

My Access

ISSUE #92 SUMMER 2024 / ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE NEWSLETTER



Town Councillor Kyle McLeod (left) and Mayor Maureen Weiteman (second from right) visited the BBQ Tour in Outlook.

Summer BBQ Tour is Back

With summer finally upon us, Access Communications has wasted no time kicking off this year's BBQ Tour, which will visit 50 communities through June, July, and August. Communities love our BBQ Tour, and it's one of the ways Access says thank you to the people and places of Saskatchewan that support our co-operative. Guests are welcome to enjoy complimentary burgers, hot dogs, and water, and they can enter to win an Amazon Fire Stick in our weekly raffles.

Our team is visiting communities missed in 2023 for this year's BBQ Tour. Access serves over 200 communities in Saskatchewan, and we want to spread the love. "Our BBQs bring the whole community out, and we love meeting and visiting with the customers and community members that support Access all year long," said Tracey Mucha, Senior Manager of Community Engagement.

Bring your family, friends and neighbours to the BBQ Tour from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can find the schedule at myaccess.ca/bbqtour and check for updates on locations in your community.

2023 Annual Report

Scan the QR Code to view the Access Communications 2023 Annual Report, or visit myaccess.ca.



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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

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For more, visit myaccess.ca or



Day at the Legislature

Access Communications visited the Legislative Building on April 22. President and CEO Carmela Haines, Board Chair Karen Smith, Board Directors Collin Pullar, Gina McGinn, Leslie Ciz, Lorna Knudson, and Steve Compton, and Access management were visiting as advocates for the co-operative, focusing on building partnerships in the public sector.

The day was a success, and many elected representatives agreed that we share a common goal of connecting Saskatchewan with urban-like internet speeds and services.

Our Board Directors are community leaders and advocates for Access Communications. They bring expertise in many areas including human resources, risk management, community investment and, yes, government relations.

If you want to join our Board of Directors, please email member.relations@myaccess.coop.



Member Spotlight Profile



Every issue, MyAccess will profile one of our member organizations and how they make a difference in Saskatchewan.

This issue's spotlight is a unique opportunity to highlight a recent announcement. Long-time Member Organization Radius Communications announced that their membership voted overwhelmingly in favour of transferring ownership of 91.3FM CJTR Regina Community Radio to Access Communications Co-operative. The vote was held on April 16, 2024, during a special meeting.

Faced with financial hardship, Radius was looking for an alternative operating model to ensure that the radio station can continue to give voice to the community through diverse and unique programming created and delivered by volunteers.

CJTR is a community radio station that has served Regina and the area since 2001. The station is almost entirely volunteer-run, with two staff and 80 programmers creating 60 shows and 5,000 hours of original programming.

"For the first time in a long time, we can finally begin to focus on the future, growing our impact and solidifying our place in the community under Access' ownership," said Neil Adams, CJTR Station Manager.

Celebrating our Volunteers

National Volunteer Week was April 14-20, and Access Communications once again celebrated the volunteers with five appreciation events in Estevan, North Battleford, Regina, Weyburn, and Yorkton.

“At Access Communications, we pride ourselves on our commitment to the communities we serve. This commitment is not just a part of what we do – it’s the heart of who we are. And it’s our volunteers who bring this commitment to life, making this co-operative truly extraordinary.” Karen Smith, Chair of the Access Board of Directors.”

Access created a touching video to commemorate the event, featuring our leadership team and staff, who thanked volunteers. To see the video, visit our YouTube channel ([@myaccessca](#)) or myaccess.ca/in-the-community/events/volunteer-week.



In the Community: Yorkton



The Yorkton Film Festival 2024 Golden Sheaf Awards took place on Saturday, May 25, and drew filmmakers from all parts of the country. Access Communications was the presenting sponsor for the Community Television Production Award. The winner was “Behind the Menu: Mabel Hill,” and board director Juanita Polegi (left) presented to the winner, Wally Start from Bamboo Shoots.

Nominees included our very own AccessNow Sports team for their Regina Pats Hockey broadcasts. Learn more at yorktonfilm.com.

Children’s Fund Corner

Having students represented by someone from their cultures provides an incredibly safe and inclusive space. The Access Communications Children’s Fund provided the Regina Multicultural Council with a donation of \$40,000 for their “Embracing Differences” program, which connects cultural ambassadors with kids in Grades 5-8 and their teachers and classrooms. Over 10,000 students have received the programming over the past five years.

“When these ambassadors come in, it’s like an awakening,” said Holy Paluck, Vice President, Regina Multicultural Council. “They help empower and strengthen our youth.”

You can learn more about our recipients by visiting myaccess.ca/childrensfund.



Access Receives ISED Funding

Access Communications is pleased to announce that we are receiving \$4.6M in funding from the Government of Canada's Innovation Science and Economic Development Universal Broadband Fund for two projects bringing broadband internet to underserved areas of the province.

"Every Saskatchewan resident deserves the chance to achieve their full potential, and that means having access to reliable high-speed internet service is key," said Carmela Haines, President and CEO.

Over the next two years, Access will install 22 new wireless internet towers in south-central Saskatchewan. These towers will cover over 4,600 square kilometres, starting north of Willow Bunch and extending to the US Border. In addition, residents in the Turtle Lake area (northwest of North Battleford, including Kivimaa-Moonlight Bay, Horseshoe Bay, and Indian Point-Golden Sands) will receive a mix of fixed and wireless broadband internet to improve connectivity.

To learn more about the Universal Broadband Fund, visit www.ic.gc.ca.



20 Years at Access

Fred Anderson is a beloved volunteer at Access Communications, serving as a TV Bingo host and giving his time for various productions at AccessNow TV. Thank you for 20 years, Fred!



Become a Delegate

Becoming an individual member delegate is a great way to learn more about and help guide our co-operative. Delegates serve two-year terms and are asked to attend our Annual General Meeting each year in January. Our AGM quorum is 50%, meaning delegate attendance is an important commitment to our co-operative's governance model.

If you are interested in becoming a delegate, please contact member.relations@myaccess.coop.

Delegates will be elected in our Individual Member District Meetings this fall.

AccessNow Diversity

Our province is bursting with diversity. As a community broadcaster that showcases the best of Saskatchewan through our programming, AccessNow TV is proud to share the stories that celebrate the range of the people and cultures that make up our great province.

AccessNow TV is home to shows including, The Four, Pinoy Talk, Rez X, Prairie Pride and DiscoverABILITY. AccessNow TV also lives streams the Queen City Pride Parade in Regina. Learn more about these shows at myaccess.ca/accessnow.

