH AND SPOKEN WORD, CREATING SPACE FOR RECONCILIATION:

*Partners: Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming, Indigenous Poets Society*

By bringing youth together with literary artists to share hard truths in a safe space, this project has created networks to support Indigenous artists. The program has grown rapidly. Initially, around five readers would speak to an audience of 20, but now 12 to 15 readers speak to audiences from 60 to as many as 100. Other communities are noticing, with Edmonton now having established its own Indigenous Poets Society.

# My Experience on the Youth Advisory Council



## Areeba Bilal

I've had the wonderful opportunity to be involved in YAC for the past two years. This year will be my third. Over this time, what began as an opportunity to build creative

decision-making skills became so much more. YAC brings a group of youth together to make granting decisions for money in the Youth Endowment Saskatoon fund. It allowed me to have decision making power and see lasting effects in the community around me. Grant decisions are made through a process of sharing our ideas with our peers. I quickly realized that this came in many forms, whether it was learning about what causes are near and dear to my own heart or being exposed to a wide array of opinions. The granting process taught me the difficult act of decision-making when every charity is so deserving of grant money. When a group of us are around a table trying to find common ground, we must weigh the benefits and try to decide which project will have the greatest impact. We always want to grant every single program since they're all creating impactful change, and in an ideal world, we would be able to. Donations clearly make such a huge impact for the Foundation since without them, we wouldn't be able to give out any money at all. In this way, YAC has shown me how our actions come full circle. A donation made years ago and put into this endowment fund continues to make a lasting

## Giving Youth a Voice in Funding

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) program continues to evolve at Saskatoon Community Foundation. From its creation in 2004 (a continuation of the former program Youth Granting for Youth, which had originally been sponsored by the Muttart Foundation) through 2017, the program had been run through the Foundation offices. Beginning in 2018, new partnerships were forged. In 2018-2019, the program ran at E.D. Feehan High School, with the cooperation of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division and E.D. Feehan staff. In 2019, a partnership was formed with the Students Commission of Canada. Because the Students Commission has very similar goals to the YAC program in engaging the youth of today in civic responsibility and personal commitment to growth and development, the Students Commission offered to supervise the program, inviting members from across the community as well as those already involved in the Students Commission to become part of this philanthropic granting process. Foundation staff will continue to be involved, providing key education about the charitable sector, philanthropy and youth projects and organizations, and the Youth Advisory Council will continue to offer grants to youth organizations and make decisions on which projects will be supported by Youth Endowment Saskatoon.



Left to Right: Ryan Nguyen, Ivy Florendo, Momin Bilal, Mariam De Lose Reyes, Kirstina Mamo, Jenise Majorenos, (Front) Emily Ives

impact. It's also a great indicator of what's lacking in our community, what people care about, and the causes people are willing to fight for. More than anything, it reminded me of the responsibility we have towards each other. Indeed, together we are greater, and this act of combining our skills to make decisions on community grants is but one example of creating meaningful change.



# What Happens if You Don't Have a Will?



**Jordyn Allan**

Associate, Miller Thomson

If someone dies without a will, they are said to have died “intestate,” which means that the newly implemented Intestate Succession Act, 2019 says how their property and assets will get distributed, and who has the right to administer their affairs after they are gone.

The estate will be divided on an intestacy depending on the mix of relatives that the deceased person has left behind. In Saskatchewan, if the deceased:

- leaves a spouse and no children, the entire estate goes to their spouse;
- leaves a spouse and children who are also descendants of that spouse, the entire estate goes to their spouse;
- leaves a spouse and children who are not children of that spouse, the spouse will receive the greater of the first \$200,000 or half of the net value of the estate, and the rest is divided between the spouse and the children; and
- leaves no spouse, the estate is divided among their children equally.

If the deceased leaves no spouse and no children, then the estate goes to their parents. If their parents are not alive, it goes to their siblings. If their siblings are not alive, so on and so forth depending on the next of kin alive at the time of the deceased's death. And just in case you don't think that you paid enough taxes over your lifetime, if no one qualifies under the rules as the deceased's next of kin, the estate goes to the provincial government.

A will is a binding legal document that states how you wish for your property to be divided after your death, rather than having the provincial government doing it for you. Legislation does not consider the needs of each particular family – there is no opportunity to select guardians for minor children, set up trusts for dependent children,

provide for blended families, or indicate burial preferences. A will also makes the administration of your estate easier and less expensive for the family you leave behind and allows you to maximize on tax benefits. For example, charitable giving (whether before or after death), is a tax planning tool that is often used to reduce taxes owing.

Your will may be one of the most important things you ever do for your family – it is the legacy you wish to leave once you are gone.

Contact our Philanthropic Advisor Jen Pederson at 306-665-9880 to find out how Saskatoon Community Foundation can help you create your legacy, so that your story never ends!



# Cameco: Stepping Up for Mental Health

In its inaugural year, the Cameco Fund for Mental Health awarded grants totalling \$400,000 to 21 projects benefitting 12 different Saskatchewan communities.

The projects range in scope from education and training, to direct support for people struggling with mental health and addictions.

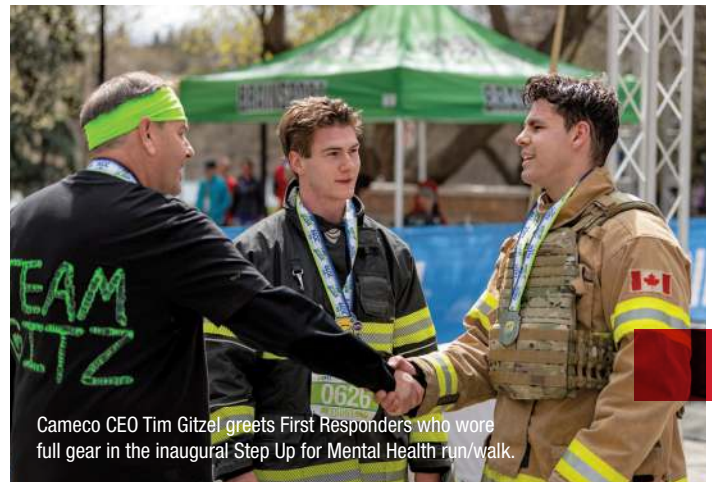
“Mental health touches all of us,” says Cameco CEO Tim Gitzel. “It affects us personally, through our families, through our co-workers and through our neighbours. It’s indiscriminate and it’s pervasive.”

**“Through this grant program, we’re pleased to support the organizations working hard to achieve positive mental health outcomes in our communities.”**

The fund, administered by Saskatoon Community Foundation, was established with proceeds from the inaugural Step Up for Mental Health event held in Saskatoon on May 11, 2019. The total raised includes 100 per cent of the walk/run registration fees and a matching amount from Cameco, plus individual and corporate donations.

Following a call for funding applications in September, submissions were adjudicated by representatives from Cameco, Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatoon Community Foundation. Of the 21 successful applicants, 18 represent registered charities and three are non-profit organizations.

“It can be difficult to talk about mental health and many suffer in silence,” added Gitzel. “In addition to raising funds, we hope that Step Up for Mental Health plays a role in promoting discussion and ending the stigma.”



Cameco CEO Tim Gitzel greets First Responders who wore full gear in the inaugural Step Up for Mental Health run/walk.

The Step Up for Mental Health run/walk returns in May 2020 with 5K and 10K distances. Organizers hope to grow the event which was capped at 2,000 participants in its first year. The course will again showcase Saskatoon’s beautiful river valley.

“We’re going to be back bigger and better,” says race director Jonathan Huntington, who is Cameco’s vice-president of sustainability and stakeholder relations. “We want to build on the festive atmosphere from year one and continue to deliver a race-day experience unlike anything else in the province.”

To learn more about Step Up for Mental Health, including the full list of funded projects, please visit [www.stepupsk.ca](http://www.stepupsk.ca).



Two thousand participants between the ages of one and 83 stepped up for mental health.



# Welcome New Board Members

The volunteer Board of Directors has always been the core of Saskatoon Community Foundation. The Board oversees the operations and sets strategic direction for our development and granting activities. Many of these volunteers remain on the Foundation Board for the entirety of the maximum term of eight years, a very significant volunteer commitment. Recently, several long-time Board members have left the Board. We offer heartfelt thanks to Tracy Muggli, Wayne Brownlee and Ken Juba for their contributions to the Board. Since the last issue of *Promise* was released, we have had many new members join our Board. We welcome them all and look forward to working with them to create a more inclusive community!

**Carson Heagy**  
Manager, EY

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**Shirley Greyeyes**  
Dakota Dunes Community  
Development Corporation

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**Doug Barker**  
President,  
Park Derochie Coatings

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**Darlene Bessey**  
Retired consultant, former  
Executive Director of Saskatoon  
Community Foundation

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**Raj Kavia**  
Chairman, Kavia Autobody

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**Wanda Hunchak**  
Executive Vice-President,  
Westcap Management Ltd.

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**Bev Lafond**  
Manager,  
Entrepreneur and Farm Unit,  
Ministry of the Economy,  
Government of Saskatchewan

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**Jay Stark**  
Wealth Advisor,  
Sutton Wealth Planning

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WHEN YOU'RE  
**PART** OF  
SOMETHING  
**BIGGER,**  
YOUR STORY  
NEVER ENDS.



When you give to Saskatoon Community Foundation, you create a lasting and meaningful legacy. Through your gift, we'll continue to honour the stories of the past, strategically address the needs of the present, and foster new opportunities for generations to come.

[Giveyxe.ca](https://Giveyxe.ca)



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♦ 50 YEARS ♦ 1970 - 2020 ♦