

# My Access

ISSUE #91 SPRING 2024 / ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE NEWSLETTER



## 2024 Annual General Meeting

Access Communications Co-operative announced another strong financial performance for the fiscal 2023 year at the Annual General Meeting of members. Your co-operative invested \$26.3 million in capital spending and another \$2.4 million in your community programming channel, AccessNow TV. As a not-for-profit, community-owned co-operative, Access reinvests 100 percent of its earnings back into the communities and rural areas it serves to improve the quality of life.

“Access is proud to be a 100 percent community-owned, not-for-profit co-operative,” said Karen Smith, 2024 Chair of the Board of Directors for Access. “What makes us truly unique is Access reinvests its profits back into the products, services, and the communities we are honoured to support. Last year is a testament to that and our strategic direction going forward. We are committed to connecting this province. I want to thank my colleagues on the board for their time and dedication this past year.”

## 2023 Annual Report

View the digital version of the 2023 Annual Report here:

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



### WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Community Rink



## OUR MISSION & VALUES

### OUR MISSION

We are a community owned co-operative dedicated to providing exceptional communications and entertainment services and unique opportunities for local expression.

### OUR VALUES

#### Integrity

We live by our belief in honesty, respect, and trust in everything we do.

#### Employee-Centered

We enable everyone's involvement, growth and contribution in a challenging, safe and fun environment.

#### Customer-Focused

We deliver extraordinary value reliably, dependably and consistently.

#### Community-Oriented

We are an integral part of the communities we serve, contributing to their energy and progress.

#### Innovative

We create and embrace change that enhances customer service, the community and our organization.

#### Member-Driven

We are guided by committed and supportive members.

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Smith (Chair), Regina  
Lorna Knudson (Vice Chair), Regina  
Leslie Ciz (Secretary), Regina  
Regan Beck, North Battleford  
Steve Compton, Regina  
Ryan Janke, Weyburn  
James Lainton (Past Chair), Estevan  
Kama Leier, Regina  
Gina McGinn, Regina  
Kyle Mitchell, Regina  
Juanita Pelogi, Yorkton  
Collin Pullar, Regina  
Thomas Sierzycki, La Ronge  
Jocelyn Underwood, Regina  
CEO – Carmela Haines

## CONTACT MEMBER RELATIONS

2250 Park Street, Regina, SK S4N 7K7  
[member.relations@myaccess.coop](mailto:member.relations@myaccess.coop)

306-565-5308 in Regina or  
Toll Free 1.866.211.6334 ext. 5308

Toll-Free 24/7 Customer Service  
1.866.363.2225

For more, visit [myaccess.ca](http://myaccess.ca) or



# Introducing Board Members

Our co-operative's Board of Directors announced that Karen Smith has been re-elected as Chair of the Board for 2024. Karen has recently retired as the CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Saskatchewan. Karen is currently a director for the Regina Community Clinic, a director for the Saskatchewan Home Warranty Program, and co-chair for the Saskatchewan ICD Advisory Board.

Leslie Ciz and Ryan Janke were also re-elected to our Board of Directors. Joining them were two newly elected directors:



Jocelyn Underwood



Kyle Mitchell

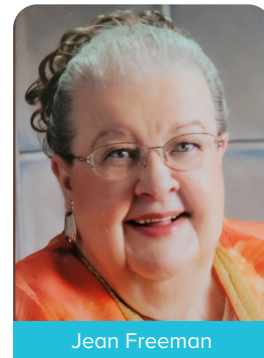
- Jocelyn Underwood is Senior Manager at MNP LLP and resides in Regina.
- Kyle Mitchell is AVP, Sales Distribution at CUMIS and resides in Regina.

# In Memoriam

Access Communications was deeply saddened by the passing of Jean Freeman, one of our organization's earliest members and Co-Manager of Community Programming.

Jean's impactful contributions include organizing the first community channel event, featuring the 1978 Royal visit to Regina by Queen Elizabeth II and The Duke of Edinburgh. Additionally, she played a key role in broadcasting the Rotary Carol Festival (now Knights of Columbus Carol Festival) live from Knox Metropolitan United Church, establishing a cherished Christmas tradition on our community channel for four decades.

Jean's versatile talents as a writer, performer, teacher, and mentor touched many lives. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jean's family and friends; she will be sincerely missed.



Jean Freeman

# Member Spotlight Profile

*Every issue, MyAccess will profile one of our organizational members and how they make a difference in Saskatchewan.*

Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) is a leader in First Nations communications in Saskatchewan, broadcasting in over 70 communities and providing ten hours of Cree language and ten hours of Dene language programming per week. MBC also proudly supports Access Communications as a host for member meetings for the La Ronge district. Learn more at [mbcradio.com](http://mbcradio.com)



# Scholarship Applications

We're now accepting applications for the Access Communications Doug Alexander Scholarship Program. Access will award up to 20 scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating students in Saskatchewan who plan to attend post-secondary school at either a technical college or university. Recipients are selected based on their record of volunteerism in community activities, participation in extracurricular school activities, and examples of leadership.

The Access Communications Doug Alexander Scholarship Program was established in 2005 and has awarded more than \$420,000 to scholars who demonstrate a passion for community involvement and exemplify academic excellence. In 2020, our program was renamed in honour of the late Doug Alexander, Community Relations Manager for Access, recognizing his lifelong commitment to the community.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, March 28. Application forms are available online at [myaccess.ca/scholarships](https://myaccess.ca/scholarships)



## In the Community: Weyburn



Pass the popcorn! At our AGM, CEO Carmela Haines announced a major sponsorship: Access Communication is going to be the Showtime Sponsor for the Weyburn Theatre Community Service Co-operative. The new theatre is slated to open in the summer of 2025, and will be a state-of-the-art facility in a nostalgic location featuring two auditoriums with plush seating, concession and new movie releases. A core value of Access is co-operation among co-operatives, and we're excited to support this project.

Learn more at [myaccess.ca/news](https://myaccess.ca/news)

## Children's Fund Corner

The Access Communications Children's Fund celebrated its largest single donation ever in style, presenting the SCEP Centre with a donation of \$75,000 on-ice at the Regina Pats Family Day game. The SCEP Centre is a specialized therapeutic preschool program for children between the ages of two and five with severe communication and behavioural challenges. Many of the children referred to SCEP have been expelled or are unable to function in other early learning environments. And this donation will help them to continue to serve some of the most vulnerable little citizens in our community. Learn more at [scepcentre.com](https://scepcentre.com)

This donation is just another way the Access Communications Children's Fund supports children at risk, in need, or most vulnerable in Saskatchewan. Learn more at [myaccess.ca/childrensfund](https://myaccess.ca/childrensfund)



# Community Events



We teamed up with the Battlefords North Stars to host **Skating with the Stars**, a public skate at the Access Communications Centre on Family Day (February 19). The Access team was on hand to give out complimentary burgers, water, and toques. North Star's players were also there to skate with young fans, sign autographs and give out some tickets. It was a wonderful turnout, and we're grateful to you, North Battleford, for making it a special day! Learn more: [myaccess.ca/skating-with-the-stars](https://myaccess.ca/skating-with-the-stars)

Cannonball! On February 25, we partnered with the City of Yorkton to host the **Access Pool Party**, a free swim day at the Access Communications Water Park. Guests were treated to complimentary admission as well as some burgers and swag – just what's needed after a couple hours of splashing around. The Yorkton Terriers were also on hand for photos and autographs with guests. Thanks for coming out, Yorkton! Learn more: [myaccess.ca/poolparty](https://myaccess.ca/poolparty)



Our members were the first to know about these events - another benefit of being an Access member. Did you know that Access customers are not automatically Access members? If you know someone who loves their Access service, ask them if they've considered becoming a member. The application takes five minutes to complete, and can be found here: [myaccess.ca/members](https://myaccess.ca/members)

# Community Rink

It has been an unpredictable season for weather, but our Community Rink is going strong. Our rink is located outside our Park Street office in Regina and offers free skate helmet and skate walker rentals, on Saturdays and Sundays. It's just another way Access gives back to the communities we serve. To learn more, visit [myaccess.ca/communityrink](https://myaccess.ca/communityrink)



# Top 100 Employers

Making Saskatchewan a better place to live also means we strive to create an engaging workplace and opportunities for rewarding careers in the province. Access Communications is proud to be recognized once again as one of Saskatchewan's Top 100 Employers. Mediacorp Canada's annual competition recognized our co-operative for the 13th time. Learn more at [canadastop100.com/sk](https://canadastop100.com/sk). To see the career opportunities available at Access Communications, visit [myaccess.ca/careers](https://myaccess.ca/careers)

