



SASKATCHEWAN PROGRAM*

BUILDING TOGETHER: A Support Program for Indigenous Communities in Rural and Remote Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan includes treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and is the traditional territory of Nēhiyawak, Nahkawiniwak Nakota, Dakota and Lakotka, and Denesuline, as well as the homelands of the Métis Nation.

* Placeholder name for the program

☑ Seed Savers, by Leah Marie Dorion



PURPOSE STATEMENT

Together we bring more accessible philanthropic funding and supports to rural and remote Indigenous community-led work in Saskatchewan.



Families participating in the Prince Albert Grand Council Community Cooking Program

ORIGIN STORY

Currently, there is very low philanthropic investment in Saskatchewan, particularly outside of urban centers or in Indigenous communities. For year Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan have been contacting the Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative (hosted at MakeWay) asking for support. In 2021 therefore, MakeWay undertook a learning journey, supported by 42 Saskatchewan based knowledge keepers, and resulting in the 2021 report: Centering Indigenous Communities & Philanthropic Action in Saskatchewan. As described, communities put forward six interwoven priority areas of Indigenous-led work.

- **Indigenous food systems and food security**
- **Health and Healing**
- **Cultural Reclamation**
- **Youth, Elders and Families**
- **Economic Development (local, sustainable)**
- **Physical Infrastructure**

MakeWay continues to support the co-creation of the Saskatchewan (SK) program by engaging community members, funders, and governments to participate. We are humbled and encouraged with the program and support we have created together, and are committed to supporting it.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Holistic:** Support mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical
- **Collectivity:** We live to support and encourage each other and create collective benefit
- **Diversity:** Plant lots of seeds (actions) to see what grows. Support communities to try, experiment, do, and learn together.
- **Connections:** Support relationship building between communities, and between funders and communities.
- **Indigenous-led:** We support many types of community-led work including grassroots, local agency, and Nation-led. Direct relationships with the Band are not required.
- **Non-interference in individual will**
- **Celebrate the good work together!**
- **Friendship**



Northern Lifestyles students sewing work in LaRonge



Oct 2023 Gathering in Muskoday First Nation

TIMELINE

2020 - 2021

Learning Journey - 42 knowledge keepers provided information that guided the creation of the Centering Indigenous Communities & Philanthropic Action in Saskatchewan Report. The report identified six interwoven priority areas

2021

Virtual share back session hosted by MakeWay to review and reflect on the Learning Journey with contributing knowledge keepers

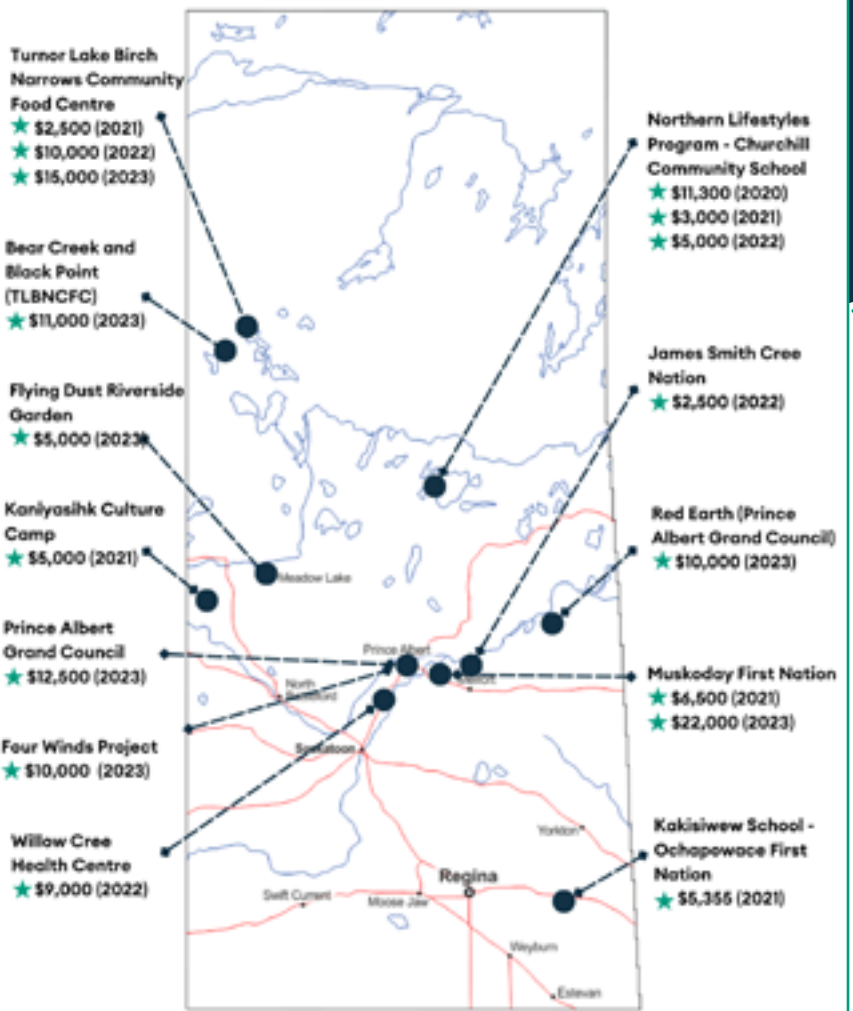
OCT 2022

2 day gathering in Prince Albert and Muskoday First Nation. Attended by community members, funders and governments, the purpose was to further vision the program and to build connections. Decision: create an SK-based Working Group to refine the program.

DEC 2022

McConnell Foundation contributes \$40,000 to support additional community gatherings to strengthen the program and facilitate knowledge sharing.

SASKATCHEWAN GIVING 2020-2023



Haskaps, photo by Richard Louis Lafferty

GIFTMAKING GUIDEPOSTS

- Work addresses one or more priority areas
- Projects support community, not just individuals
- Projects are Indigenous-led

GIFTMAKING APPROACH

The 'SK Program' utilizes a relational approach to identifying and making gifts. Gifting opportunities are shared at Working Group meetings, discussed, and consensus decisions made using the Giftmaking Guideposts, available resources, and local knowledge.



Butchering together at Birch Narrows Dene Nation Indigenous Day Celebration



Oct 2023 Gathering feast in Muskoday

SHARING BACK

We value learning with community partners and support knowledge exchange between communities. Projects are encouraged to share photos, stories and learnings from their work. Standardized reporting is not required.

JAN 2023

Working Group established and meets every 2 weeks for program development. Also meets with funders interested in supporting the emerging program.

MAR 2023

2 day Working Group meeting in Meadow Lake and Flying Dust First Nation focused on strengthening relationships, creating strong direction, clarifying Working Group role, and learning with Flying Dusk members.

APRIL 2023

Giftmaking guideposts established by Working Group.

MAY 2023

New financial contributions: MakeWay commits \$350k and anonymous donor pledges \$57k to the SK Program.

JULY 2023

To date the SK Program has granted \$145k to 20+ Indigenous-led projects in rural and remote Saskatchewan.



March 2023 Working Group gathering in Meadow Lake

Working Group & Special Advisors

The Working Group is comprised of local, Saskatchewan based people who are involved in Indigenous-led community work in rural and remote areas of the province. Established in January of 2023, the Working Group meets regularly to support detailed planning and refinement of the SK Program. Meetings focus on developing trusting relationships, sharing community updates and stories, and establishing specifics of the program. Specifics include: guiding principles, giftmaking guideposts, Giftmaking approach, 'reporting' alternatives that empower communities and support learning. Moving forward the Working Group will be responsible for giftmaking approvals, connecting with community partners, holding gatherings, supporting identifying and hiring of SK Program staff, and helping to name the program.



JOE MUNROE,
Food Security Coordinator,
Muskoday First Nation



REBECCA SYLVESTRE,
Director, Turnor Lake Birch
Narrows Community Food Centre



MEGAN MILLER,
Registered Dietician, Prince
Albert Grand Council



CHARLES "CHUCK" THOMAS,
Beardy's and Okemasis
Cree Nation

HAL CAMERON,
Beardy's and Okemasis
Cree Nation

CHERYL MCCALLUM

MAKEWAY STAFF

Within the working group, MakeWay humbly acts as helpers in this space. We support in organizing group meetings, taking notes, and following up on action items identified by the working group.



JULIE PRICE
Program Lead,
Manitoba and
Saskatchewan



JESSICA DUKE
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National Programming



NICOLE MCDONALD
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Interested in being involved?

Email Julie at julie.price@makeway.org



makeway.org

MakeWay is a national charity and public foundation with a goal to enable nature and communities to thrive together. We do this by building partnerships, providing solutions, grants, and services for the charitable sector across the country.

