

Saskatoon's  
**VitalSigns**®  
2021



(Photo: Dave Waldner)



**Carm Michalenko, CEO**  
Saskatoon Community Foundation

Situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the traditional homelands of the Métis people, Saskatoon Community Foundation gratefully acknowledges all we receive from this land which nurtures and sustains us, seeking to serve the diverse peoples who call Saskatoon home. In presenting this snapshot of community data, we strive to understand our shared story and make space for a vibrant and inclusive community in the future.

Vital Signs 2021 focuses on Saskatoon emerging from COVID-19 to work together for a vibrant, healthy and just community. The data focuses primarily on wellness, equity and recovery, highlighting lessons we have learned during this challenging time for our community and world alike.

### Welcome to Vital Signs® Report 2021!

This Vital Signs report presents a snapshot of data about Saskatoon. The report assists Saskatoon Community Foundation in its mission to understand our community and to steward the gifts donors from all walks of life have entrusted to us. Vital Signs offers us a path for addressing community needs. It is a springboard to community conversations which will deepen understanding of our rapidly evolving community and its growing inequities. Over time, the data in this report and the conversations we convene to connect sectors will empower all of us to catalyze change toward a vibrant community where everyone belongs.

### Saskatoon Community Foundation

Saskatoon Community Foundation stewards an endowment of \$61 million in endowed and non-endowed funds and manages \$20 million in funds for other charities, ensuring a reliable stream of grant funding flows into the community forever. The foundation is trusted to represent over 350 fundholders. Every year, it supports a wide range of community projects and initiatives on behalf of donors who have created unrestricted funds. The foundation also provides strategic grant-making services, philanthropic advisory services, and community leadership. Beyond charitable sector knowledge, the Saskatoon Community Foundation team has a heart for community, supporting reconciliation, inclusion, and quality of life in our community.

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On the Cover: On September 30, 2021, over 1300 community members, masked for safety, joined in a smudge walk on Canada's first ever National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. (Photo: Kelsey Sundbo, Bulk Basket)



## About Vital Signs & the Data

Vital Signs presents a snapshot of data at a glance about Saskatoon. An initiative of Community Foundations of Canada, Vital Signs is an internationally respected tool for measuring and reporting on the vitality of communities. The Saskatoon Community Foundation is part of this movement to create more inclusive and sustainable communities. Vital Signs 2021 also refers, for the first time, to the 2016 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are internationally accepted categories for collecting and reporting data.

Although not all of the SDGs are addressed in this report, they will form a basis on which future reports will be built. By presenting this report, Saskatoon Community Foundation hopes to inform and engage all citizens in making positive contributions to a vibrant community where everyone belongs.

The census provides the backbone to the data included in this report. Through the Vital Signs report, the Saskatoon Community Foundation, in collaboration with Community Foundations of Canada and the City of Saskatoon, has provided access to the 2016 Census and the 2018-2020 Saskatoon Community Profiles. These variables are available for both Saskatoon neighbourhoods and Census Subdivisions.

In many cases, we do not have access to more recent Census data than was presented in the 2017 report. So, for this report, the Vital Signs data team has used the following sources for local context data: Community agencies' annual reports, monthly dashboards, surveys and other data collection tools. Consequently, some data included represent examples of community activities rather than comprehensive local statistics. For additional details about sources of data, please contact the Vital Signs team directly at [vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca).



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA



Saskatoon  
Community  
Foundation



(Photo: Dave Stobbe)

## Understanding Vital Signs 2021

Through the next few pages, you will learn about the shared values that form the backbone of this report, helping to tell the story of Saskatoon in 2021. Saskatoon Community Foundation and the Vital Signs Advisory Committee are committed to these values. They are the lens through which we not only view community, but envision making it more vibrant and equitable for all. Because of this vision for the future, the values we describe in this report will be carried forward through future reports, so we can see that we are making progress.

This report will showcase the “story” of Saskatoon told through data. Some of this data comes from government sources such as the Census. In 2021, though, our story is also seen through the health crisis that has changed all our lives. Because of this, we have included a great deal of “up to the minute” data drawn from local sources. Likewise, even though the story will have changed by the time you read this, we also included a snapshot of COVID data – without it, no picture of Saskatoon in 2021 would be complete.

The report describes the values-based framework through which we present the data. It also refers to other ways of looking at community data. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are becoming the international lens for focusing community data. Likewise, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) provides a lens through which all Canadians must re-assess our past, present and future. The Foundation has been on a journey toward reconciliation since 2016, and reconciliation continues to be a core strategic goal for us as we seek a future in which all will feel they belong. The values are connected to both the SDGs and the TRC Calls to Action.

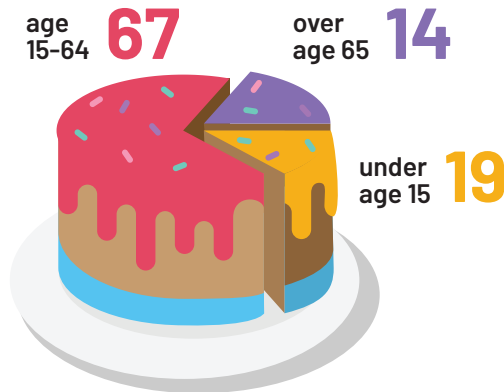
Each value in the report has a section, which we connect to related SDGs and to many types of data. At the end of the report, you will find a section that offers suggestions for how you can respond to the report. We look forward to connecting with you in the future, continuing a conversation about community that began over 50 years ago, and will continue as we build the future of Saskatoon.



*Before Pandemic: Saskatoon youth join in Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation, June 21, 2019.*

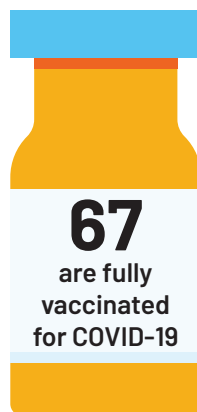
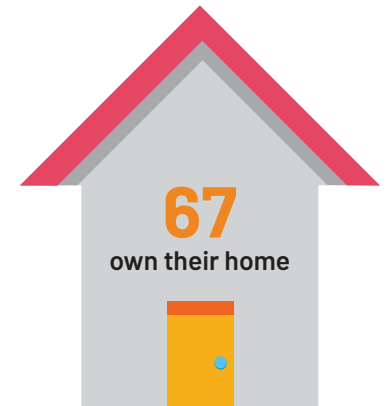


# If Saskatoon Was 100 People:



Strong Sense  
of Community  
Belonging

Saskatoon  
**72%**



For information about the data sources on this page, please contact us at [vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca)

# Using a Values-Based Framework for the Data

## Guided by Values

Vital Signs 2021 presents a snapshot of community vitality through data. We adopted a values-based framework to interpret data of many types from many sources. The framework helped us to weave a broader narrative from the data than the original sources would have intended. The values chosen reflect the community, guiding the Vital Signs Advisory Committee in terms of the meaning and purpose of the report, the data we included, how we portrayed it, and why it was relevant. These values are:

- **Understanding**
- **Equity**
- **Connection**
- **Sustainability**
- **Wellness**
- **Recovery**

## Why Group Data Using Values?

The values give us a systematic way to gather, interpret, and sort data from many sources. Each value illuminates an aspect of Saskatoon's story. Each aspect of the story complements and overlaps, creating an accessible yet comprehensive picture of the community. This values-based framework will be continued in future reports, so readers can meaningfully observe changes over time. The framework also accommodates many areas of current research and community work. It was created by analyzing the language used in materials from many community partners, finding common themes and language that connected many sources of data. (The list of partners is on page 27.) Though organizations supplying the data work in different ways, the common values create a 'common language' through which we can communicate and contribute effectively together.

## How Do the Values Work Together?

The diagram on the next page shows how the values interact together as a system.

**Wellness**, at the centre of the diagram, is the core value in this report and for Saskatoon. All the other values contribute to wellness. Wellness encompasses all aspects of quality of life – physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual, our relationships to one another and the land, and the systems that affect our lives. Contributing to Wellness are Understanding, Connection, Equity and Recovery.

Notice that the arrows showing this contribution are either dotted (Connection, Understanding, Recovery) or solid (Equity).

The solid line from **Equity** emphasizes its importance in supporting Wellness, and the need to challenge and disrupt systems that persistently privilege some people over others. To create Equity, we must address the ongoing effects of colonialism, racism, power, and privilege at all levels of society.

**Connection** is about the relationships we create and maintain with one another (including the land we live on). If these relationships foster equity, safety, comfort, and belonging, they contribute to Wellness.

**Understanding** is a vital contributor to Wellness. To be well, we must approach the issues we face with knowledge and awareness of multiple worldviews, our colonial history and our own privilege. If we were able to better understand the world around us from multiple perspectives, we could again contribute to the wellness of our community.

**Recovery** represents the revitalization of our interpersonal, organizational, and systemic capacity. Recovery can be economic, but also social and personal as each of us addresses our colonial past and current challenges, including rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Sustainability** is represented in the green circle that flows through Equity, Recovery, Understanding, and Connection, and is also connected to Wellness. For the community to be truly well, we must preserve and live in harmony with the lands and peoples of Saskatoon (including responsible environmental protection and economic growth). Our progress toward these values must also be sustainable so that future generations can thrive and the current generation can be proud of the legacy it leaves behind.

For more information on understanding this values-based framework or to obtain additional details on how it was created, contact [vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca)



**Sustainability** Ensuring we value, preserve and live in harmony with the lands and peoples of Saskatoon, especially in terms of responsible environmental protection and economic growth, so that future generations can thrive physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

**Connection** The relationships we have with one another, including individual and group relationships with the land and systems in the community, partnerships, and the degree of equity, inclusivity, safety, comfort and belonging shared among us.

**Understanding** Knowledge and awareness, from many perspectives, of issues facing us in the past, present and future, including the positions we occupy in society and how well our systems serve us and others in the community.



**Equity** Society and its systems (legal, governmental, social services, etc) are inherently biased against some groups. Though superficially society may claim to treat all people equally, in practice, some groups consistently face racism, bigotry, and exclusion. To create equity, we must ensure that anti-racism, anti-oppression and culturally-inclusive frameworks and practices inform all we do as a community.

**Recovery** Building community through strengthening and revitalizing interpersonal, organizational, and systemic capacity, valuing and reinvigorating Indigenous knowledge, ensuring access to a living wage, and rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Wellness** encompasses the many elements that contribute to quality of life, including the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. It certainly includes physical health, but also our relationships to others, ourselves, and the land. Wellness is influenced by many factors, including income, housing, food security, and programs supporting physical and mental health.

# The Values & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In Vital Signs 2021, for the first time, we are connecting local data to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#). The SDGs are the international standard for measuring the sustainability and vitality of communities. The way we connected each SDG to the Vital Signs Values are presented below, but the reader should note that a given SDG can fit with multiple values. While the SDGs are assumed to be part of each value in this report, these connections will be made more explicit in future versions of the report.



Vital Signs 2021 does not focus on all 17 SDGs. Instead, it highlights the SDGs most relevant to our emphasis on wellness, equity and recovery as we emerge from the pandemic. As our data team developed the values-based framework for Vital Signs 2021, the SDGs were aligned with both the context of the core value and the story the local data is telling about the value. Throughout the report, we focus on these fundamental connections between wellness, equity and recovery and SDGs.

If your organization is tracking data relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, please let us know, as it could be included in future reports.



## The Values & the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Saskatoon Community Foundation is committed to answering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and believes that every Canadian should be familiar with them and make their own commitments to understanding and change. As one way to demonstrate this commitment, we connected the Calls to Action to the Values framework. Below is how we are interpreting the CTAs according to the values we described earlier:

### Understanding

Calls to Action 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 62, 63, 64, 93

### Connection

Calls to Action 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 62, 63, 64, 93

### Wellness

Calls to Action 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

### Equity

Calls to Action 7, 8, 9, 11, 30, 47, 50, 92

### Recovery

Calls to Action 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 92

Since 2017, the Nutrien Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala has focused on reconciliation. The Community Fund for Reconciliation has granted over \$430,000 to reconciliation projects throughout the community.



(Photo: Chokecherry Studios)

The confirmation in 2021 of the existence of mass graves of children at the sites of former residential schools speaks volumes about Canada's need as a nation to acknowledge the truth and work together through reconciliation to recover from this genocide. Eugene Arcand, Saskatchewan's representative on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, refers to the graves as "the 95th call to Action."

The smudge walk depicted on the cover of *Vital Signs*, which took place on Canada's first-ever National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, September 30, 2021, shows that the people of Saskatoon are willing to move forward together. Saskatoon Community Foundation has committed to assisting in reconciliation efforts in the community.

# Understanding

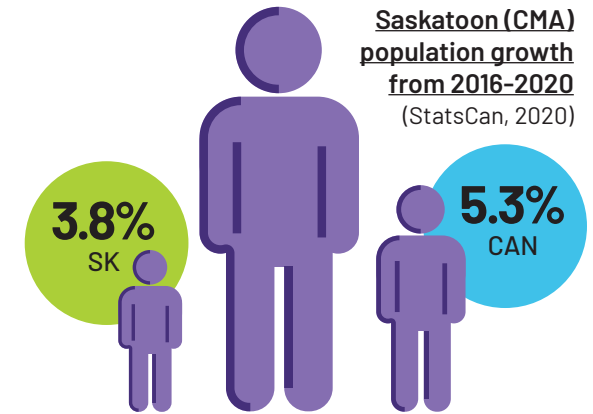
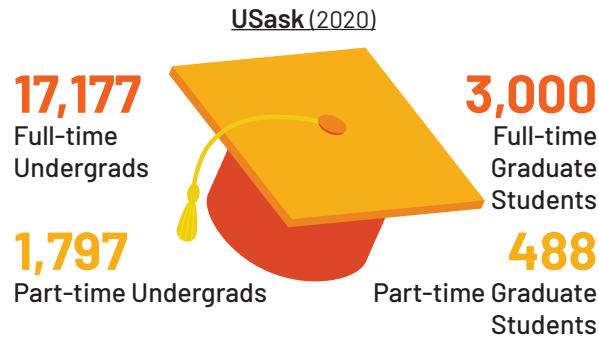
Knowledge and awareness, from many perspectives, of issues facing us in the past, present and future, including the positions we occupy in society and how well our systems serve us and others in the community.

## What do we mean by Understanding?

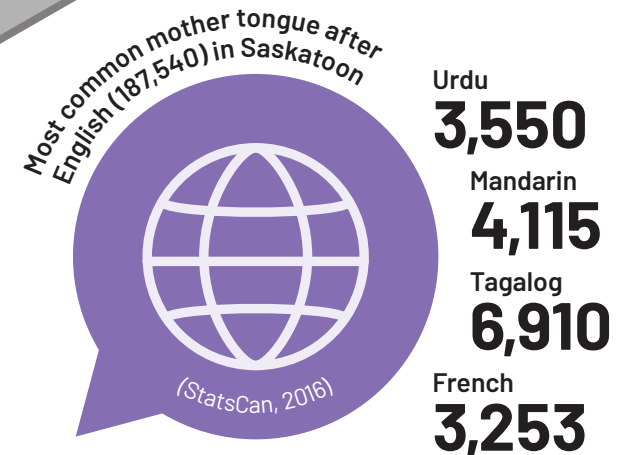
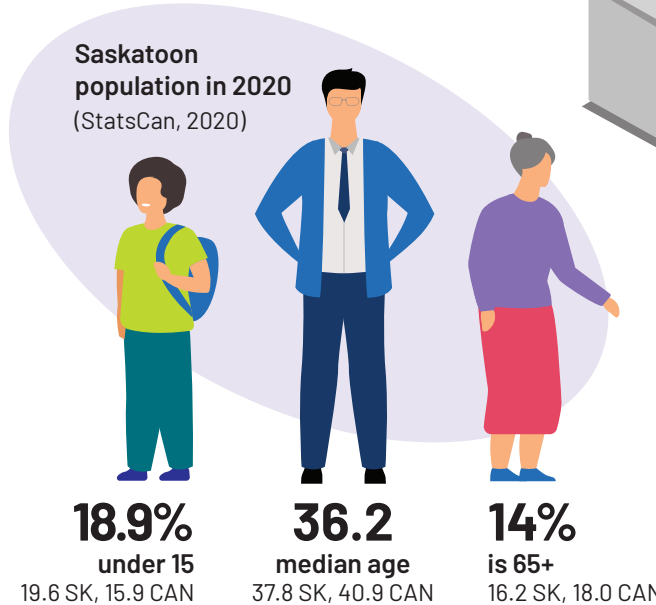
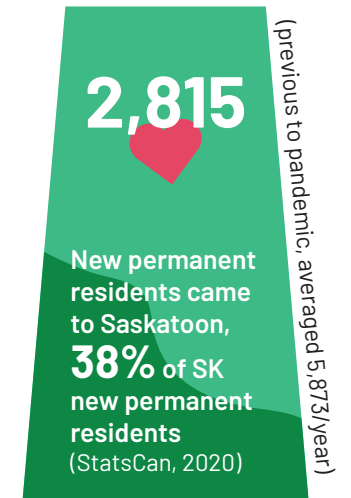
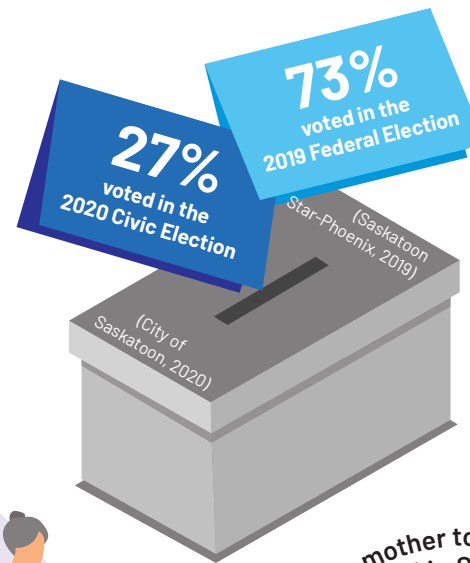
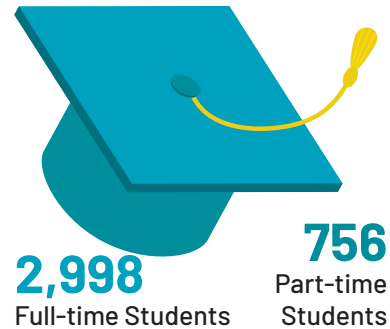
What we understand is the basis for how we see and explain our world, interpret data, give context to facts, know ourselves and empathize with others. Understanding can be the basis for purposeful actions, and lacking understanding can lead to harmful actions. Building our understanding of community on factual data gives us a good place to start toward building the community we want to see.



All SDGs are connected to Understanding



## Saskatchewan Polytech (Saskatoon, 2020)



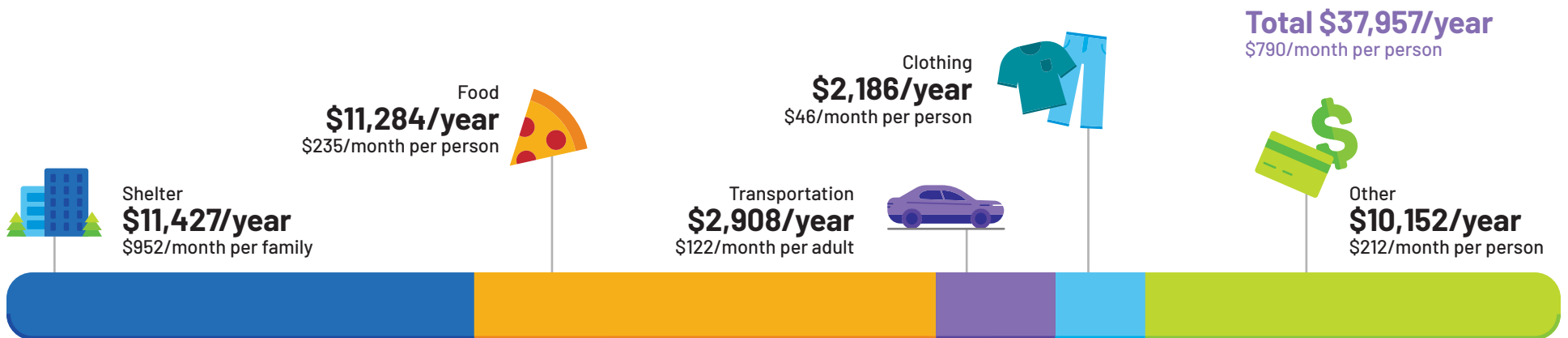


In order to fully appreciate the interconnectedness of the data outlined in the report, a deeper understanding of circumstances for many of the most vulnerable community residents is needed. People in Saskatoon who are living at or below the poverty line are more likely to face other inequities, be over-represented in some data and under-represented in other data.

## Canada's Official Poverty Line: The Market Basket Measure (MBM)

In February 2020, the Canadian government announced the MBM as the official poverty line. It is calculated based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services and represents a minimum standard of living.

This poverty line is calculated for a family of 4 (2 children and 2 adults with income). It is also adjusted for family size up to 10 (\$60,015.00/yr) and individuals without children (\$18,978/yr). In Saskatoon the MBM looks like this:



Average monthly grocery costs in SK large cities:  
**\$852.32**

Though the MBM is calculated for a benchmark family of 4, the measure is oftentimes adjusted so that it can be used for larger and smaller families (and individuals).

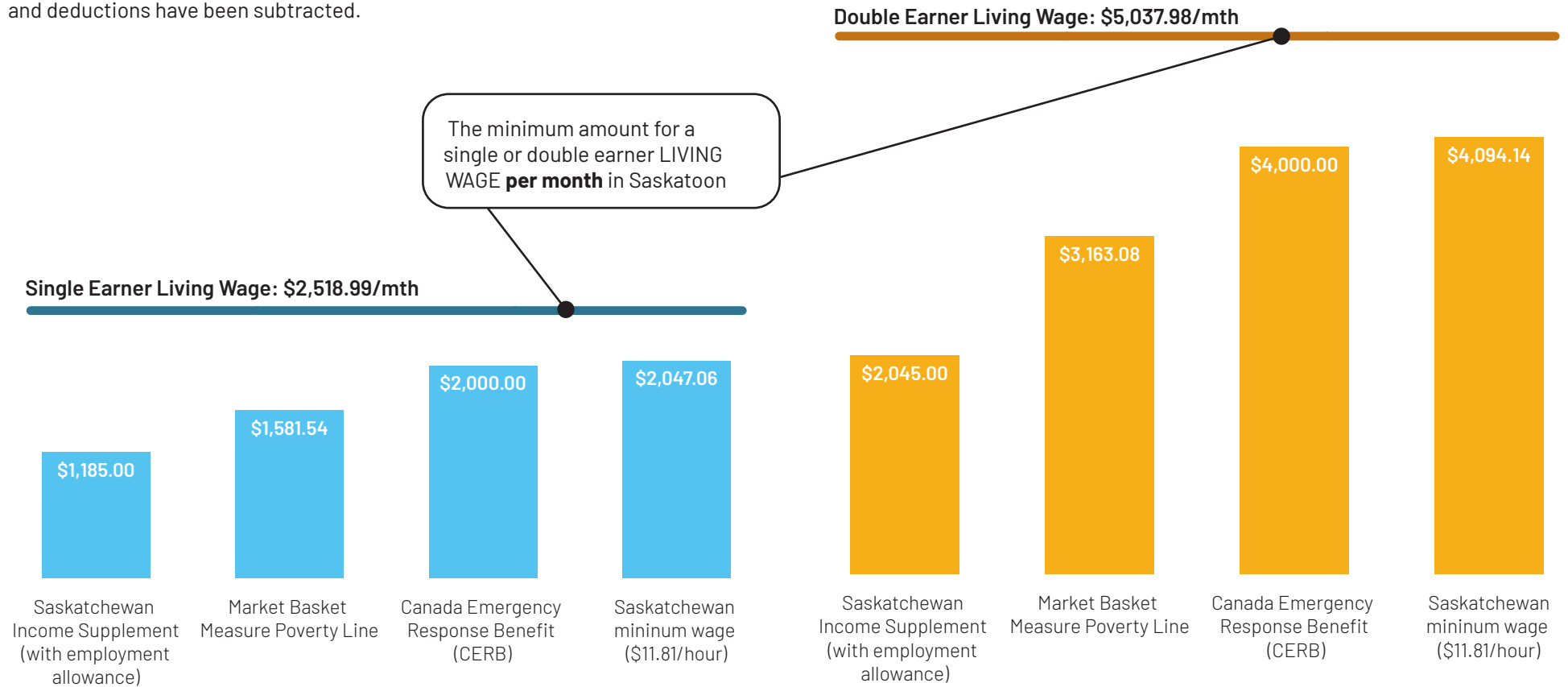


Vulnerable families often depend on support from community organizations.

(Photo: Dave Stobbe)

# Living Wage

The living wage is calculated as the hourly rate at which a household can meet its basic needs, once government transfers have been added to the family's income and deductions have been subtracted.



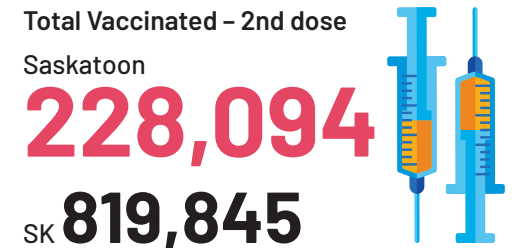
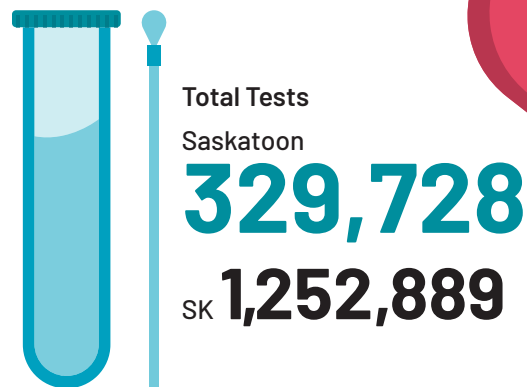
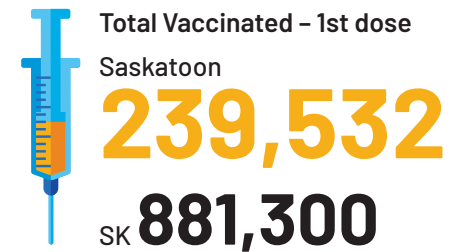
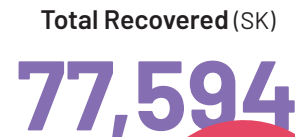
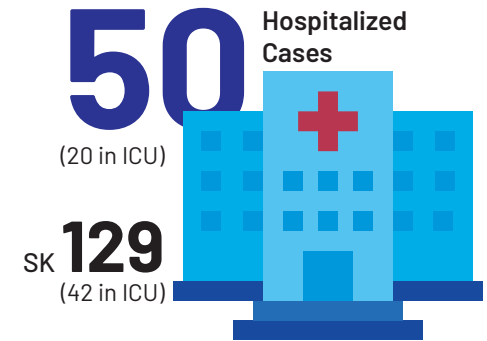
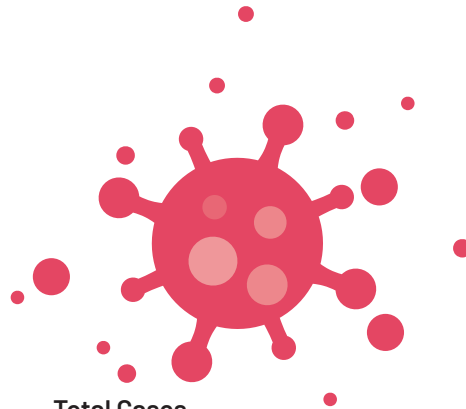
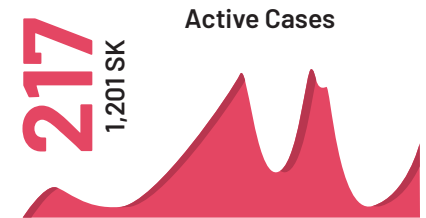
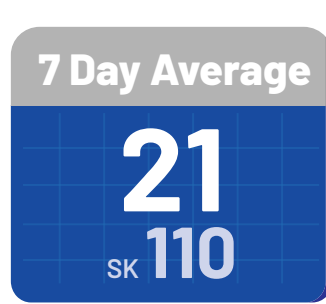
The Saskatoon Living Wage is the benchmark to strive towards. **Note that NONE of the income options meet this benchmark.**

This illustration compares single and double household earners who received Saskatchewan Income Supplement (SIS), Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), and those who work minimum wage in Saskatoon with both the Market Basket Measure (the poverty line) and the Saskatoon Living Wage.

# Understanding COVID-19

To understand our community in 2021, we must be aware of the impact of COVID-19. Here is a snapshot of data about COVID at the time this report was published.

Statistics as of November 15, 2021  
(Saskatchewan Health Authority)





# Connection

The relationships we have with one another, including individual and group relationships with the land and systems in the community, partnerships, and the degree of equity, inclusivity, safety, comfort and belonging shared among us.

## What do we mean by Connection?

Community is all about connections. Community literally means a group of people unified by what they have in common. In most cases, when we refer to "the community," we mean people living together in a specific area, though of course, within a geographic community, there are many different types of connections. We are connected as families and friends, through business and social activities, by our shared values, goals, and interests. The vitality of a community is reflected by the strength of the many threads that connect us.



(The Bridge on 20th Fellowship Centre, 2020)



(The Lighthouse Supported Living, 2020)



YWCA 2020  
**14,247**

YWCA turned away 3,392 women and children in 2020-21

Lighthouse 2020  
**27,300**

Salvation Army 2020  
**16,000+**

## Strong Sense of Community Belonging



Saskatoon  
**72%**  
SK  
**75%**  
CAN  
**69%**

(StatsCan, 2018)

## Charitable Giving (median donation)



In Saskatoon,  
**19.6%**  
of tax filers made  
a donation in 2019

(StatsCan, 2019; In 2015: 23%)



**453**  
matched volunteers  
in 2019-20

**557**  
matched youth  
in 2019/20

**68,148**  
volunteer hours  
in 2019-20

(Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatoon and Area, 2020)



**17,103**  
volunteer hours  
**6,213**  
fewer hours  
than 2019

(Saskatoon Friendship Inn, 2020)

**302** + **74**  
women children served

**21** youth housed

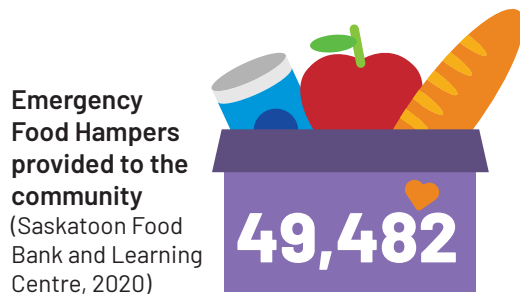
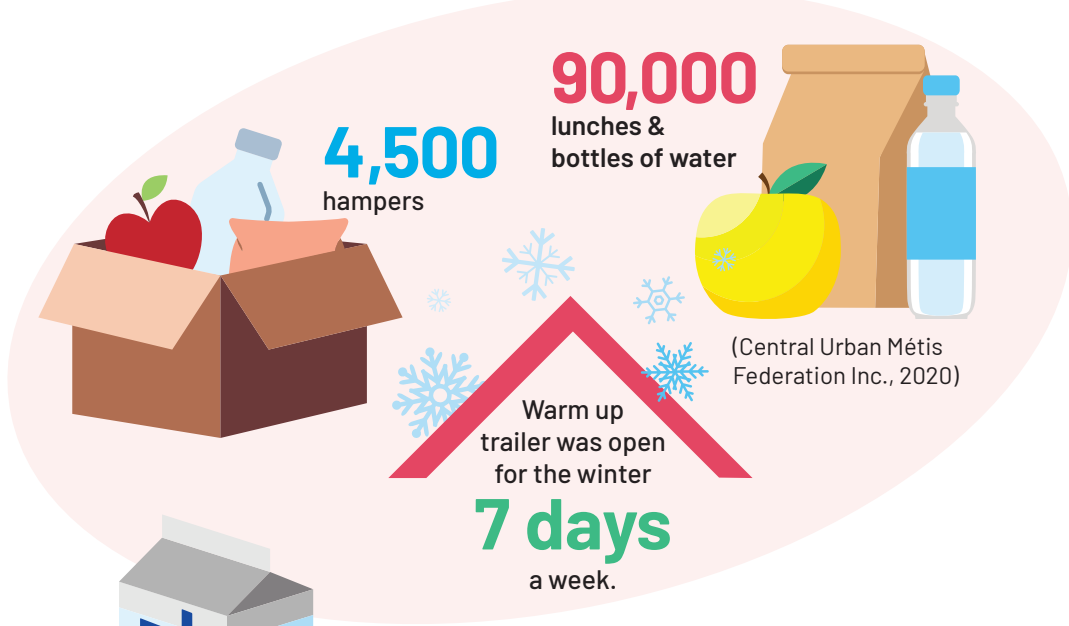
**402**

individuals accessed services for help with resumes and job search;

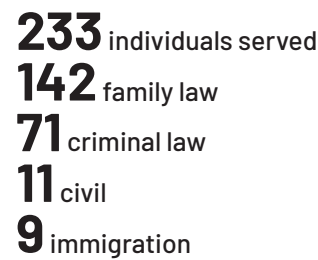
**263**

individuals reported obtaining employment

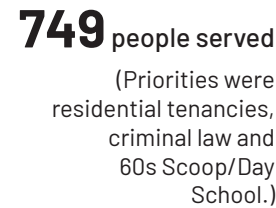
(YWCA Saskatoon, 2020)



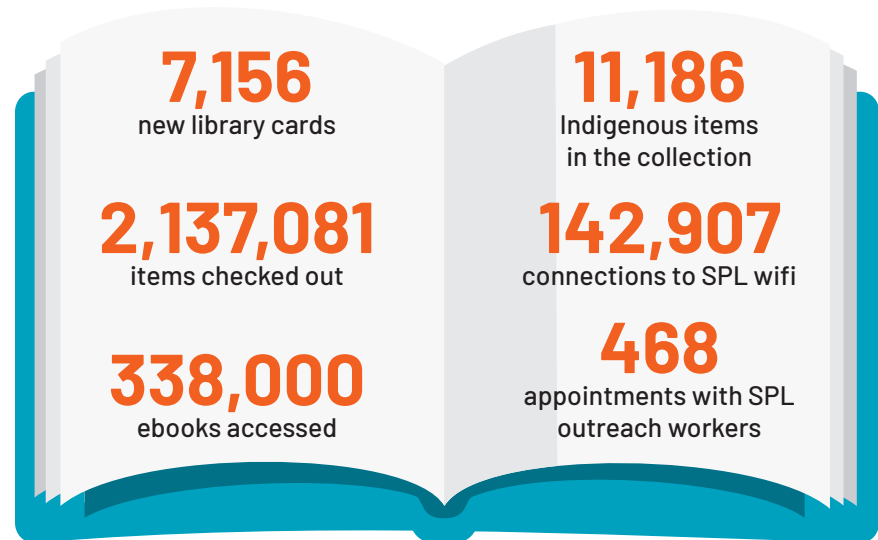
CLASSIC Legal Advice Clinic (2020-21)



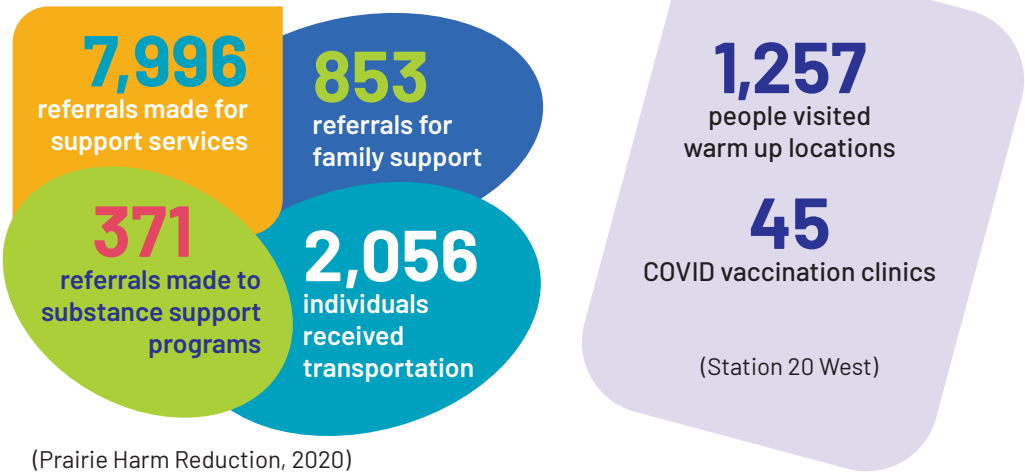
CLASSIC Walk -In Advocacy Clinic (2020-21)



Public Library Data 2020



Harm Reduction During Pandemic



# Wellness

Wellness encompasses the many elements that contribute to quality of life, including the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. It certainly includes physical health, but also our relationships to others, ourselves, and the land. Wellness is influenced by many factors, including income, housing, food security, and programs supporting physical and mental health.

## What do we mean by Wellness?

Whether we call it “wellness,” “vitality,” or “quality of life,” we all have perceptions of how we are doing in relation to our goals, standards, expectations and concerns. We all want to be well and to do well, physically, emotionally, spiritually, economically, and in terms of our relationships with others and the world we share. Wellness is the core of Vital Signs, and each person puts their own emphasis on the many elements that contribute to a good life, the life we wish to live.



# 505

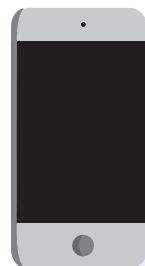
Individuals and families participated in food skills and nutrition education programming in 2019 (CHEP)

and **85%** had increased access to nutritious food



meals in 2020 (Saskatoon Friendship Inn)

Down **111%** from 2019



# 7,189

Calls regarding mental health and addictions, suicide prevention, and sexual assault were handled through mobile crisis services in 2019 (Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service)



# 2,400

Naloxone kits distributed

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist, meaning it can be used to temporarily reverse an opioid overdose while emergency services are called. The kit contains two vials of naloxone, ampule splitters, syringes, gloves, alcohol wipes, and a face shield for CPR purposes.

## Harm Reduction in Saskatoon

# 10,965

 Visits in 2020

# 724

 Visits to safe consumption site (opened October 2020)

# 932

 In-home supports

# 525

 Unique families supported

# 694

 Unique individuals supported

(Prairie Harm Reduction)





### 1 NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere  
While Saskatoon is a relatively young and vibrant city, there is long-standing inequity and deep-rooted poverty throughout the city, disproportionately affecting Indigenous communities, newcomers and other visible minorities. Looking forward, public policy must focus on building a community where people are not struggling to make ends meet, particularly youth and families with children.



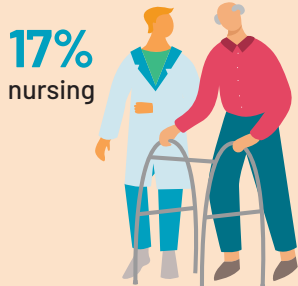
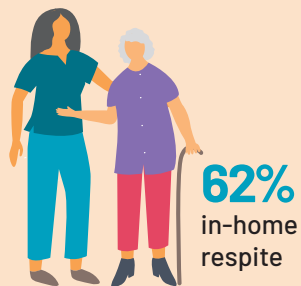
### 2 ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture  
Saskatoon has a diverse and effective emergency food system. That being said, as we envision a future where poverty and homelessness are not rampant, Saskatoon has the capacity to eliminate hunger and create innovative food systems that support what people want to eat, in the neighbourhoods in which they live.

#### Support for Indigenous Families (Saskatoon Tribal Council)

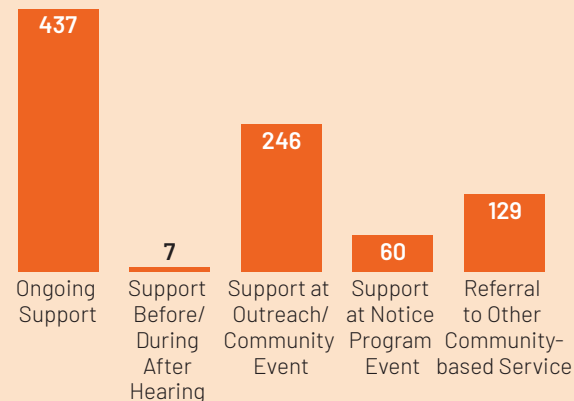
# 24,355 hours

logged in provision of home care services in 2019-20. Increasing since 2014, highest its ever been.



During the pandemic, SK has seen the reporting of mental health issues increase four-fold (anxiety from 6% to 25% and depression from 6% to 17%)

#### 2019-2020 Indian Residential School Support Program



# 38,476

visits to White Buffalo Youth Lodge in 2019-20

# 2,073

were provided temporary accommodations

# 20

emergency shelter beds created for youth

#### Suspected toxicity deaths (overdose)

2020 **38**

2021 **134**

# 350%

increase in overdose rate

(Saskatoon Police Service)

#### Opioid Possession Charges

2019: **12**

2020: **25**

2021 Jan to Sept: **75**

(2021 Projected: 100)

Saskatoon (CMA) residents self-reported their mental health (StatsCan, 2020)

# 38.2%

said it was "about the same"



# 52.9%

said "Somewhat worse now" or "Much worse now" compared to pre-pandemic

# 9.0%

"Much better now" or "Somewhat better now"

Crystal Meth charges

2020 Jan to Sept: **382**

2021 Jan to Sept: **353**

(Saskatoon Police Service)

# Equity

Society and its systems (legal, governmental, social services, etc) are inherently biased against some groups. Though superficially society may claim to treat all people equally, in practice, some groups consistently face racism, bigotry, and exclusion. To create equity, we must ensure that anti-racism, anti-oppression and culturally-inclusive frameworks and practices inform all we do as a community.

**What do we mean by Equity?** At its heart, equity is about sharing fairly in the opportunity to have a good life in the community and supporting those who face challenges and disadvantages. Valuing diversity and inclusion does not truly change systems in society. When systems cause inequity, we need to work together to disrupt and challenge them. To achieve equity, we must actively address the ongoing effects of colonialism, racism, power, and privilege in society. We need to be accountable for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual safety of all those who live in Saskatoon.



OUTSaskatoon provides the only 2SLGBTQ-specific free counseling services in the city, and people from across the province and across Canada have accessed its free, affirming, and trauma-informed services.

In 2020-21:

Counseling services increased by **400%**

Over **600** people accessed free counseling.



In February of 2021, the City of Saskatoon Bylaw 9747 to ban conversion therapy was approved.



Women represent **39%** of the employed labour force, but account for **54%** of overall job losses during the pandemic.

(StatsCan, 2020)



(StatsCan, 2020)

More than

**500**

people self-identify as homeless in Saskatoon and within that data more than



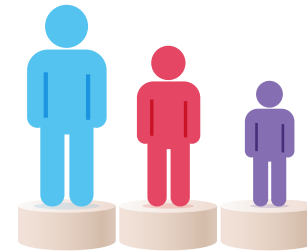
**65%** were exposed to the foster care system

**5%** are youth

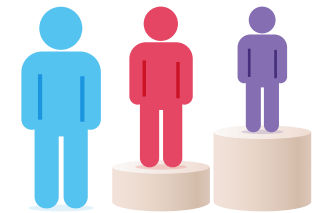
**85%** are Indigenous

(Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership, 2018)

Equality



Equity



Remember – equity is not the same as equality.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

COVID-19 provided additional insight into the disproportionate pressures facing women's roles in family and in the workforce. School disruption, the lack of childcare and pressures to work from home created inequity for women across the globe.

54

Urban cases of Jordan's Principle served in 2019-20 (Saskatoon Tribal Council, 2020)



25% kids are not ready for school



29% of children in Saskatchewan live in poverty



21.1% of families with children under 18 in Saskatoon have low income



54.8% of lone parent families with kids under 18 have low income



single person households in Saskatoon who are under 18 filed taxes in 2019 and every single one of them lives in poverty

(Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership, 2021)



75%

of Saskatoon parents spent at least some time during an average week helping their child or children engage in learning activities during the pandemic, with 41% spending 5 hours or more per week helping their children (StatsCan, 2020)

233,713

settlement and family support services provided to 19,076 clients (new and repeats)

(Saskatoon Open Door Society, 2020)



3,459

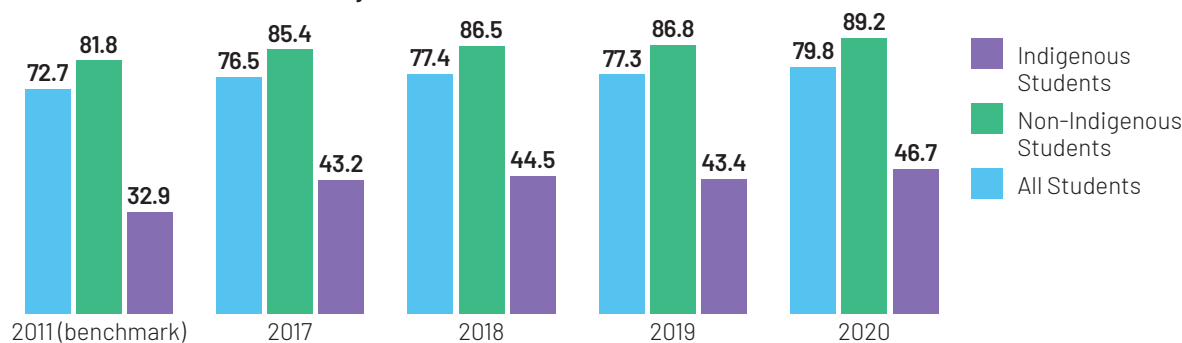
translation services provided (Saskatoon Open Door Society, 2020)



Government Assisted Refugees welcomed to Saskatoon

(Saskatoon Open Door Society, 2020)

Graduation rates on time (in 3 years)(%) (Government of Saskatchewan, 2020)



3,243 people used the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre tax program which injected



\$8,731,524

into the local economy through tax refunds, GST Credits, and Canada Child Benefit payments.



# Sustainability

Ensuring we value, preserve and live in harmony with the lands and peoples of Saskatoon, especially in terms of responsible environmental protection and economic growth, so that future generations can thrive physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

## What do we mean by Sustainability?

A sustainable community uses its resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations. It seeks a better quality of life for all its residents while maintaining nature's ability to function over time by minimizing waste, preventing pollution, promoting efficiency and developing local resources to revitalize the local economy. In a sustainable community, decision-making stems from a rich civic life and shared information among community members.

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

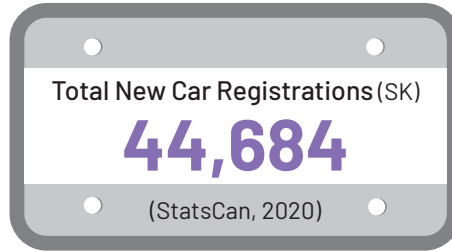
**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

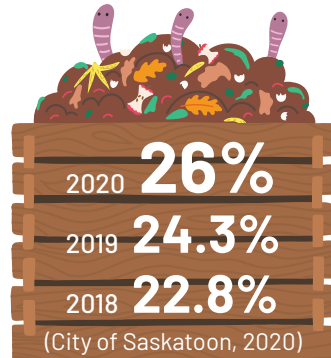
**15** LIFE ON LAND



**125** Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)



## City of Saskatoon Waste Diversion Rate



## Waste Diversion in Saskatoon

Total Waste Diverted **33,000** tonnes

- Compost Depots **48%**
- Green Cart Program **15%**
- Curbside Residential Recycling **24%**
- Multi-Unit Residential Recycling **6%**
- Recycling Depots **5%**
- Other **2%**

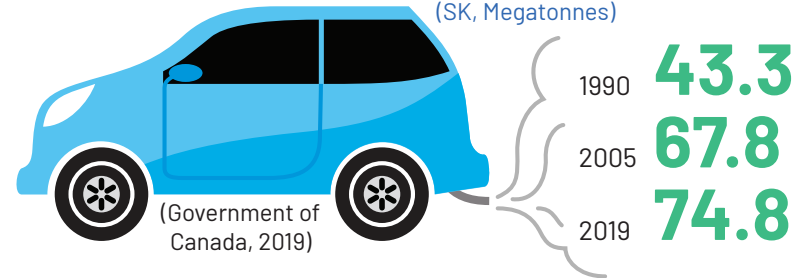
## Greenhouse Gas Top 5 Emitters 2019 (Megatonnes)

(Government of Canada, 2019)

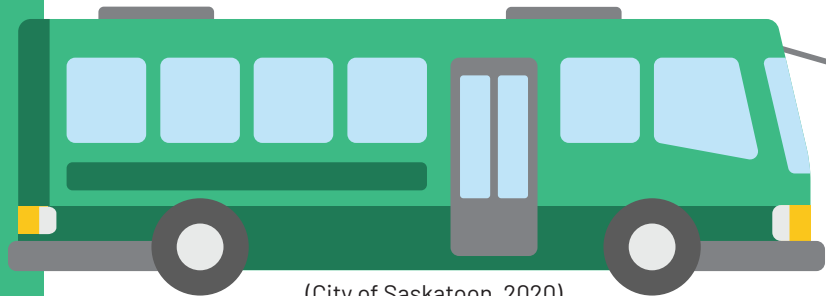


AB	<b>275.8</b>	SK	<b>74.8</b>
ON	<b>163.2</b>	BC	<b>65.7</b>
QC	<b>83.7</b>		

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions (SK, Megatonnes)



# of buses **170**    # of fixed routes **41**    # of stops **1,500**



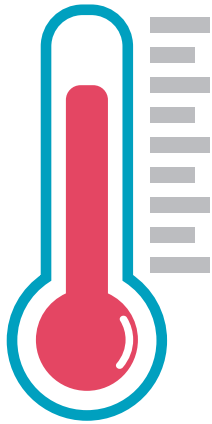
(City of Saskatoon, 2020)

Pre-COVID weekly ridership up to **200,000**

Weekly Ridership During Beginning of Pandemic **2,000**

## Transit Income





### Warmer by 2100

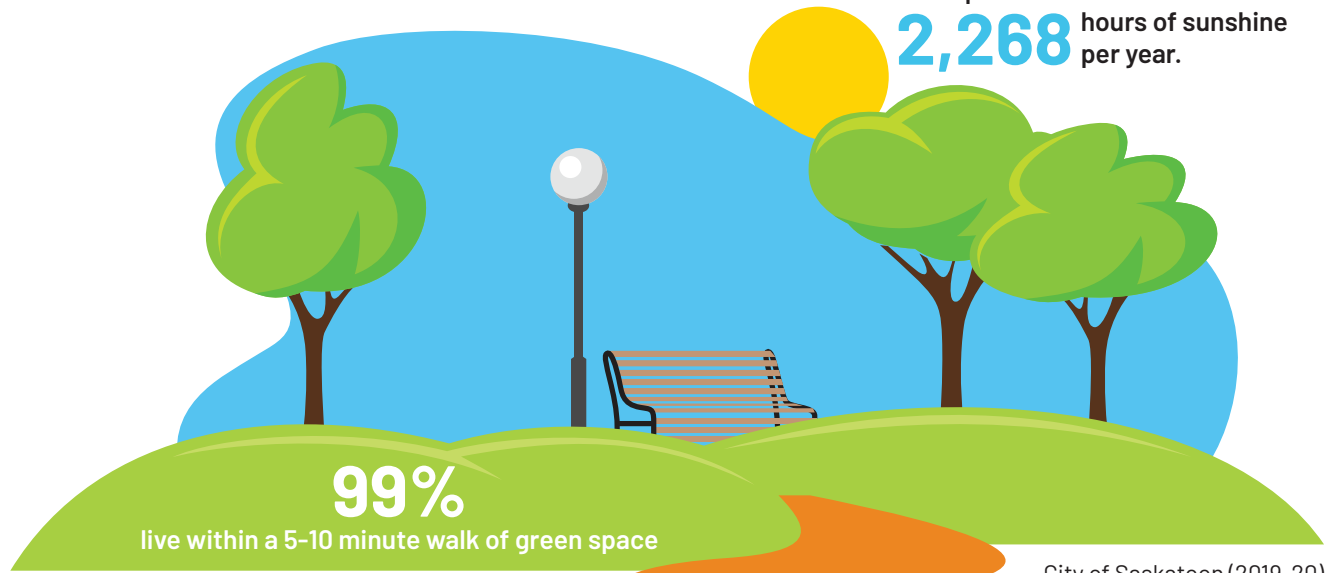
Projections show Saskatoon will have **double** the number of days

**25°C** or more and **six times** the number of days at

**30°C** annually if we don't lower our emissions rates.

(City of Saskatoon, Climate Projections and Possible Impacts, 2019)

Saskatoon is one of the sunniest places in Canada with **2,268** hours of sunshine per year.



**99%**

live within a 5-10 minute walk of green space

City of Saskatoon (2019-20)

**80km**  
of walking trails

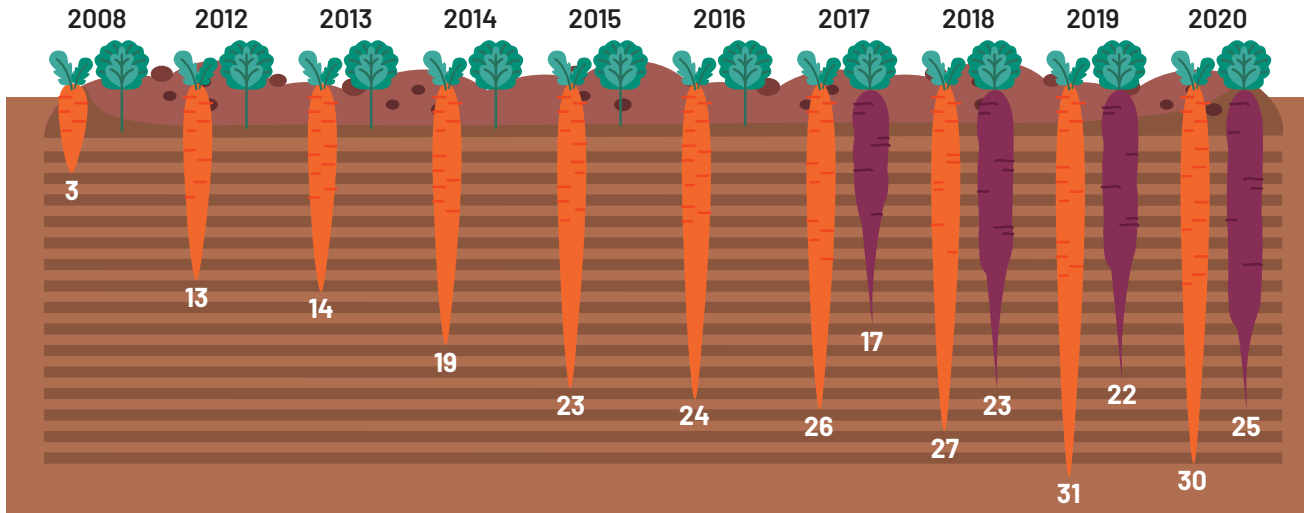
### Community Gardens



Number of Community Gardens on Municipal Land (Park & Municipal Reserve)



Number of Community Gardens on Other Lands (Schools, Churches, Other)



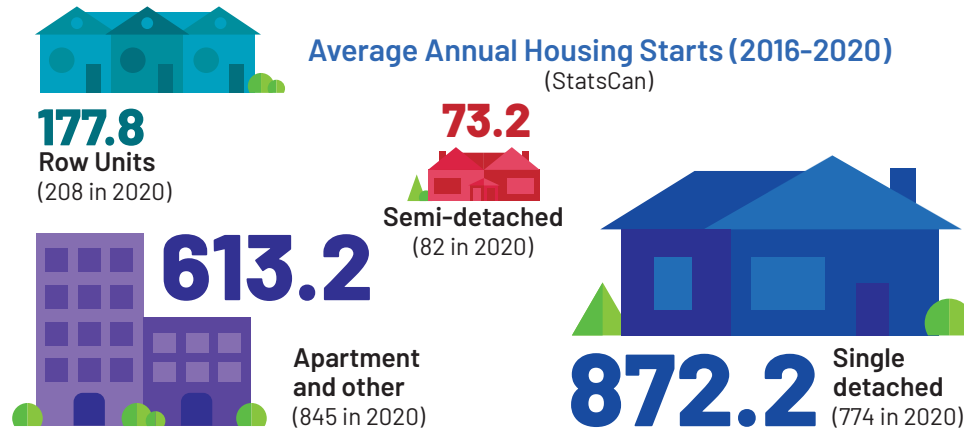
Area of Community Garden on Municipal Lands (Park & Municipal Reserve): 2.44 hectares (2018)  
(City of Saskatoon - Community Development and CHEP Good Food Inc., 2020)



# Recovery

Building community through strengthening and revitalizing interpersonal, organizational, and systemic capacity, valuing and reinvigorating Indigenous knowledge, ensuring access to a living wage, and rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic.

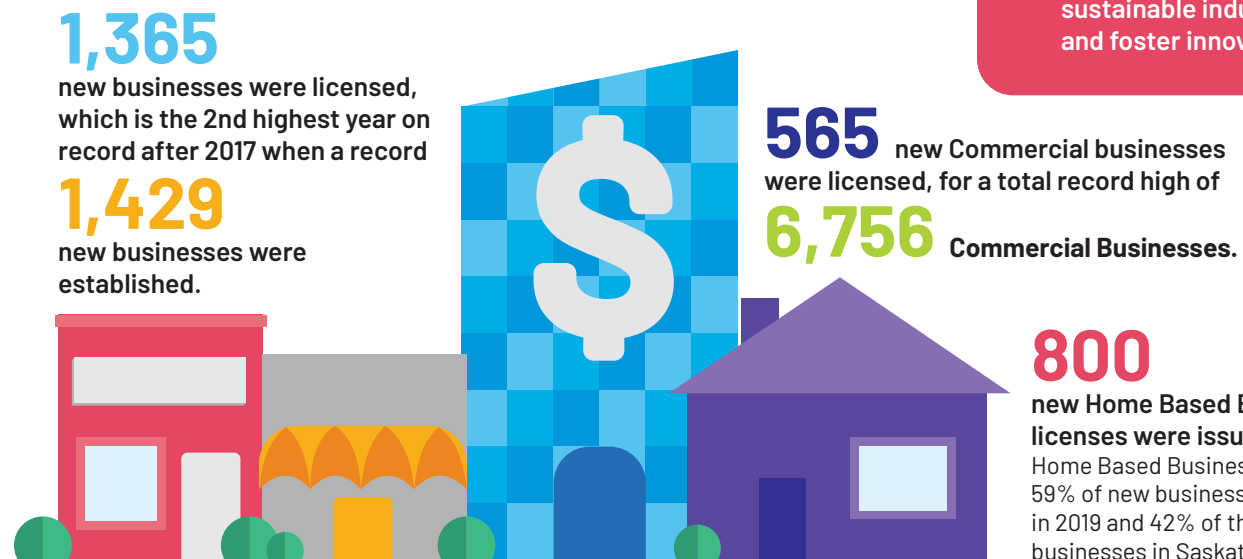
**What do we mean by Recovery?** The work of building community is never complete. Whatever we build can fall into disrepair, and connections that once were strong may need to be revitalized through our actions. Recovery can work on many levels: personal or collective, economic or environmental, psychological or medical. We can work to recover from our troubled history, from a recession or from a pandemic. In a sense, recovery can be seen as our response to the challenges we face as a community, so recovery plays an important role in wellness.



## Housing Needs

	1 bdrm	2 bdrm	3 bdrm
# of affordable (accessible) units	327	120	25
# of affordable (non-accessible) units	1454	795	830
Average wait time (in months)	26	25	14
Average number of people on the waitlist	165	1112	679

(Saskatoon Housing Initiative Partnership, 2021)



(City of Saskatoon 2019)



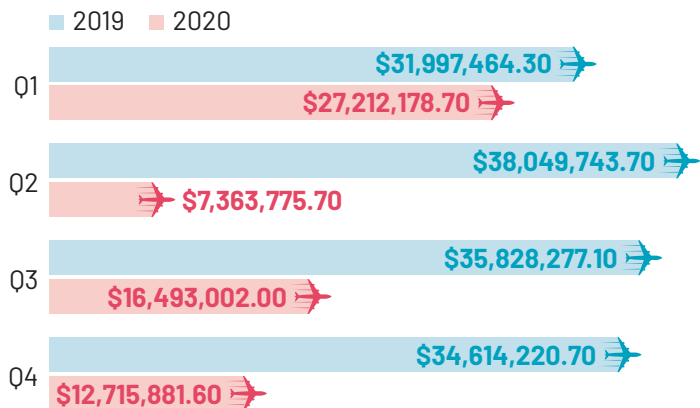
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

While the primary focus of SDG #3 is health and wellness, jurisdictions around the world warn that work to create good health for all may be disrupted by the pandemic. Even in Saskatoon, we experienced significant health service disruptions (lack of appointments, canceled surgery, limited access to non-COVID-19 supports). Allowing people to slip through these service gaps could affect population health for years to come.

Emerging from COVID-19, the community needs to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



### Tourism Revenue

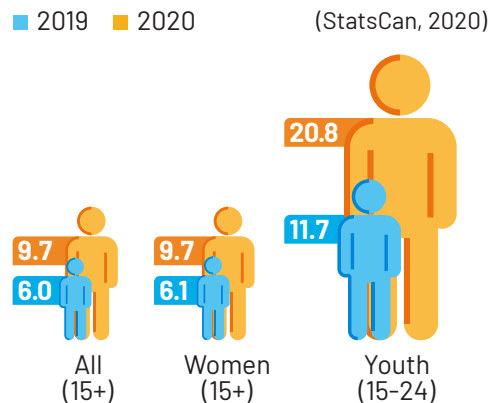


(As of the third quarter of 2021, revenues have begun to climb again, approaching pre-pandemic levels.)

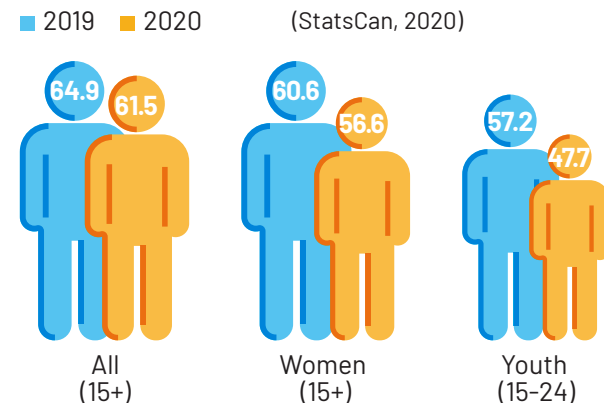


(Tourism Saskatoon, 2020)

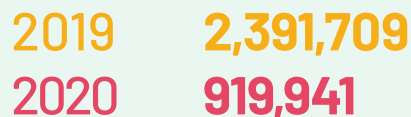
### Unemployment Rate (%) Saskatoon, CMA



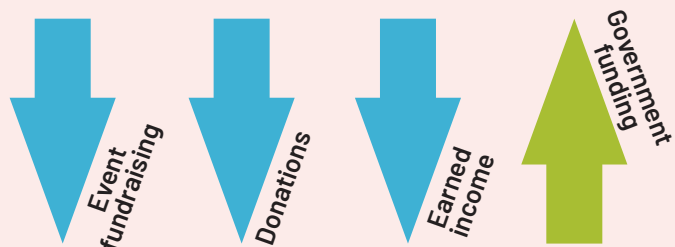
### Employment Rate (%) Saskatoon, CMA



### Domestic Visitors to Saskatoon



### Canadian charities' revenue sources during the pandemic



### Canadian charities staffing during the pandemic

**1 in 3** charities saw layoffs or reductions in staff hours  
(Imagine Canada, 2020)

**3 in 5** charities saw reductions in volunteer hours

### COVID-19 and the Arts

#### Stress Levels

**Over 3x**

as many individuals AND organizations report very high or high levels of stress and anxiety today (76% and 79%, respectively) as compared to before COVID-19 (26% and 25%).



(Canadian Association for the Performing Arts, 2020)

#### Staffing

**2/3** of festivals and events have had to lay off staff (48%) or have reduced employee hours (28%).

There was an average reduction of **50%** in the workforce of those organizations who have had to lay off staff.

**Only 6%**

of "arts, recreation & information" businesses reported normal or better revenues than usual in November.

# Working with the Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic, community leaders and officials have believed “the virus doesn’t discriminate” - that everyone in Saskatoon was equally at risk of infection or even death. We quickly realized that COVID-19 disproportionately impacted populations already facing health inequities before the pandemic.

In March of 2020, Saskatoon Interagency Response to COVID-19 (SIRC) brought more than 70 agencies together to mobilize the community’s response, including seconded staff, non-monetary resources, and an incident command structure connected to the City’s Emergency Management Operations team. Saskatoon Community Foundation and the United Way managed donation portals, providing crucial resources that made this work possible.

During the pandemic, social and economic factors interacted to make vulnerable people even more vulnerable, often limiting individuals’ ability to respond to the pandemic. The unprecedented collective response by SIRC ensured those most vulnerable had what they needed, when they needed it. The SIRC team advocated for funding, housing supports, harm-reduction principles, no-barrier isolation hotel options, core neighbourhood COVID-19 testing, isolation and vaccination options, PPE/cleaning supplies, and technology supports for families.

More than \$1M of community funding flowed into the response.

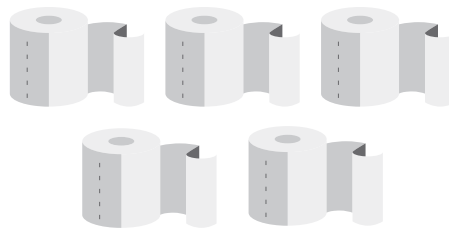
**\$5,000**

to support the inclusion of Elders and other cultural supports for clients



Many businesses, organizations, and funders contributed to COVID-19 response in the community. This data refers only to Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19.

Re-open of **5** City of Saskatoon washrooms after having more than 100 days without access to public washrooms



**\$10,000**

to support families in new housing



**100,000+**  
masks for clients



**35**  
core agencies supported

“Shifting a soup kitchen that serves up to 1000 meals (cafeteria-style) each day to a take-away delivery mode was no easy feat... the burden was truly lightened by the immense support from the SIRC and the broader community that wrapped their arms and dollars around us all.”

- Sandra Kary, Executive Director  
Saskatoon Friendship Inn

Pages 18 and 19 contain a snapshot of SIRC’s accomplishments over the course of the response (March 2020 to July 2021). (Additional information about SIRC: [saskatooninteragencyresponse.ca](https://saskatooninteragencyresponse.ca))



**\$25,000**

for mental health supports and access to clinical supports for staff

*"Working collectively as the Saskatoon Interagency Response highlighted how incredible the community of Saskatoon is - for over 500 days, partners and agencies worked together to make sure that some of the most vulnerable residents got what they needed. Moving forward, we are focused on making sure that the lessons learned and relationships built continue to improve the lives of people in Saskatoon."*

- Colleen Christopherson-Coté,  
SIRC Incident Command



More than **30** seconded staff from more than **10** organizations. **2** SIRC funded coordination roles.



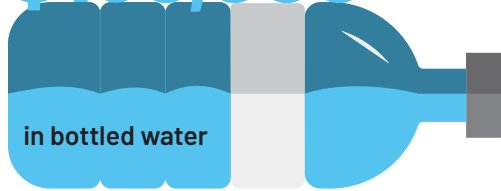
Support for **10** agencies to manage an official outbreak (including all supplies and supports)



*"The deliveries of PPE and supplies were a life-saver for us – one headache we didn't have to worry about!"*

- Community shelter agency

**\$160,000**



**\$160,000+**

in take out containers so agencies could still provide meals to community members

*"We are so thankful for the deliveries of bottled water to give to clients with the take-out meals – we can't do in-house dining because of COVID-19, but it is so important to still have some kind of meal program for clients. And a couple times when we ran out of water before the next delivery, SIRC asked another agency to share their extra inventory of bottled water – and staff from that agency brought it over in a truck the same day!"*

- Community partner agency



*"Without the support of the SIRC, many agencies would not have had the capacity to find funding, secure accounts with large suppliers of PPE, or work their own way through the myriad of public health orders and re-opening phases. To have the support of a well-organized, community focused group took the strain and stress off agencies so they could focus on their mission, to work toward a more just and poverty free community."*

- Laurie O'Connor, Executive Director, Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre



**\$35,000+**

in PPE supplies distributed (masks, gloves, bleach, cleaning, gowns, etc.)

**500**

community staff "fit-tested" for N95 Masks (\$20,000.00 investment)



## Reflecting on Vital Signs

In reading Vital Signs 2021, I hope you see a portrait of the Saskatoon we all share. No matter if you were surprised, inspired, shocked, or even upset by the data, together we can make change. Certainly, you can see that the data does not depict only the positive qualities of the community. Through the lens of the six core values of Wellness, Understanding, Connection, Sustainability, Equity and Recovery, we can see so much complexity in how we interact as a community and how systems structurally affect quality of life in ways we don't even realize.

I hope you are asking, "What should I do about any of this?" And there is no quick and easy answer. However, there are steps you can take to overcome inertia and address inequities. Ask yourself what reaction this report sparks in you – To change your thinking? To envision a more equitable community? To become more involved?

How you can be involved:

- Request a Vital Signs presentation for your organization/business
- Pledge to answer your own call to action for Truth and Reconciliation
- Reach out to equity-seeking groups and organizations
- Engage with community organizations to address issues that matter to you (directly or through the Foundation)
- Donate to Foundation's community-based granting programs
- Volunteer with local organizations working for change

Thank you for reading this report. In presenting Vital Signs, Saskatoon Community Foundation joins a network of 136 Canadian community foundations, along with hundreds more organizations throughout the world.

For a conversation on how you can contribute to a vibrant community where everyone belongs, contact Saskatoon Community Foundation at [vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:vitalsigns@saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca).



[saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca](http://saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca)





## Vital Connections

Vital Signs could not succeed without the assistance of a connected and engaged team. The Vital Signs Advisory Committee (VSAC) comes from all walks and sectors of the community, providing knowledge, context, connections, and data that ensures Vital Signs tells the story of Saskatoon at a glance. We draw strength from our diverse and complementary knowledge and from the community connections that form the basis for the report, from the development of the data framework to detailed discussions of points to be included. Another thanks to our data team who worked tirelessly to source and collate data from many sources for inclusion in Vital Signs. The committee is:

Kathy Allen, Arts and Grants Consultant, City of Saskatoon

Pam Beaudin, Program Director, Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan and Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Darlene Bessey, Volunteer, Saskatoon Community Foundation

Sandra Blevins, Volunteer, Saskatoon Community Foundation

June Bold, Principal Consultant, JBR Group

Colleen Christopherson-Coté, Triple C Consulting

Don Ewles, Grants Manager, Saskatoon Community Foundation

Michael Heimlick, Two Bridges Consulting

Brian Hoessler, Strong Roots Consulting

Mike Kowalchuk, City of Saskatoon

Monica Kreuger, Founder/CEO, Global Infobrokers Inc.

Carm Michalenko, CEO, Saskatoon Community Foundation

Ashraf Mirmontahai, Manager, Employment Services, Saskatoon Open Door Society

Alison Robertson, Systems Bright Consulting

Lenore Swystun, Founding Director, Prairie Wild Consulting

Community partnerships and collaborations make Saskatoon a vibrant community. We would like to acknowledge the many community partnerships that inform and impact the data collected in Vital Signs:

Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19 (SIRC)

Reconciliation Saskatoon

Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership

Safe Communities Action Alliance

Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership

Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan

Crystal Meth Working Group





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