

SUMMER, 2014



PRAIRIE VOICE

Executive Director's Report

This past year has been full of changes, adjustments, and of taking stock of where we are as an organization.

It also has had its share of tension and surprises, but overall it marked a positive transition point in many of our key relationships and role within the disability community.

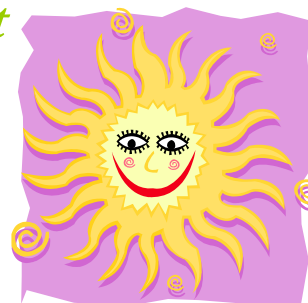
Each new year brings additional challenges and, without a doubt, our hands-on approach allowed us to quickly direct our limited resources where they were most needed. The success we achieve stems from our fundamental dedication, responsiveness and our flexibility in continuously adapting to changing needs of our clientele and our ability to obtain resources to meet the demand on our services on a timely basis.

With the reduction of funding, we do not have a lot of travel funds so we can't meet obligations provin-

cially, as we have in the past. Our profile has suffered because of this. The website will help a lot, but without the face-to-face meetings, and the loss of profile there is a real concern that this organization will not survive.

With recent funding cuts across the country to consumer/peer organizations, it leads me to wonder if there will be any future funding for consumer-driven, grass roots organizations. We have implemented a fundraising committee who will along with staff can seek other opportunities for funding: i.e.: corporations, community, and private to continue our efforts for sustainability.

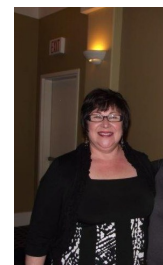
SVOPD has done a stellar job and has accomplished much over the past 40 years. Strong leadership, a commitment to improving systems and dedicated staff – are what is needed as we move forward in implementing the new strategies to ensure consumers'



voices continue to be heard.

The momentum and our positive relationship with government provide significant opportunities. Given SVOPDs track record, I am very confident that we will succeed.

Respectfully submitted
by:
Marg Friesen



A Message from the Provincial Chairperson

As the seasons change so does the direction of SaskVoice. At this time I would like to thank Ron Bort for his dedication and hard work that he has given and will continue to give to the Voice in his new capacity as Past Chairperson. I would also like to thank Sandy Preston, Diane Dolan and Ron Newman for their contributions they have made to the Voice over the years and wish them well in their future endeavours. We welcome Jamie Ellis and Brenda Edel to the Board table and look forward to working together to create a vibrant team.

As the new Chair of SaskVoice I have definitely embraced a great learning opportunity and challenge. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors, staff, our membership and all levels of government to ensure that SaskVoice remains strong and viable. We will continue to represent the individuals and their needs while fulfilling our mandate to the best of our ability.

As this summer is proving to be a very trying one in most of the province, due to the increased flooding, this reflects the difficulties of mobility and accessibility for all provincial residents, so too can we relate to this type of scenario at SaskVoice. As our direction changes to remain sustainable, we must become aware of the growing needs of our organization, we must beware of our goals and objectives to ensure the Voice stays strong and viable. As a Board we will need to examine our needs and wants and how we are going to peruse them within our community. An increased awareness of the Voice is needed. As the Board we will need to ensure that SaskVoice is in the forefront when it comes to organizations making a difference in lives

of people with disabilities.

We have a lot of work to do. In today's growing Saskatchewan economy today is the day we must look at building strong partnerships with all involved to ensure our longevity. I look forward to the work that needs to be done and I look forward in moving in a positive direction.

I am wishing you all a safe and happy summer, I look forward to September when the Board meets and starts putting the wheels motion to a stronger voice for all individuals with disabilities in Saskatchewan both urban and rural – creating a community within a community.

Respectfully,

Sherry Karpa
Chairperson



Saskatchewan Voice of People with Disabilities would like to thank the following sponsors:

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Sponsors...without you, we could not do what we do...

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- **Southland Mall**
- **STC The Bus Company**
- **Temple Gardens Mineral Spa**





By Kolin Harrison

I have had the experience to work with a really awesome individual. I'd like to share with you his story in hopes that it will give you hope in your endeavors. He has been through a lot in life, as have we all. Short inspirational stories can inspire us, and I hope that this short inspirational story of my good friend will help inspire you as well. He taught me many lessons, and I feel like he can teach you many lessons as well. Life isn't easy, but we can succeed.

John has a love for something many of us also love: sports. He loves watching games, he loves going to games, he loves participating in games, and he loves anything and everything about sports. Since sports are John's passion in life, he wanted to work in an area where the theme of sports is prevalent and acknowledged.

While living in California John did a lot of volunteer work at two High Schools. He volunteered for 10 years doing what he loves. John was the Equipment Manager of the football, baseball, and basketball teams. He was so involved and loved it. John was helping other people by doing what he loved

When John moved to Utah with his mother he got involved in the Vocational Rehabilitation program. John went through all the steps in order to receive an Employment Specialist. He was lucky enough to get referred to work with the program at RISE. John was beyond excited to start looking for work in the area he was most passionate about. He and his Specialist were hoping to find him a similar position at one of the local colleges in the area, but they had no luck being that those positions are voluntary positions. They continued to explore options and didn't give up on achieving a great job in John's desired area.

There were hard times and times when John and his Specialist thought they had hit a final roadblock. However, John remained positive and kept his Specialist on his toes. They decided they would look for jobs at a place that had a lot of sports related things. One of the places they decided to investigate was the local Rec-

reation Center. The Recreation Center they started looking into is full of sports related things and it is a place John would go every week to swim with his RAW group. He loved the Recreation Center. The two rock walls, two slides, exercise equipment, racquet ball courts, swimming pools, table tennis tables, pool tables, track, and the plethora of basketball courts aided in his acquired love for the Recreation Center.

With this in mind they set out together searching for jobs at the Recreation Center. It wasn't long until they found a Night Porter position offered at the Recreation Center. John and the Specialist wasted no time in applying for the position. Before either could blink an eye John was contacted for an interview and was extremely nervous. He had only done one interview in his life only a couple of weeks before this one and he was very

concerned about his ability to perform well. He and his Specialist reviewed interviewing again in preparation for his important interview. John was nervous, but nailed every question. Not only was he well qualified for the job, but also he was able to very effectively relate his past work experience in a positive way that landed him the job. He did everything they had talked about and it paid off.

John works 3 nights a week for a grand total of 17-18 hours a week. John loves his job. Yes, sometimes he has to clean up nasty messes, but he does it with a smile and with an eagerness that his co-workers have noticed and love. Not only has John learned a lot from work, his mother has noticed that he has learned a lot about life since starting to work with his Specialist at RISE and at the Recreation Center. John is more confident in everything he does and now knows he can, and will, be successful.

This proved itself 10 fold when John was announced as employee of the month! He was awarded the honor for his second month of employment. His manager told his Specialist that at least 3 guests had emailed in and specifically said that John was doing a really great job and was working really hard.

Source:

<http://kolinharrison.hubpages.com/>



Bullying & Adults with Disabilities

by Deanna Ng & Eva Beaudoin

(From MLPD, May, 2014)

There is no age limit to bullying and the scars from any incident can last a lifetime. Adults with disabilities may often experience this form of violence. People with disabilities may engage in these behaviours.

Eva Beaudoin explained, "You have to deal with your disability and deal with it on a daily basis." It was bad enough as a child.

As an adult Eva faced coworkers who questioned what she did or criticized it in a way that was belittling. This was very subtle but aggressive. Especially irritating was when people used certain speech or tone of voice that was degrading.

She explained further that even though some people don't intend to be mean, it comes out that way. There is the stigma that we constantly face. "Often people on the street and on the bus don't know what to do when there is someone who is different than themselves and does things in a different way. It scares people," said Eva.

A common location where bullying occurs is Winnipeg Transit. Eva requires the front seat due to her disability. However, baby carriages also need that space. Sometimes young mothers will demand passengers with disabilities get up. This is a difficult situation for people with invisible disabilities or limited mobility. There is no priority on Transit but a first come first served basis.

Other locations for bullying are in the workplace or online. According to Laura Petrecca in "Bullying in workplace is common, hard to fix" in *USA Today* from December 28 2010, one in three adults without disabilities have been bullied on the job. The most common forms of bullying are the subtle and hard to notice acts such as purposely leaving a worker out of

communications so they can't do their job well, mocking someone during meetings and gossiping about the worker.

In a report by Ross Marowits – "Half of workplace bullying complaints in Quebec are justified" found in the *Canadian Press*, from Jun 11, 2006, Quebec became the first province to outlaw workplace bullying, but critics feared it would limit employers' ability to discipline workers. A provincial report from the second year since the law was passed found half the complaints were justified and many were complicated.

The Quebec law, modelled after those in Sweden, France and Belgium, allows the labour board to order fines and getting employees' jobs back in non-union workplaces. Workers in unionized workplaces must go through their union.

Cyber bullying can occur in and outside the workplace. A study by Sameer Hinduja and Justin Patchin, called "Overview of Cyberbullying" (www.cyberbullying.us) found 5-40 percent of participants had been victims of cyberbullying by being ignored, disrespected, called names, threatened, picked on, or

made fun of or having had rumors spread by others using various forms of technology such as social media or text messaging. The amount and type of abuse depended on the age group, and individual situations.

This study found often a person who chooses to bully is from an abusive or broken home. They do not have the support they need and often bullying is an outlet to gain control and feel superior. Many people who bully are also victims themselves. They don't always see the consequences or reaction from the person they hurt.

For more info on Manitoba's anti-bullying legislation, Bill 18, that was passed on September 13, 2013, please visit:

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/40-2/b018e.php>

There is no age limit to bullying and the scars can last a lifetime!

2014-15 Plan Statement from the Minister



I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' Plan for 2014-15 and beyond. The plan identifies the key actions we will undertake to support our Plan for Growth and vision for the future of our province. The Government's Direction and Budget for 2014-15 are built on the principle of Steady Growth to support a continued focus on sound economic growth and shared prosperity.

**"Make
Saskatchewan
the best place in
Canada for
people with**

The Ministry of Social Services works with a diverse range of partners to build safe and vibrant community resources that can effectively respond to the province's steady growth, promote inclusion and enhance the quality of life for our province's most vulnerable residents.

In the coming year, we will continue the renewal of the child welfare system with our First Nations and Métis partners, including a focus on enhancing our prevention supports so more children can remain with their families. Our work on the province's Disability Strategy also continues; with the support of our partner ministries and the valued advice of our Citizen Consultation Team, we will focus on making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada for people with disabilities. We also continue to work closely with our partners in the housing sector to implement the Housing Strategy for Saskatchewan and increase the supply and affordability of homes in the province.

The plan includes many more initiatives which will contribute to improving the quality of life for Saskatchewan citizens and allow those who are most in need to benefit from the prosperity of our growing province. The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2014-15 Annual Report.

*The Honourable June Draude
Minister of Social Services*

***Note: This message was circulated in April, 2014.**

Since then, June Draude has graciously retired from position of
Minister of Social Services.

We welcome Donna Harpauer as the new Minister of Social Services.

In The Death Resistance

(from the MLPD, May 2014)

I am not ashamed, have learned not to be, of my body, being different in shape and function: large head and stomach, crooked fingers, thin arms and legs.

I am not embarrassed to ask for help:

to cut the meat on my plate, put on my clothes, wash my body, lift me in and out of bed, on and off the toilet, wipe my bum - all things I know I can no longer do.

Is that the blood smell of death being stirred up by your offers of "dignity" and fear-proof, pain-free endings?

I will not go away, and will not die to reassure you. Not to humor your illusions of how we are, or should be, nor to satisfy your advertising images, or your cold Convenience. I will not die for your fantasies.

You fearful, desperately unwilling learners, I will teach you the complex immensity of our so common true humanity.

I am not afraid to invite my lovers to spoon or climb to ride on top of me, naturally, dancing to crescendo in our potent, most lovely actuality.

by Jim Derksen

A message from our Partner: The Ministry of the Economy

*To assist people
with disabilities*

For Information: contact
Merv Culham, CA
Phone: 306 352 4994
Email: mrc@sasktel.net



Small Business Loan Association (SBLA) program has assisted thousands of small businesses through their funding services, by making funding available through community-run organizations, the program encourages diversification of the Saskatchewan economy and supports community economic development.

GOVERNMENT INVESTING IN SUPPORTS FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

The province is continuing its unprecedented support for people with disabilities with enhancements to programs and services.

The 2014-15 Budget includes \$446.2 million in funding for people with disabilities, an increase of \$84.3 million over last year and more than double the funding provided in 2007-08.

“The commitment we made in the last election campaign was to become the best place in Canada for people with disabilities to live,” Social Services Minister June Draude said. “With our continued investment in services and supports for people with disabilities and our development of a comprehensive disability strategy for the future, we are steadily working toward realizing that goal.”

Highlights of the 2014-15 Budget include:

- \$9.9 million in funding for the Ministry of the Economy’s Employability Assistance for People with Disabilities program to assist adults with disabilities to prepare for, secure and maintain employment;
- In the Ministry of Health, \$7.6 million for Autism interventions, \$4.2 million for intensive Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) prevention programming and community supports, and \$43 million for Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living to maintain benefits for people with long-term disabilities or illnesses;
- In Finance, \$15.8 million for the Disability Tax Credit and Disability Supplement and \$1.2 million for the Caregiver/Infirm Dependent Tax Credit; and
- 3.5 million in capital and operating funding through Government Relations’ Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities.

Through the Ministry of Social Services, an investment of \$5.1 million in 2014-15 will increase benefits

under the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program for the third year in a row, by \$20 a month for those in residential care, \$50 a month for individuals and \$55 a month for couples. The SAID program, designed in collaboration with the disability community, is a landmark income support program for Saskatchewan people with disabilities. The increase will take effect in June 2014 and will benefit more than 12,000 households.

Social Services’ 2014-15 Budget will also see an increase of \$20.4 million, or 14 per cent, for community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide residential spaces and programs for people with intellectual disabilities. Social Services supports 4,300 people with intellectual disabilities in communities around the province.

The 2014-15 investment will help to support the transition of residents from Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw to new homes in communities around the province. It will also contribute to the further development of assessment, stabilization and crisis supports – a key recommendation of the Valley View Centre Transition Steering Committee.

Additional support will be provided to CBOs, building on the province’s \$17.34 million investment announced in December 2012 to help CBOs address recruitment and retention challenges.

To further the work already being done to improve quality of life for people with disabilities, the province is developing a comprehensive disability strategy, led by a 15-member Citizen Consultation Team. Meetings with the public, disability community, government, CBOs, municipalities, school divisions and health authorities will begin in the spring of 2014. “The steady economic growth we have enjoyed has enabled our government to balance the budget, control spending and invest in infrastructure, and I am proud of our record,” Draude said. “Most of all, I am very proud of our government’s investment in people and in improving the quality of life for the most vulnerable members of our society.”

CRTC announces that Canadians who are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired will have access to a new telecommunications service

April 22, 2014 – Ottawa – Gatineau – Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)



The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) today announced that video relay service will be made available in Canada for users of American Sign Language (ASL). When it launches, the service will facilitate conversations between people who are Deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired and other Canadians, and vice versa.

Video relay service is a telecommunications service that will enable Canadians to conduct telephone calls using ASL or LSQ. An operator facilitates the conversation between the two parties by relaying the conversation between sign language and spoken language.

Although video relay service will be offered at no charge, users will need their own high-speed Internet service and an Internet-connected device, such as a computer, smartphone, tablet or video-phone. Additional services, such as voice mail and call display, will be billed at rates similar to those charged for corresponding voice services.

To ensure the perspectives of users are reflected in the decision-making process, an independent administrator will be created to oversee the implementation and provision of video relay service. The CRTC has established minimum requirements for the provision of this service to ensure that the needs of Canadian citizens are met. The administrator will have to ensure that these requirements are met.

The CRTC will conduct a review of

video relay service three years after it has launched to assess whether it is meeting the needs of Canadians in an efficient manner.

Today's decision follows a consultation that included a public hearing, which was held from October 21 to 25, 2013. To ensure the full participation of Canadians who are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, the CRTC interpreted the Notice of Consultation into ASL and LSQ, and accepted comments in sign language.

5 Things to remind yourself daily.

1. I am amazing.
2. I can do anything.
3. Positivity is a choice.
4. I celebrate my individuality.
5. I am prepared to succeed.

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Who We Are

The SVOPD is an organization of people with disabilities that works on concerns affecting the lives of people with various disabilities in Saskatchewan.

SVOPD strives for improvement in areas such as accessibility, education, employment, housing, transportation, income security, and support services.

SVOPD supports Saskatchewan residents with disabilities with social policy research and consultation, public education programs, information and referral services.

Contact us at:

Phone: 306-569-3111

Toll Free: 1-877-569-311

Email: voice@saskvoice.com

A life of poverty is an uphill battle.

Now, imagine that same struggle under the weight of a disability, surviving on \$26 dollars a day.

This is the reality for many people with disabilities in the province.

DISC

Saskatchewan Disability Income Support Coalition

The Disability Income Support Coalition

is working with the government to build a program that brings dignity back to a life lived with disability, but they're not there yet. The province is moving forward, but they need your help to succeed.

Please help by contacting your MLA.

For more details, visit www.saskdisc.ca.



Photo courtesy of www.dreamstime.com