



# Prairie proud.

**100% Saskatchewan, through and through.**

**OUR 2021 COMMUNITY REPORT**



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# Proudly not-for-profit, community-owned & award-winning.



## Our **Mission**

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

## Our **Vision**

Delivering unrivalled communications and entertainment services.

## 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.

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

**Member-Driven** We are guided by committed and supportive members.

**“We put our hearts into bettering the community, and we’re proud to call this province our home.”**

## Message from our Board Chair.

### We celebrate pride in the prairies every day.

Access Communications Co-operative believes in the promise of Saskatchewan. As a not-for-profit service co-operative, our mandate is to invest 100% of our proceeds back into our province – specifically the 235 communities and 170,000 square kilometres of rural areas we serve. It’s a commitment we champion proudly.

We’re also 100% community-owned. That’s what makes an Access Communications community extra special – we prioritize improving telecommunication services, supporting local community groups, and showcasing the stories of the province through community programming.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to the staff, volunteers and members of our co-operative for their ongoing support. You inspire us with your community-first mindset.**

Our co-operative model relies on a growing and engaged member base. Thank you for doing your part, and we encourage you to reach out to others to join our co-operative as members.

We hope you enjoy the 2021 Community Report. It highlights many of the wonderful things our Co-operative delivers to the community.

We strive to make the province a better place to live, whether it’s by bringing Saskatchewan to you (wherever you are) on AccessNow TV, or volunteering our time and raising money for causes close to our hearts, or changing lives through our registered charity, the Access Communications Children’s Fund.

We believe in Saskatchewan. We put our hearts into bettering the community, and we’re proud to call this province our home. Home is, after all, where the heart is.



**Doreen Polischuk**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Access Communications



**Bringing Saskatchewan to you**  
**(wherever you are).**

Community programming was one of the reasons Access Communications was founded. Our Co-operative recognizes the important of local expression, and our community channels showcase the stories of Saskatchewan.

In 2020, we unveiled our new look and name: AccessNow TV. No longer just a community channel, AccessNow TV is a platform for community stories, whether on TV, online or anywhere in Canada with our mobile device app.

During COVID-19, our team of community producers, volunteers and staff worked together to deliver unique and creative solutions amid gathering restrictions. AccessNow TV became the home for many virtual award ceremonies, including the Saskatchewan Country Music Awards, the Saskatchewan Arts Awards, the Yorkton Film Festival, and WEYBEX Awards. And we helped other co-operatives as well, sharing our virtual expertise to support AGMs for Sherwood Co-op and the Regina Community Clinic.

AccessNow TV had more eyes on it than ever before as the exclusive broadcaster for the Western Hockey League Regina Pats and their young rookie phenom, Conor Bedard. Despite a shortened season, fans around the world were drawn to the games to see this exciting young player.

**\$2.5**  
**million invested in 2020**

**2,200**  
**local first-run hours**

**100**  
**AccessNow TV communities**



**\$2.5**  
**million**  
**invested**  
**in 2020.**





“AccessNow TV lets us **showcase** what makes the **2SLGBTQ+** community great.”

**Brett Littlemore**  
Community Producer, *Prairie Pride*

## Diversity is what makes us strong.

Access**Now TV** is a stage for community storytellers from all walks of life. Representation matters, and our community programming platform is open to a diverse variety of voices. This past year saw the launch of many shows, with two examples offering unique perspectives into underrepresented communities.

*Another View* is a new talk show that features a unique perspective – the show is anchored by four proud immigrant women. Amarachi Ejike, Tanwa Adanlawo, Oge Anu, and Folake Shobamowo are the community producers and hosts for the show, which sets out to share the struggles of Canadian newcomers. The hosts immigrated from Nigeria, but their stories resonate with all immigrants, including topics like the struggles of fitting into a new community, raising children and interracial relationships.

Community Producer Brett Littlemore hosts *Prairie Pride*, a show with a focus on our province’s 2SLGBTQ+ community. The show is a fabulous guide to all things queer in the Queen City and throughout Saskatchewan, and was nominated for a 2021 Golden Sheaf Award for Best Community Television Production at the Yorkton Film Festival.

AccessNow TV is also home to two shows focused on Indigenous stories, culture, and history: *The Four* and *RezX*.

# Proudly supporting organizations that help those in need.

With COVID-19, many of our longstanding fundraising initiatives were postponed in the past year, including the annual Salvation Army Christmas Dinner. Never ones to be satisfied, our staff came together with a new project: a toy drive, open to staff and customers, in support of the Salvation Army and the need for gifts during the pandemic.

Another event: a charity raffle for a decommissioned company vehicle for our staff. Our “May The Ford Be With You” raffle was for an old Access Ford Ranger. The result? Over \$11,000 was raised in support of the Food Banks of Saskatchewan.

Our staff team gave generously for our United Way fundraising campaign. Despite the economic impact of the pandemic, Access employees more than tripled their donation to United Ways across Saskatchewan, raising nearly \$6,500 in donations. It’s just another way our staff does its part to make a difference.

Our volunteers also make a difference, contributing over 3,400 hours towards worthy causes like the Regina Humane Society, the Weyburn Communithon, the Estevan United Way Telethon, the Regina Food Bank Million Meal Food Drive, our Pumpkin Patrol safety program and the Access Communications Children’s Fund.

Our volunteers also make our weekly TV Bingo program possible. TV Bingo is the primary fundraising initiative for our registered charity, the Access Communications Children’s Fund. Our charity supports programs helping children at risk or in need in Saskatchewan.

Despite fewer community events and initiatives this past year, Access Communications proudly supported over 1,100 community groups and individuals. Our support includes sponsorship, in-kind services, and our community programming platform.

## Just some of our support last year:

- May The Ford Be With You (in support of Food Banks of Saskatchewan)
- Mosaic Million Meal Food Drive (in support of the Regina Food Bank)
- United Way Fundraising Campaign
- Pumpkin Patrol
- Regina Humane Society Telethon
- Regina Rotary Carol Festival
- Salvation Army Toy Drive (Regina)
- St. Joseph’s Hospital Radiothon (Estevan)
- United Way of Estevan Telethon
- Weyburn and Area Communithon

# Over 3,400 hours contributed to worthy causes.





**“I’m proud we’re making this facility more accessible for everyone.”**

**Martin Smith**  
Regional Manager,  
Northwest District

## Making a difference together.

As a community-owned co-operative, Access Communications has a special connection with our communities. When we see a need in the community that we’re equipped to address, we lend a hand.

Our Co-operative is partnering with the City of North Battleford to deliver free public Wi-Fi services at eight municipal buildings. This includes sports facilities, community centres and a performing arts venue. In addition to these services, Access also stepped up to become the title sponsor for the Civic Centre in North Battleford, now called the Access Communications Centre. The arena is home to the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League team, the North Stars and others. This five-year agreement will help improve accessibility in the facility for individuals with limited mobility.

This year, Access also sponsored the Adam Herold Legacy Foundation, a hockey skills and leadership youth camp hosted in communities across the province. The Foundation is named in honour of Adam Herold, whose life was taken in the Humboldt Broncos bus crash in 2018. Access is proud to support the Foundation’s work, helping develop today’s youth in Saskatchewan into tomorrow’s leaders. Access has helped raise awareness for the Foundation, bringing messaging to WHL audiences on AccessNow TV.



Access Communications also announced a multi-year sponsorship agreement of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program. Access is the title sponsor for Co-op Camp’s Intermediate Level (ages 14-16). The seminar has been renamed in honour of Doug Alexander, our late Community Relations Manager. The camp seminars were postponed due to COVID-19, and will formally launch in full next year.

One community initiative that surged in popularity during COVID-19 was our Community Rink, located in the Access Communications Community Park near our Park Street location in Regina.



Our Community Rink is a learn-to-skate leisure rink for all ages and features free equipment rentals. The rink was embraced by the community and operated safely with additional COVID-19 protocols in place. And it’s all possible thanks to the contributions of our sponsors, staff, and volunteers.

**Over 600 visits**  
to our learn-to skate  
leisure rink in three months.

# Igniting the best and brightest of the prairies.



The Access Communications Doug Alexander Scholarship Program awards \$1,000 to 20 high school graduates from across the province. Since 2005, we have awarded more than \$380,000 to scholars who demonstrate a passion for volunteerism and a dedication to academic excellence. Our program is named after the late Doug Alexander, our Community Relations Manager, in recognition of his commitment to community involvement.

Access Communications also awards scholarships at Saskatchewan Polytechnic – two \$1,500 scholarships for the Computer Networking Technician and Telecommunications Network Technician certificate programs.

## Recipients

- Kimberlee Dirkson
- Dean Shalanski

And Access provides University of Regina students with scholarship opportunities through the Access Communications / Fred Wagman Scholarship Program, including two \$1,000 Entrance Scholarships and one \$2,000 Film & Video scholarship. The program is named after Fred Wagman, the first CEO of Access Communications.

## Recipients

- Dev Panchal
- Jana Rutten
- Matthew Degenhardt

Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients!



Jay Boll Fillmore  
Kyla Cerdon Rosetown  
Tyan Cherepuschak Pilot Butte  
Cara Engbers Regina



Reegan Frey Oxbow  
Lexie Gulka Hudson Bay  
Chantel Hoag Gravelbourg  
Eryn Kielo Delisle



Chloe Kissick Kerrobert  
Ashlyn Kormos Melville  
Christine Kwon Ituna  
Lita Lindal Wynyard



Janaya MacKenzie Martensville  
Soumyadipta Nandy Regina  
Keely O'Neill Weyburn  
Mohammed Guraishi Regina



Abigail Sadowski Regina  
Marusia Shevchuk Battleford  
Kavya Sudarasanam Yorkton  
Eden Wells Regina

# "I was able to afford to study at home and stay healthy with your support!"

**Kimberlee Dirkson**

Sask Polytechnic Scholarship Recipient



Learn more about our Scholarship program:



**“It’s more than  
a job - we make  
a difference for  
customers and  
our community.”**

**Twyla McNaughton**  
Access Employee



## **One of the best places to work in the province.**

While we’re proud of our record of support for the community, we’re equally honoured to be recognized as one of Saskatchewan Top Employers for a tenth consecutive year. Our staff enjoy flexible work hours and locations, and have an opportunity to contribute to our community initiatives and the growth of our co-operative. Access cares about the safety of our 300 employees, and provided support to minimize disruption during the pandemic. And our staff responded as they always do – by delivering the essential services our communities need while creating a positive, engaging and safe work environment.

Amidst a pandemic, Access Communications demonstrated continued resilience, hiring new staff and finding opportunities for training and education. Our employees agreed — a staff survey showed we maintained a high level of employee engagement with development opportunities, creative virtual solutions for staying connected, and consistent growth and hiring.

Ensuring a safe working environment is very important for all staff, whether in the office and out in the field. Access Communications was recently awarded with a Certificate of Recognition (COR) for its safety culture and protocols. COR certification is a testament to the safety standards, reviews, processes, and mindset in place to make sure everyone arrives home safely.

**Over  
\$20 million**  
in annual payroll

**Over  
\$400,000**  
in annual training

# A greener approach to business.

Access Communications is committed to preserving the beauty of our province for future generations. It's a responsibility we take pride in, with dedicated resourcing and initiatives to reduce our operational impact on the environment.

Access Communications has a Green Team – a group of staff members passionate about sustainability – who review existing programs and assess new ideas for lessening our environmental impact.

Access Communications has also improved efficiency with low energy light fixtures, office campaigns to reduce power and paper usage, paperless statements for customers, and a vehicle fleet that prioritizes fuel efficiency.

## Access has many successful programs:

- **Paper and Equipment Recycling Programs** – our offices have drop off bins for paper and other recyclable materials.
- **Call2Recycle Program** – our retail stores act as drop-off locations for battery and cell phone recycling.
- **TerraCycle Pen Recycling** – a program focused on providing a second life for used writing instruments. Pens are collected from staff throughout our offices and dropped off for recycling.
- **Sweep It Program** – recycling computers, TVs, or anything with a plug at our local SARCAN.



# 46,000 lbs of batteries recycled.

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1,500 lbs  
of plastic recycled

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35.78  
metric tons  
of equipment recycled

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200 lbs  
of pens recycled

“We’re **unlocking** the **potential** of **young people** thanks to **your support.**”

**Dominika Krzeminska**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Regina and Area



## Bright smiles and brighter futures for children.



The Access Communications Children's Fund is our registered charity, and we do our part to help at risk or in need youth in our communities.

### Our Children's Fund supports organizations whose programs help children in three key areas:

- Education and literacy, focusing on improving educational performance.
- Health and wellness, focusing on the mental and physical wellbeing of children in need and children with diverse abilities.
- Social inclusion, focusing on creating a greater sense of belonging, acceptance and recognition for diversity and culture for children and youth.

We've been busy. Despite fewer applications received due to program cancellations during the pandemic, we donated over \$153,000 in 2020 to nonprofit organizations and charities across Saskatchewan, bringing our total donation amount since inception to over \$2.3 million.

We know that with the province re-opening, our charity will have an even more incredible opportunity to make a difference. If you know a nonprofit organization or charity with a program focused on children at risk or in need, please encourage them to apply for funding by visiting [myaccess.ca/childrens-fund](http://myaccess.ca/childrens-fund).

I'm grateful for the tireless efforts of our Board of Directors. Thank you for everything you do. I would also like to thank our new Allocations Committee for their work assessing applications. The Children's Fund conducts its operations openly and transparently, and I encourage you to review the financial statements for Fiscal 2020 included in this report.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I thank all those who support the Access Communications Children's Fund and make our popular TV Bingo program a success, including our volunteers, staff, and of course all the TV Bingo players out there. You are making a lasting change in in our community. We couldn't be prouder.



**Tom Boyko**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Access Communications  
Children's Fund



## Meet the Children's Fund 2021 Board of Directors.

**From left to right:** Tom Boyko, Steve Compton, Beth Drozda, Don Henderson, Wendy Hoffart, Ainsley Scott and Ryan Youck



## 2021 Children's Fund Allocations Committee Members:

Steve Compton, Chair (Regina)  
Tom Boyko (Regina)  
Bruce Yockey (North Battleford)

Brent Allin (Weyburn)  
Deborah Charles (La Ronge)

Joni Andrychuk (Regina)  
Wayne Hellquist (Regina)

## In 2020, our Children's Fund charity supported:

Arthritis Society  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Humboldt Inc  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Regina & Area  
Carmichael Outreach Inc. (Regina)  
City of North Battleford  
Creative Kids Saskatchewan  
First Steps Wellness Centre (Regina)  
Heritage Community Assoc. (Regina)  
Hope Air  
Regina Food for Learning  
St. Luke Alternative School (Regina)  
Whitesand Regional Park  
Women of the Dawn Counselling Centre (Regina)

**\$153,000**  
donated in 2020

**Over \$2.3M**  
donated since 1992

## Summary Financial Statements.

To the Board of Directors of  
Access Communications Children's Fund Inc.

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the summary statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Access Communications Children's Fund Inc. (the "Children's Fund") for the year ended December 31, 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with the criteria disclosed in Note 1 to the summary financial statements.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Children's Fund's audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

### The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

In our report dated March 25, 2021:

- We expressed a modified audit opinion on the audited financial statements because we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the completeness of revenue from fundraising activities.
- We included in the Basis of Qualified Opinion paragraph reference to the report of predecessor auditor for the information presented for the year ended December 31, 2019.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the criteria disclosed in Note 1 to the summary financial statements.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

### Comparative information

The summary financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019, were reported on by another auditor who expressed a modified opinion on those summary financial statements dated June 1, 2020.

*Deloitte LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants  
April 8, 2021  
Regina, Saskatchewan

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND INC.  
Summary Statement of Financial Position  
As at December 31, 2020

	General	Bingo	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 103,188	\$ 687,793	\$ 790,981	\$ 203,181
Accounts receivable	100,035	152,211	252,246	125,918
Prepaid expenses	-	-	-	3,699
Inventory	-	20,831	20,831	17,263
	\$ 203,223	\$ 860,835	\$ 1,064,058	\$ 350,061
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 50,000	\$ 141,281	\$ 191,281	\$ 49,577
Net Assets	153,223	719,554	872,777	300,484
	\$ 203,223	\$ 860,835	\$ 1,064,058	\$ 350,061

See accompanying note to the financial statements.

Approved by the Board:  Director  Director

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND INC.  
Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets  
Year ended December 31, 2020

	General	Bingo	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>Revenues</b>				
Net bingo fundraising	\$ -	\$ 614,930	\$ 614,930	\$ 199,462
Charitable gaming grants	100,000	-	100,000	48,926
Fundraising	1,003	-	1,003	7,245
Donations	9,892	-	9,892	9,055
	110,895	614,930	725,825	264,688
<b>Expenses</b>				
Donations	60,000	93,000	153,000	205,000
Administrative	310	-	130	13,772
Travel	222	-	222	-
Advertising	-	-	-	4,713
	60,532	93,000	153,532	223,485
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	50,363	521,930	572,293	41,203
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	102,860	197,624	300,484	259,281
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 153,223	\$ 719,554	\$ 872,777	\$ 300,484

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND INC.  
Note to Summary Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2020

1. Basis of Accounting

These summarized financial statements of Access Communications Children's Fund Inc. are derived from the complete financial statements as at and for the year ended December 31, 2020, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit entities, of Access Communications Children's Fund Inc.

The preparation of these summarized financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in them so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

The complete financial statements of Access Communications Children's Fund are available upon request.

Access Communications Children's Fund  
306.565.6642 Toll-Free 866.211.6334 ext. 6642  
childrens.fund@myaccess.coop  
2250 Park Street Regina, SK S4N 7K7



## Help guide your co-operative.

### New members welcome.

Our not-for-profit, community-owned co-operative reinvests 100% of its earnings into the communities and rural areas we serve. For the cost of \$1 per year (\$5 per year for community organizations) you can apply for an Access Communications membership and help guide our co-operative. Our members have the opportunity to provide valuable input to our co-operative.



**Apply online today!**



**INTERNET | TV | PHONE | SECURITY**

**[myaccess.ca](http://myaccess.ca) | 1-866-363-2225**

Regina (Head Office) • 2250 Park Street • S4N 7K7 • 1-306-569-3510

Estevan • 1126 6th Street

La Ronge • 712 Finlayson Street

North Battleford • 1192 99th Street

Saskatoon • 826 57th Street E

Weyburn • 120 10th Avenue SE

Yorkton • 22 Sixth Avenue N