



# SASKATCHEWAN INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CENTRE

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# VISION STATEMENT

Learning our ways, speaking our languages and living our lives as given by the Creator

## MISSION STATEMENT

Protect, Preserve and Promote the Cultures and Languages of First Nations\*

[\*Denē, Nahkawē (Saulteaux), Dakota, Nakota (Assiniboine), Lakota, nīhithaw (Woodlands Cree), nēhinaw (Swampy Cree) and nēhiyaw (Plains Cree)]

## PHILOSOPHY

The SICC has served First Nations people since 1972. It was the initial First Nations controlled educational institution serving at the provincial level. The Centre strives to maintain the cultural identity of First Nations culture who inhabit what is now known as Saskatchewan: Denē, Nahkawē (Saulteaux), Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, Woodlands Cree, Swampy Cree and Plains Cree.

## GOALS

- To protect and revive First Nations languages in Saskatchewan
- To preserve and transfer knowledge on First Nations history, culture and traditions
- To promote First Nations cultural and linguistic identity
- To improve the sustainability of SICC
- To strengthen and enhance the capacity of SICC
- To improve and enhance the profile of SICC
- To attract and retain skilled and qualified First Nations employees
- To create a healthy work environment
- To transfer knowledge of our spiritual beliefs
- To support the Elders Council in preserving oral history, teachings, and spiritual knowledge

Early in SICC's history, the logo was developed by Elders depicting the green circle which represents Mother Earth. The images of the sacred pipe and braid of sweetgrass are acknowledged as gifts from the Creator. Each of the colors of the cardinal directions are represented as follows:

**Red - North - Buffalo**  
**Yellow - East - Sun**  
**Blue - South - Thunderbird**  
**White - West - Wind**



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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC) I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for 2023 – 2024 to the Chiefs-in-Assembly of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN). Over the past 52 years the SICC has provided essential language and cultural services to the First Nations of Saskatchewan. As seen in the attached departmental reports, the SICC continues to provide those essential services.

In the past year, the SICC held its first in-person First Nations Language Keepers

Gathering since 2019. A fundamental motivation for establishing this Gathering in 2006 was to take time to acknowledge and honour the many individuals who have served as Language Keepers for their communities. These individuals include teachers who have taught generations of youth in schools, traditional Elders who have upheld the use of our languages in our ceremonies, leadership who have worked to ensure that language remains central to our communities, and many others.

The Elders and leaders who worked to establish the SICC were motivated by the need to counter the effects of the residential school's era by establishing an institution dedicated to preserving our languages and cultures. Over the years, Saskatchewan First Nation communities have seen the passing of many tremendous and inspiring First Nations Language Keepers. But there are still many gifted and able First Nations Language Keepers working for our communities. We must continue to honour the Language Keepers who have passed and to uphold the Languages Keepers we have working for us today.

As First Nations communities we understand we must revitalize our languages. Our languages have been with us since time immemorial, and they will continue with us into the distant future. Our languages are essential expressions of our cultural sovereignty. Our worldviews, ceremonies, cultures, ways of living and identity can only be truly expressed in our languages. Maintaining and revitalizing our languages is the best way to a future that is healthy, provides meaningful economic development and will be the cornerstone of every vibrant First Nations community.

The Cultural Centre is committed to the vision that we will revitalize our First Nations languages. We believe without a doubt that we will once again hear all our languages spoken fluently throughout our communities and across all our traditional territories. The SICC along with First Nations leadership, dedicated language teachers and our Elders understand achieving that vision will require a commitment that spans many years. We will make that commitment.

Revitalizing our languages is a shared task of all our communities, schools, leadership,

Elders, parents and institutions. The SICC will continue to provide essential support to all our Language Keepers, Elders, parents, leadership, and community members who believe in the sacredness of our languages.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Elders, members of the Board, staff and the many dedicated individuals who work to support this institution that is so important to the First Nations of Saskatchewan. The work undertaken by this institution in the past year is a living embodiment of the vision of the Treaty signatories and maintain faith with our ancestors through the gifts of ceremony since time immemorial.

Respectfully submitted,



Chief Bobby Cameron  
On behalf of the SICC Board of Governors



# SICC BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Chief Bobby Cameron  
FSIN



Chief Raymon Harris  
ACTC



Chief John Waditaka  
PAGC



Councillor Tanya Littlechief  
SET4TC



Chief Francis Iron  
MLTC



Chief Felix Thomas  
STC



Senator Jenny Spyglass  
FSIN SENATE



Chief Lux Benson  
BATC



Chief Lee-Anne Kehler  
TATC



Chief Carolyn Wahobin  
FHQTC



Councillor Russell Kennedy  
BTC



Chief Jonathan Bear  
Independent Bands



Chief Clinton Key  
YTC



Vacant  
SFNWC

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

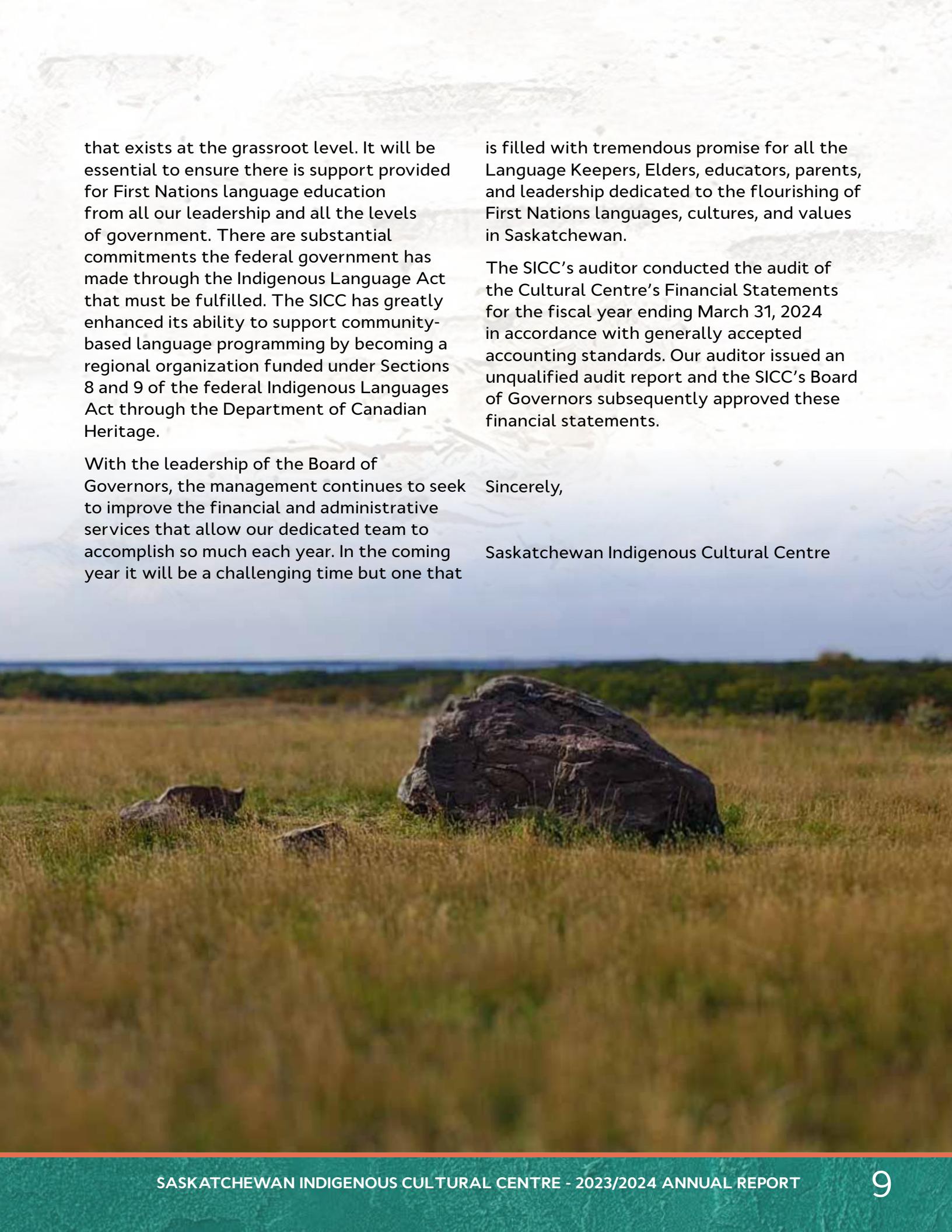
On behalf of the Board of Governors, management and staff of the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC), please find enclosed the departmental reports and audited financial statements to our First Nations leadership for fiscal year 2023 – 2024. Since 1972, the SICC has been mandated to provide support for Saskatchewan First Nations communities to retain their languages and uphold their cultures.

Over the decades, when the SICC Elders Council has met they invariably speak of the importance of our languages. The Elders across all our communities and all our language groups want to hear their descendants speak our languages which are a sacred gift from the Creator. First Nations in Saskatchewan face problems in housing, health care, and economic development. But maintaining and revitalizing our sacred languages must be appreciated as essential

to our well beings as individuals, families, communities and as collective, sovereign nations. We cannot be First Nations peoples without our languages.

The SICC has made revitalizing our First Nations languages its core purpose. There has been concern expressed by many that our languages are endangered. However, today there is a growing sense of renewed purpose in First Nations language education that is widely felt across our communities. That sense of renewed purpose is reflected in the enthusiasm seen in the participants attending the SICC's recent First Nations Language Keepers Gathering. As well, throughout many of our communities, parents have become committed to having their children provided meaningful, effective language education.

In the coming year it will be important to build upon the support for our languages



that exists at the grassroot level. It will be essential to ensure there is support provided for First Nations language education from all our leadership and all the levels of government. There are substantial commitments the federal government has made through the Indigenous Language Act that must be fulfilled. The SICC has greatly enhanced its ability to support community-based language programming by becoming a regional organization funded under Sections 8 and 9 of the federal Indigenous Languages Act through the Department of Canadian Heritage.

With the leadership of the Board of Governors, the management continues to seek to improve the financial and administrative services that allow our dedicated team to accomplish so much each year. In the coming year it will be a challenging time but one that

is filled with tremendous promise for all the Language Keepers, Elders, educators, parents, and leadership dedicated to the flourishing of First Nations languages, cultures, and values in Saskatchewan.

The SICC's auditor conducted the audit of the Cultural Centre's Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024 in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards. Our auditor issued an unqualified audit report and the SICC's Board of Governors subsequently approved these financial statements.

Sincerely,

Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre

# ELDERS COUNCIL

Since its founding the SICC has been guided by a traditional Elders Council. The membership of the SICC's Elders Council is comprised of representatives of the Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Saulteaux, Nakoda, Plains Cree, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree. A significant motivation of the Elders who played a role in the founding of the SICC was to create an institution to counter the negative aspects of the Residential Schools Era.

The SICC Elders Council is comprised of one representative of the eight Saskatchewan First Nations language groups: Plains Cree, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, with ceremonial male and female Elders. The Elders Council is comprised of a balance of male and female Elders who possess a wealth of cultural knowledge. These gatherings are marked by protocols and ceremonies for the seasons. The Council is reflective of the SICC's commitment to support and work with all the First Nations languages and culture of Saskatchewan.

SICC conducts seasonal gatherings of the Elders Council to ensure that the Elders who hold the knowledge and wisdom are able to provide advice and guidance to issues of significance in Saskatchewan and in the future. The CRM department is the point of access, and the council is accessible to the FSIN, its institutions, Tribal Councils and all First Nations.

The Elders Council met in May 2023. The SICC updated the Elders on staff changes and ongoing projects. They also made their decisions on the Birds of Prey Applications. Throughout the year the SICC consulted members of the Elders Council on issues such as repatriation. The SICC is planning an in-person Elders Gathering in May of 2024 to consider the Birds of Prey applications. As well, the Elders Council will be provided updates on SICC activities and will be consulted by the Heritage Conservation Branch of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport on various issues.



Abel Charles  
Woodland Cree Elder



Hartland Goodtrack  
Lakota Elder



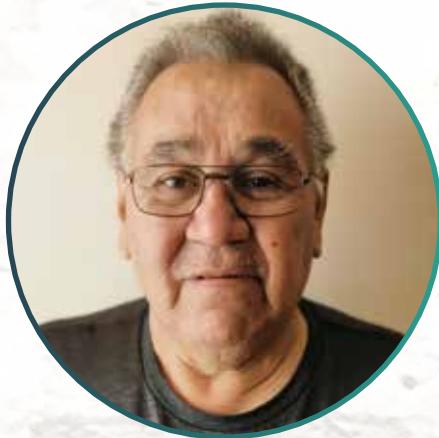
Margaret Reynolds  
Dene Elder



Melvina Eagle  
Dakota Elder



Ken Armstrong  
Nakota Elder



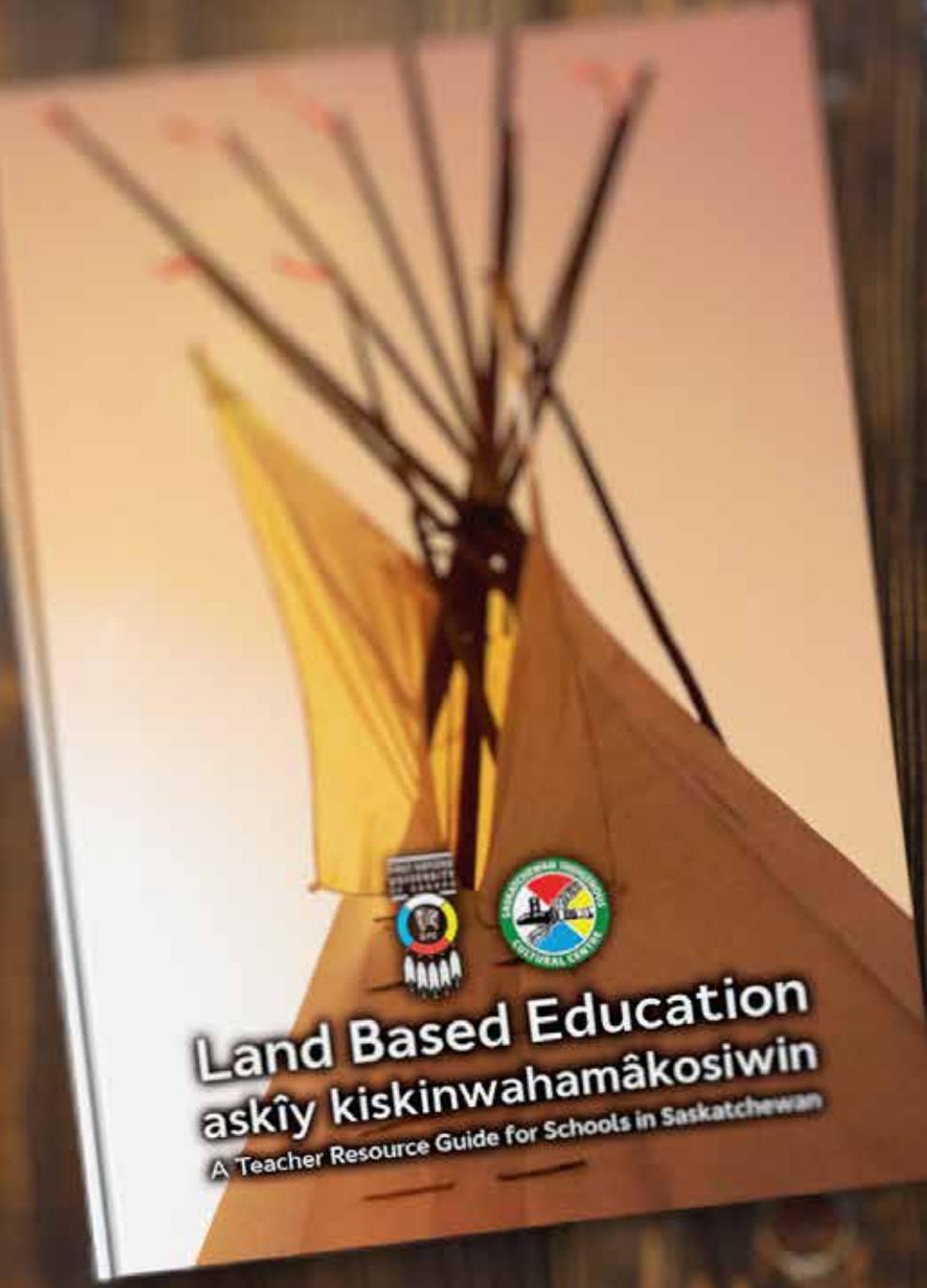
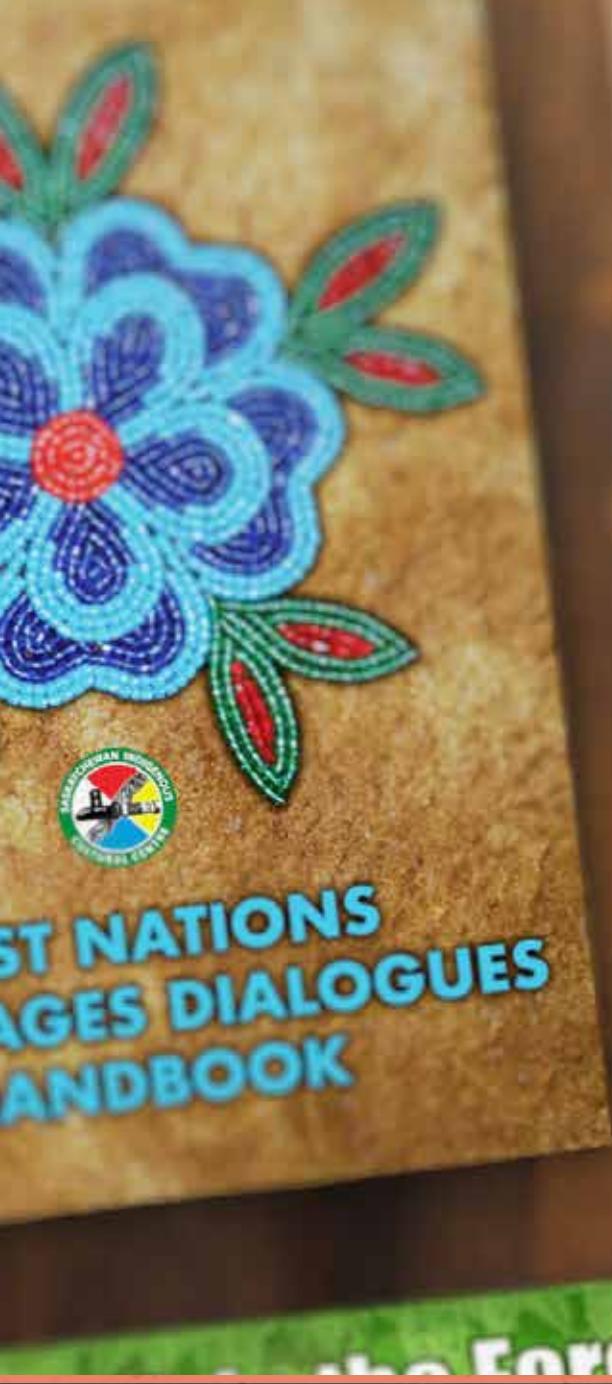
William Ratfoot  
Plains Cree Elder



Rita Nawakayas  
Swampy Cree Elder



Vacant  
Saulteaux Elder





# A MENTOR-APPRENTICE GUIDE

First Nations Language Revitalization

## LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



## OVERVIEW

The objective of the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC) Languages Department is to ensure the preservation, revitalization and retention of Saskatchewan First Nations languages and cultures for current and future generations of First Nations' peoples and other Canadians. The Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Saulteaux, Nakota, Plains Cree, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree languages are an intrinsic part of the heritage of Saskatchewan First Nations. The SICC Languages department is devoted to the continuation of all these eight First Nations languages.

## 2023 FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE KEEPERS GATHERING

The SICC First Nations Language Keepers Gathering was held January 17 and 18, 2024 at the Ramada Plaza in Regina and was attended by nearly 200 participants. This marked the first in-person Gathering since 2019, underscoring the value of live presentations from the passionate and uplifting speakers. The event provided participants with significant networking opportunities and presenters offering insightful strategies for language revitalization.

The SICC has been hosting the Gathering since 2006 and this was the eighteenth time the event has been held. Over the years the event became the leading national First Nations language conference. There was a strong and growing sentiment among the Elders, educators and Language Keepers that the Gathering needed to be brought back as a live, in-person event.

The SICC First Nations Language Keepers Gathering had a good balance of presentations on language revitalization. There were presenters and panelists from all our language groups in Saskatchewan. While there were different aspects of language revitalization covered, there was a strong focus on land-based education. In addition to the workshops there were panel discussions and keynote addresses that were very motivational and uplifting.



## PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and Chairperson of the Board of the SICC provided greetings. Chief Cameron spoke about the vision we all share to revitalize our Indigenous languages in all our First Nations communities. President Dr. Jessie Sylvestre provided welcoming remarks to the SICC First Nations Language Keepers Gathering guests.

On the opening day, Tanya McCallum delivered a compelling presentation on Woodland Cree Land-Based Education, sharing her experiences of growing up on the land with her grandparents and learning her language. She emphasized the significance of decolonizing Indigenous education and introduced a model that facilitates learning directly from the land.

Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth provided her workshop on Ēghéná Pedagogy with its deep connection to the land. The day concluded with a workshop provided by Ivan Lonechild and Madeline Kakakeway on their Plains Cree program.

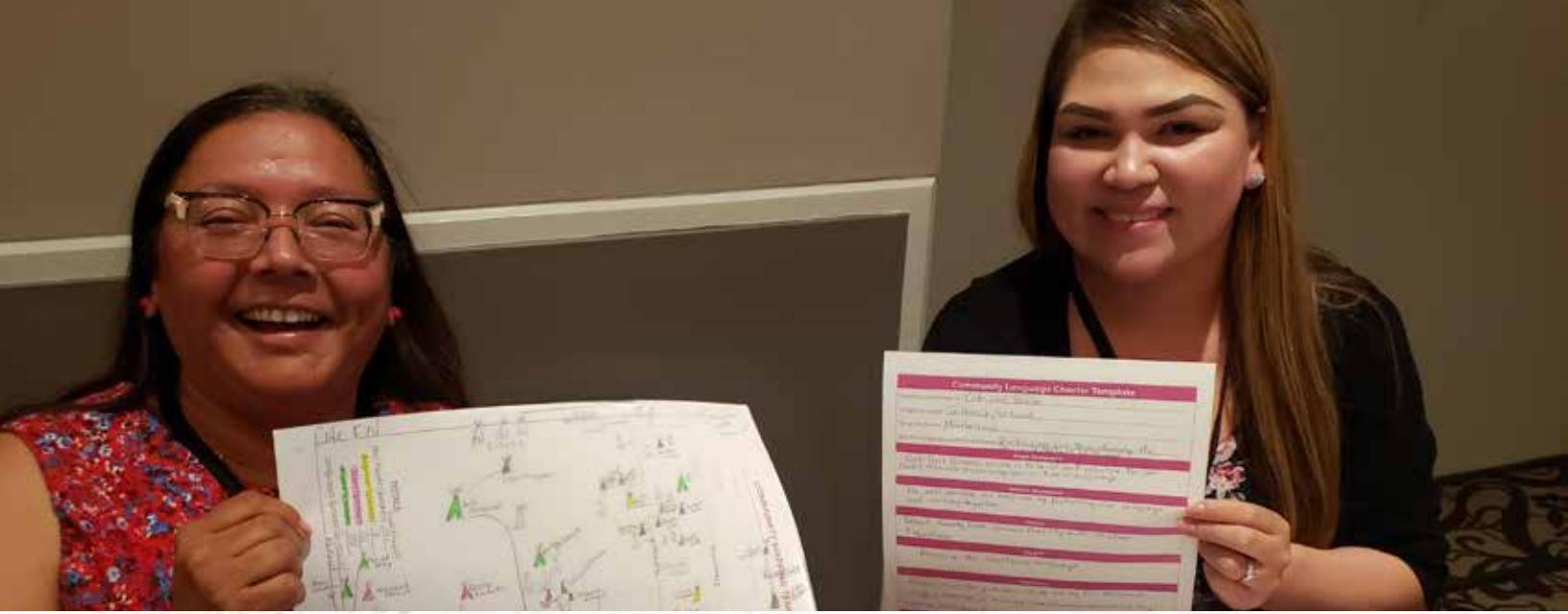
On the second day, Dr. Kevin Lewis provided an enlightening talk on his work in land-based education. He delved into the principles and foundations of his approach, emphasizing the importance of wesakecāk stories in the curriculum. Dr. Lewis shared a poignant story about the creation of butterflies and its connection to parenthood.

The Elders Panel was a highlight with Verna Cachene Saulteaux, Yellow Quill First Nation, Peter Bigstone Nakota, Ocean Man First Nation, Carol Estralshenen, Dene, English River First Nation, and Cy Standing, Dakota, Wahpeton Dakota Nation. They shared wonderful, inspirational and sometimes hilarious stories.

The Learners Panel members, Darian Âcikahtê, Plains Cree, Shay McArthur Nakota, Asia Daongam-Lemaigre, Dene and Natalie Langan (Saulteaux) shared their journeys about learning their languages. With support from teachers or relatives, they demonstrated that gaining language knowledge is feasible in today's world.

Professor Lyn Cote shared a very passionate perspective on her motivations for embracing her Saulteaux language. She spoke about her ancestors and explained various Saulteaux kinship terms. The day also featured a workshop by Carla Bison and JR McArthur on the Ocean Man First Nation Nakota program. They discussed establishing their Mentor-Apprentice Program and their efforts to engage the community.

The next First Nations Language Keepers Gathering will be on November 27 and 28, 2024 in Saskatoon.



## COMMUNITY LANGUAGE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The SICC has developed a Community Language Planning Guide that provides a basic process for a First Nations community to undertake community language revitalization. The SICC has delivered extensive regional and community-based workshops on community language revitalization. The SICC has developed a series of online video workshops that support the Community Language Planning Guide.

Potential participants include language teachers, Elders, concerned parents, language or cultural advocates, administrators, or leaders. A Community Language Plan or a similar planning document is required by the Department of Canadian Heritage for language funding through the Indigenous Language and Cultures Program. The approach of the SICC for a Community Language Plan meets the requirements of Canadian Heritage but can be developed by languages educators with minimal assistance.

The SICC began offering the Community Planning Workshops on May 16 and 17, 2023 in Regina at the Delta Hotel. The SICC approach is based on building a community-wide effort to revitalize First Nations languages. Successful language revitalization must flow from the collective vision of the entire community. We believe

in comprehensive and inclusive community engagement to ensure that our languages continue for many generations to come. There were over 40 attendees with participants from the Saskatchewan First Nation communities of Saulteaux First Nation, Moosomin First Nation, Sweet Grass First Nation, Onion Lake First Nation, Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation, Cote First Nation, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, Pelican Lake First Nation, Big River First Nation, Cumberland House Cree Nation, and First Nations University of Canada language instructors.

These workshops are available to all First Nations communities at no cost. All interested community members can attend for free, and planning materials and meals will be provided at no cost. We do request that all those planning to attend register in advance. The second workshop session was held in Saskatoon on June 6 and 7, 2024.

The SICC will be continuing providing Community Language Planning Workshops with a planned additional of ten workshops to be held across Saskatchewan into the next fiscal year. As well, the SICC will incorporate additional follow-up support for communities after the workshops.



## SICC LANGUAGE EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

The FSIN Early Learning and Childhood Circle invited the Languages Department to provide two presentations at the “Every Child Matters” – Early Learning & Childcare Summit at the Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre on May 9 – 11, 2023. For the first presentation there were 30 participants who attended a presentation on the FSIN Early Learning and Childcare curriculum and brief demonstrations on the language learning methods Total Physical Response, Accelerated Second Language Acquisition, and how to plan Land-Based programming throughout the year. The second presentation was based on Land-Based Education and how to incorporate it into their early learning programs.

On June 22 and 23, 2024 the Languages Department provided a two-day Accelerated Second Language Acquisition workshop to staff of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC). This workshop had been requested by the MLTC Cree consultant. The first day of the workshop was focused on flashcards, target vocabulary, and translations. The second day was focused on how to implement the Teaching Sacred Language Curriculum into the MLTC Cree classes.

On March 8, 2024, the Saskatoon Tribal Council invited the Languages Department to present on the SICC languages and land-based education resources to their staff. The Languages Department focused on how to implement SICC’s Teaching Sacred Language Curriculum and Land Based Education books.



# CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

# OBJECTIVES

Through the year the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Department provided a wide range of programs and services. The department has an extensive mandate as determined by the objectives of department, which are:

- To facilitate policy development and other initiatives to guard against expropriation and exploitation of Saskatchewan First Nation languages, traditions, ceremonial practices, cultural resources, traditional arts and history. This ensures that research, study and usage are done in an ethical and culturally appropriate manner;
- To advocate for the preservation of First Nations' Treaty, historic, sacred, traditional usage and other sites of a special nature and to facilitate policy development and other initiatives required for ensuring the preservation of sites of significance;
- To facilitate the repatriation of human remains, sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, historic documents and other Saskatchewan First Nations' cultural property maintained in government, non-government and private collections and to facilitate policy development and initiatives required to ensure repatriation and appropriate stewardship of items repatriated; and,
- To serve as a central repository for objects pertaining to the languages, traditions, ceremonial practices cultural resources, arts and history of Saskatchewan First Nations and to manage the Centre's collections.

## BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAM

In January 2023, the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC) issued a Call for Applications for the annual Birds of Prey Program. This program, now in its 30th year, facilitates the distribution of feathers and other items from birds of prey, such as eagles and hawks, exclusively for ceremonial and spiritual purposes within Saskatchewan First Nations. The SICC Elders Council reviews the applications and makes recommendations for distribution.

The program operates with support from the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment and has successfully fulfilled hundreds of sacred and ceremonial requests over the years. In 2023, the program returned to its standard operational procedures following primarily telephone-based consultations in the preceding couple of years due to pandemic restrictions.

The application deadline was set for April 30, 2023, with all Saskatchewan First Nations communities and institutions notified in January and promotions conducted on social media. The SICC followed up with applicants to complete any missing information. By mid-May 2024, the Elders Council had reviewed all submissions and made their approval recommendations, with notifications sent out immediately afterwards.

On June 1, 2023, the SICC hosted the Birds of Prey Program Feather Issuance Ceremony, distributing items from 29 birds of various species received from the Ministry of Environment. The successful applicants were required to collect their items in person at the ceremony and were responsible for their own travel expenses.



## REPATRIATION

The SICC has been involved in the repatriation of two sacred First Nations stones that were originally located near Drumheller, Alberta. As part of the next steps in this process a delegation from Saskatchewan and Alberta First Nations traveled in late May 2023 to the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa where these sacred stones are currently being held. As part of its mandate, the SICC supports the repatriation of historical objects, ancestral remains, funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony for the First Nations peoples of Saskatchewan.

SICC has facilitated two separate visits to view the stones at the Resource Centre of the Canadian Museum of History—first on June 7, 2022 and again on November 16, 2022, with Elders William Ratfoot, Betty Peepeekoot, and Sidney Ben, who also conducted a pipe ceremony on-site.

These stones have long historical connections to Saskatchewan First Nations peoples and were taken in 1883 and 1925 by the Canadian government. First Nations have been seeking the repatriation of these stones for decades. There were originally seven stones in Drumheller and all that is left are these two stones. The fate of the other five stones is unknown.

The bigger rock is known as Smiling Buffalo Rock. It is about 256 kgs in weight and measures 54 cm by 80 cm by 42 cm. It is made of iron, has a reddish colour to it, and much of the surface is dimpled like a golf ball. The Kekip Stone is the smaller stone, and weighs about 80 kgs and is 29 cm by 43 cm by 43 cm. It is made of quartz rock and appears to have petroglyphs on it.

Plains Cree peoples went to these stones to make offerings and the Blackfoot peoples in the area considered the stones to be sacred. The stones are part of the sacred collection of the museum and are not available to the public.



## BUFFALO CHILD STONE COMMEMORATIVE SITE

The SICC provided a presentation on March 7, 2024 for the Buffalo Child Stone Commemorative Site as part of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport 2024 webinar series, Historic Places – Living Places. There were 117 people in attendance and there was positive feedback from participants. The SICC completed the establishment of a commemorative site for the Buffalo Child Stone or mostos-awāsis in 2022.

This sacred stone was destroyed in 1966 to make way for the flooding of Lake Diefenbaker. The site is on an elevated outlook on the eastern edge of Douglas Provincial Park. From this site the original location of the stone can be seen in the valley below. In October of 2019, the SICC began moving pieces of the Buffalo Child Stone from Elbow and other locations to the site. Adjacent to the site the SICC established ceremonial grounds. This location was a center of spirituality and ceremony for the First Nations of Saskatchewan since time immemorial.

The SICC completed a set of six interpretive panels that were installed on September 16, 2021. The panels are arranged with the original location of the Buffalo Child Stone in view and provide a summary of the history of the site. An unveiling ceremony was held on May 13, 2022 for the site.



## ONLINE TRADITIONAL PARENTING WORKSHOPS

The SICC is continuing to provide Traditional Parenting workshops online. This was done in consultation with Elders, presenters, and knowledge holders. The SICC has recorded and is providing online sessions that feature many of the leading presenters on the topic of Traditional Parenting.

Beginning in 2023 the SICC has been offering weekly sessions with Jeff Wastesicott about the 10 stages of life and other knowledge. These sessions will continue into the summer. These sessions are available on request from the SICC website and has teachings that are relevant to people at different stages of life.

The SICC is also offering online sessions with Dr. Darlene Auger, author, Indigenous Health Practitioner and Knowledge Keeper. Her workshop is on the Four Cycles of Life and life transitions. These workshops were very successful through 2023 with very positive feedback from the participants and are planned to continue through 2024.





## LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

# OVERVIEW

The Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre's (SICC) Library department primary objective is to meet the educational and reference needs of First Nations in Saskatchewan through Library services. The SICC Library provides library services, reference and material loans to Saskatchewan First Nations and the general public. Currently, SICC Library holds 16,345 items both in the library and in storage. The goal of SICC Library is to strengthen the core value of the organization, which is language resources, and assessing the current collection and acquiring further Indigenous languages resources.

The SICC Library began operations in the fall of 1973. It houses a comprehensive collection on the Indigenous peoples of the Americas. The SICC Library serves as a central source of information for the First Nations of Canada. It also provides non-First Nations people with key information that promotes cross-cultural understanding and fosters awareness about the uniqueness of First Nations. All materials in the SICC Library's collections must have Indigenous content. As a result, the SICC Library provides reference services in Indigenous Knowledge to students, teachers and academics and First Nations community members.

## LIBRARY COLLECTION / SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The SICC Library is responsible for maintaining the First Nations Language Resource Centre which holds educational resources for the eight language groups in Saskatchewan. This collection houses nearly 500 items of curriculum including language texts, workbooks and children's books. This collection is primarily used by First Nations' language educators. A total of eight new language resources were acquired for the collection in total this year, including a Dene language resource kit and Plains Cree resources for language educators.

The SICC Library also houses the SICC Oral History Collection which is only accessible by special request. Since its inception the SICC has been collecting First Nations' Elders testimonies. Currently the SICC has some 3,000 of these testimonials in both audio and video formats. Many of the Elders who provided these testimonials have since passed on.

A First Nations Language Resource Guide has been completed utilizing Springshare LibGuides content management software and is ready for review. This guide serves as a reference source for language materials and resources for the eight languages spoken by First Nations in Saskatchewan, and highlights materials from the SICC Library, as well as links to external websites and resources.

The Library Department and Audio-Visual Department have collaborated on a digitization project to preserve approximately 1,000 cassette tapes. As audiocassette tapes are inventoried and digitized, Library staff input records of the audiocassette tapes into the Omeka database.

The inventory for the McLeod Family Collection of archives has been completed. This collection contains documents relating to the history of First Nations education, language education and curriculum materials, and history of the SICC.



## LIBRARY SERVICES FOR SASKATCHEWAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLES COMMITTEE

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The SICC Library is a member of the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples Committee (LSSAP). This committee was created for information sharing on issues relating to library services for Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan. The SICC plays an active role in the LSSAP Committee in the review of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Project. The SICC attended the LSSAP meeting on April 11, 2023, and coordinated with LSSAP in planning for the 2024 Storytelling Month Activities.

## 2024 INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING MONTH

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In February 2024, Indigenous Storytelling Month was held to honor First Nations cultural teachings, oral traditions, and traditional stories. To mark the occasion, the SICC Library organized virtual storytelling sessions. The sessions featured Carol Estralshenen, English River First Nations and Lyndon Linklater, Thunderchild First Nation.

The virtual storytelling sessions were promoted to schools across Saskatchewan, and teachers could register online to access the pre-recorded sessions at any time throughout February. The sessions were viewed by approximately 7,310 students, with 348 class/group registrations received.

A feedback survey is being sent to the registrants, and all the respondents who completed the survey indicated that the storytelling sessions provided a positive learning experience for their students. Moreover, all respondents expressed their interest in participating in another storytelling event in the future.







## AUDIO/VISUAL DEPARTMENT



## AUDIO/VISUAL DEPARTMENT

Since its inception, the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC) has been dedicated to documenting and recording the cultural, community, governance, and artistic endeavors of Saskatchewan's First Nations. Over the years, much of the oral history collections and educational materials have been produced by the skilled technical staff of SICC. Today, the Audio-Visual (AV) Department continues this important work, providing comprehensive audio, visual, and technical sound services to the seventy-four First Nations across the province.

A core responsibility of the AV Department is supporting the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and its member institutions by providing audio-visual services upon request. The department also plays an essential role in cultural celebrations, offering services at Powwows and other significant events throughout Saskatchewan. This often requires extensive travel, making the AV team familiar faces at gatherings such as Elders' meetings and cultural ceremonies.

Throughout the past year, the AV Department has actively collaborated with other SICC departments, contributing to a wide range of projects. Services included audio-visual recording, graphic design, photography, and sound production. Additionally, the department supports SICC's retail operations by reproducing audio materials, CDs, DVDs, and videos for internal and external distribution.

The AV Department also operates a full in-house print shop, equipped with a wide-format printer and a printing press. This facility enables the production of high-quality printed



materials, including banners, posters, educational materials, and promotional products. Whether for internal SICC projects, cultural events, or community outreach, the print shop ensures timely and professional results. The department's printing services are available to other institutions as well, offering customized solutions that support a variety of cultural and educational initiatives.

Over the past year, the AV Department played a vital role in several key SICC events. These included providing audio-visual support for the First Nations Language Keepers Gathering, Board of Governors meetings, and the SICC Storytelling events held in February 2024.

Beyond internal projects, the AV Department extended its expertise to significant events across Saskatchewan. This included providing services for the Treaty 4 Citizens, Elders, and Chiefs Forums, as well as offering comprehensive support at the Agency Chiefs Tribal Council Annual General Meeting (AGM).

One of the most notable events was the official renaming ceremony of John A. MacDonald Road to Miyo-wâhkôhtowin Road in Saskatoon. The AV Department was proud to facilitate this meaningful cultural shift by ensuring the ceremony was effectively captured and shared. Additionally, the department provided audio-visual services for the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs AGM, contributing to the success of another important community gathering.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2024



## Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre

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*For the year ended March 31, 2024*

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To the Members of Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre:

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (the "Centre"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Centre in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Centre or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Centre's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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## Independent Auditor's Report (Continued from previous page)

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As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Centre's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Centre to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

July 17, 2024

**MNP LLP**

Chartered Professional Accountants



**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As at March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	4,933,739	381,615
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	448,533	410,877
Prepaid expenses and deposits	17,185	14,055
Inventory	2,200	2,200
Goods and Services Tax receivable	7,404	8,311
	5,409,061	817,058
<b>Tangible capital assets (Note 4)</b>	615,833	569,392
	6,024,894	1,386,450
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals	61,985	81,409
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	4,842,226	277,956
Current portion of capital lease obligations (Note 6)	34,769	32,763
	4,938,980	392,128
<b>Capital lease obligations (Note 6)</b>	40,087	74,856
	4,979,067	466,984
<b>Commitment (Note 7)</b>		
<b>Contingency (Note 8)</b>		
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Equity in tangible capital assets - internally restricted (Note 13)	540,977	461,773
Unrestricted	504,850	457,693
	1,045,827	919,466
	6,024,894	1,386,450

Approved on behalf of the Board

Jalex Thomas  
Governor

  
Governor

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**  
**Statement of Operations**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2024*

	2024	2023
<b>Revenues</b>		
First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education	1,675,827	1,675,827
Canadian Heritage	257,457	121,233
Sales	104,413	72,337
Interest	70,598	13,916
Language Keeper Conference	31,250	-
Other	15,025	420,707
Grants	9,154	267,994
	<b>2,163,724</b>	<b>2,572,014</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and benefits	855,206	1,151,662
Contracts	313,757	139,036
Office	212,934	238,982
Rent	177,078	176,700
Sustenance	114,996	248,071
Workshops and meetings	78,129	139,736
Travel	75,264	119,200
Communication	71,721	119,333
Amortization	49,533	59,935
Professional fees	34,319	55,908
Insurance	25,821	25,631
Telephone	21,829	23,500
Bank charges and interest	15,546	16,230
Repairs and maintenance	3,789	3,875
Training and education	140	1,509
Bad debts	-	610
	<b>2,050,062</b>	<b>2,519,918</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses before other items</b>	<b>113,662</b>	<b>52,096</b>
<b>Other items</b>		
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	12,699	-
Litigation settlement (Note 14)	-	(250,000)
	<b>12,699</b>	<b>(250,000)</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>126,361</b>	<b>(197,904)</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements*



**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2024*

	<i>Equity in tangible capital assets - internally restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	461,773	457,693	919,466	1,117,370
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b>	(36,834)	163,195	126,361	(197,904)
<b>Invested in tangible capital assets (net)</b>	116,038	(116,038)	-	-
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	540,977	504,850	1,045,827	919,466

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*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements*



**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2024*

	2024	2023
<b>Cash provided by (used for) the following activities</b>		
<b>Operating</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	126,361	(197,904)
Amortization	49,533	59,935
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	(12,699)	-
	163,195	(137,969)
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	(37,656)	(121,217)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(3,130)	809
Goods and Services Tax receivable	907	(4,355)
Accounts payable and accruals	(19,424)	(115,865)
Deferred contributions	4,564,270	(32,539)
	4,668,162	(411,136)
<b>Financing</b>		
Repayment of capital lease obligations	(32,763)	(34,630)
<b>Investing</b>		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(96,426)	(9,543)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	13,151	-
	(83,275)	(9,543)
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash resources</b>	4,552,124	(455,309)
<b>Cash resources, beginning of year</b>	381,615	836,924
<b>Cash resources, end of year</b>	<b>4,933,739</b>	<b>381,615</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements*



## Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2024

### 1. Incorporation and nature of the organization

Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (the "Centre") was incorporated December 2, 1974 under the Non-Profit Corporations Act of Saskatchewan. Its purpose is to strengthen and support education and cultural awareness of Indigenous people. Operations are based in Saskatchewan.

### 2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations using the following significant accounting policies:

#### *Financial instruments*

The Centre recognizes financial instruments when the Centre becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

#### **Arm's length financial instruments**

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Centre may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Centre has not made such an election during the year.

The Centre subsequently measures all arm's length financial instruments at amortized cost. Transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those arm's length financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

#### **Related party financial instruments**

The Centre has no related party financial instruments required to be recognized at fair value.

All related party financial instruments are measured at cost on initial recognition. When the financial instrument has repayment terms, cost is determined using the undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest, dividend, variable and contingent payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, but the consideration transferred has repayment terms, cost is determined based on the repayment terms of the consideration transferred. When the financial instrument and the consideration transferred both do not have repayment terms, the cost is equal to the carrying or exchange amount of the consideration transferred or received.

The Centre subsequently measures all related party financial instruments using the cost method. Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of related party financial instruments are immediately recognized in excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses.

#### **Financial asset impairment**

The Centre assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Centre groups assets for impairment testing when available information is not sufficient to permit identification of each individually impaired financial asset in the group; there are numerous assets affected by the same factors; or no asset is individually significant. Management considers whether the issuer is having significant financial difficulty when determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. When there is an indication of impairment, the Centre determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year. If so, the Centre reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets. Any impairment which is not considered temporary is included in current year excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses.

The Centre reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.



## Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2024

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (Continued from previous page)

##### ***Tangible capital assets***

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization.

Amortization is provided using the declining balance method at rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives. No amortization is taken in the year of acquisition.

Automotive	30 %
Computer equipment	30 %
Furniture and fixtures	15 %
Leasehold improvements	15 %
Library material	10 %
Equipment under capital lease	15 %

Paintings and artwork are not amortized.

##### ***Leases***

A lease that transfers substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership is classified as a capital lease. At the inception of a capital lease, an asset and a payment obligation are recorded at an amount equal to the lesser of the present value of the minimum lease payments and the property's fair market value. Assets under capital leases are amortized on a declining balance basis, over their estimated useful lives. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and rental payments are expensed as incurred.

An arrangement contains a lease where the arrangement conveys a right to use the underlying tangible asset, and whereby its fulfillment is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset. After the inception of the arrangement, a reassessment of whether the arrangement contains a lease is made only in the event that:

- there is a change in contractual terms;
- a renewal option is exercised or an extension is agreed upon by the parties to the arrangement;
- there is a change in the determination of whether the fulfillment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset; or
- there is a substantial physical change to the specified tangible asset.

##### ***Long-lived assets***

Long-lived assets consist of tangible capital assets with finite useful lives. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

The Centre writes down long-lived assets held for use when conditions indicate that the asset no longer contributes to the Centre's ability to provide goods and services. Assets are also written-down when the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset is less than its net carrying amount. When the Centre determines that a long-lived asset is impaired, its carrying amount is written down to the asset's fair value.

##### ***Revenue recognition***

The Centre follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions, and funds received in advance for Canadian Heritage - Section 8 & 9, the Canadian Heritage - Indigenous Language Component (ILC), the Canadian Heritage - Aboriginal Language Initiative (ALI), the Library & Archives Canada - Listen, Hear our Voices (LHOV), the Canadian Heritage - Community Language Planning (CLP), and Canadian Heritage - Language Keepers (FNLKG), are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Other revenue is earned from services provided by the Centre and is recognized when the services have been provided, and collection is reasonably assured.

Sales are recognized when the sale is made and the customer takes possession of the merchandise.



## Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre Notes to the Financial Statements *For the year ended March 31, 2024*

### 2. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

#### *Use of estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of tangible capital assets. Deferred contributions are based on estimates of eligible costs incurred for each restricted source of funding.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses in the periods in which they become known.

### 3. Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable is comprised of the following:

	2024	2023
First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres	335,166	167,583
Other receivables	80,711	161,692
Canadian Heritage	62,258	10,000
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN)	21,375	122,579
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(50,977)	(50,977)
	<hr/> 448,533	410,877

### 4. Tangible capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	2024	2023
Automotive	47,398	-	47,398	452	
Computer equipment	400,770	313,291	87,479	54,928	
Furniture and fixtures	445,145	376,740	68,405	80,477	
Leasehold improvements	53,055	46,064	6,991	8,225	
Library material	266,044	263,021	3,023	3,359	
Paintings and artwork	292,528	-	292,528	292,528	
	<hr/> 1,504,940	999,116	505,824	439,969	
Equipment under capital lease	179,132	69,123	110,009	129,423	
	<hr/> 1,684,072	1,068,239	615,833	569,392	



**Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2024*

**5. Deferred contributions**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Canadian Heritage - Section 8 & 9	3,597,242	-
Canadian Heritage - Indigenous Language Component (ILC)	1,045,167	-
Canadian Heritage - Aboriginal Language Initiative (ALI)	119,571	119,571
Library & Archives Canada - Listen, Hear our Voices (LHOV)	80,246	-
Canadian Heritage - Community Language Planning (CLP)	-	95,000
Canadian Heritage - Language Keepers (FNLKG)	-	63,385
	<b>4,842,226</b>	<b>277,956</b>

**6. Capital lease obligations**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Konica Minolta capital lease payable in monthly installments of \$3,192 including interest at an imputed rate of 5.99% per annum, due April 2027, secured by equipment with a net book value of \$110,009 (2023 - \$129,423)	74,856	107,609
SaskTel capital lease payable repaid in the current year	-	10
	<b>74,856</b>	<b>107,619</b>
Less: Current portion	<b>34,769</b>	<b>32,763</b>
	<b>40,087</b>	<b>74,856</b>

Future minimum lease payments related to the obligations under capital lease are as follows:

2025	38,309
2026	38,309
2027	3,193
	<b>79,811</b>
Less: imputed interest	<b>(4,955)</b>
	<b>74,856</b>
Less: current portion	<b>(34,769)</b>
	<b>40,087</b>

**7. Commitment**

The Centre has a lease agreement for office space that expires November 2026, with estimated minimum payments as follows:

2025	176,700
2026	176,700
2027	117,800



## Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre Notes to the Financial Statements *For the year ended March 31, 2024*

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### **8. Contingency**

These financial statements are subject to review by the Centre's funding agencies. It is possible that adjustments could be made to revenues earned based on the results of their reviews.

### **9. Economic dependence**

The Centre is economically dependent on federal government funding provided through First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres and other funders. The Centre's continued receipt of this funding is dependent upon compliance with the requirements of its funding agreements. Management believes they are in compliance with all such requirements at March 31, 2024.

### **10. Financial instruments**

The Centre, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Centre is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

#### ***Credit concentration***

Accounts receivable from First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres represents 75% (2023 - 41%), Canadian Heritage represents 14% (2023 - 2%), and FSIN represents 5% (2023 - 30%) of total accounts receivable at March 31, 2024. The Centre believes there is minimal risk associated with the collection of these receivables as they are from governments and government agencies and/or represent holdbacks for funding agreements that will be released when required reporting is submitted.

#### ***Liquidity risk***

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Centre will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Centre enters into transactions to purchase goods and services on credit; borrow funds from financial institutions or other creditors; lease office equipment from various creditors, etc., for which repayment is required at various maturity dates. The Centre manages the liquidity risk resulting from its accounts payable and accruals and capital lease obligations by maintaining liquid assets.

### **11. Income taxes**

The Centre must meet certain requirements within the Income Tax Act to be exempt from income taxes. In the opinion of management these requirements have been met.

### **12. Other information**

The Centre has an agreement with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) to provide in-kind services such as audio, video and printing services as well as advisory services to FSIN.

### **13. Restrictions on net assets**

The Board of Governors has internally restricted net assets invested in tangible capital assets. These internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without approval of the Board of Governors.

### **14. Litigation settlement**

During the prior year the Centre made the decision to settle an ongoing lawsuit, which required a payment to the plaintiff by the Centre. As a result the plaintiff discontinued its lawsuit against the Centre.



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