

**OCTOBER 2020**

**Issue 68**

*This issue includes some highlights of the major accomplishments that the SaskTel Pioneers have been involved with in your community. **We DO encourage you to share this newsletter with your family.***

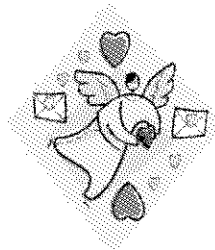
*Please give us a call or letter if you have any **comments or suggestions** regarding this bulletin or future newsletter items.*

**Newsletter Editor:**

Jacque Perigny at (306) 789-1414  
3266 Mountbatten Cres, Regina S4V 0Z4  
Email: jacgary@yahoo.com

**Chapter 59 President**

Dione Wall  
Email: dione.wall@sasktel.com  
Phone: 306 381-4277



### Pioneer Membership Updates

**Please advise us of any of the following changes:**

- ⇒ address or name change
- ⇒ marital status change (either way)
- ⇒ spousal information
- ⇒ death (employee, superannuate or spouse)

**Pioneer Manager - Darrell Liebrecht**  
Phone: (306) 777-2515

E-mail: darrell.liebrecht@sasktel.com

Write: 2nd Floor  
2121 Saskatchewan Drive,  
Regina, Sask S4P 3Y2

**YOU CAN HELP US STAY IN TOUCH BY KEEPING US ADVISED**

## In This Issue

Page	
1	Chapter 59 Executives
	Pioneer Membership Update
2	Message from Chapter #59 President
3	Pioneer Mission & Vision
	Pioneer Website
	Upcoming Special Events
4-5	In Memoriam
6-7	SaskTel Retirements
8	SaskTel Pioneer Payday Lottery Winners
9	Pioneer Tabs/Labels/Stamps
10	Pioneer Projects, Salvage Sales and Computers for Schools
11-12	Chapter 59 Report and Participation / Membership report
13-19	Club Reports
20	SaskTel Pioneers
21	Computers for Moose Jaw Food Bank
22	Teamwork in Spiritwood
23	Caring Company—HOOP and TelCare
24	Donation to Regina Hospitals
25	Recognition on National Philanthropy Day
26	Power of Kindness in Sedley
27	Heart Pillows for Coronary Care
28	Donation to McVeety School Daycare
29	Foster Family Organization recognition
30	An Enchanted Night in Saskatoon
31	Wish Angels in December 2019
32	The Gift of Literacy—Moose Jaw
33	Socks for New Canadians—Moose Jaw
34	SaskTel Employee to the rescue
35	Volunteers at Work—Homemade MASKS
36	Covid-19 and Computers for Schools
37	Youth Literacy—FirstBooks Canada
38	A Rare View—Weyburn
39	Random Acts of Kindness—Saskatoon
32	DID YOU ever think about LIFE TODAY !!!

*I'm  
So much to be  
THANKFUL  
For*

### Saskatchewan Chapter 59

Advisory Bd Member	Josaphine Brcic	777-2894
Pioneer Manager	Darrell Liebrecht	777-2515
President, Chapter 59	Dione Wall	381-4277
Past President	Judi Livingstone	737-1917
Sr. Vice President	Mark Grambo	931-5050
2nd Life Member Rep	Debby Gorlick	227-2829
1st Life Member Rep	Shirley Wolfe	545-2179
Secretary	Michelle Hankewich	220-8822
Club & Council Presidents		



## Message from our 2020-2021 Chapter #59 President



*Dear Members: Regular, Life, Family and Friends*

I just wanted to take a moment to send my sincerest gratitude to all of you. Your commitment to community service has shone a light on how particularly important our organization is during these unprecedented times.

Whether you organized a socially distanced mask sewing bee, donated your time or money to a local charity or simply checked on a neighbor to make sure they were ok, your contributions were (and are) valued and acknowledged. Because of you, the SaskTel Pioneers have been able to provide continued support to organizations who needed it more than ever, proving that we are dedicated to assisting our communities through this pandemic to the very best of our abilities.

We might not be able to get our fellowship events in, or work together as we are used to, but we still show the province how dedicated we are to our community's health and well being. Moreover, we show the world what kind of an organization we are: strong, dedicated, passionate and selfless. We have always known how fabulous we are, but now we *really* get to show it off, and inspire others to follow in our footsteps. I hope you are as proud of you as I am!

Since the pandemic began, we have donated almost \$70,000, 3000 masks, 350 POWER Packs, over 600 computers and accumulated well over 1000 tracked hours of volunteer time. You have volunteered at events like First Books Canada, community gardens, and free tax returns programs. Through this pandemic, you continue to impact the lives who need it most.

I know many of you are also wondering what is going to happen with the AGM this year, and I am happy to announce that we will still be holding it, and it will still be open to all of you. It will, however, be an abbreviated version and will be held virtually. We are in the process of finalizing the technology, invites, time and agenda, and we will do our best to communicate the details to everyone as we complete them. What I do know for sure is that it will be on November 13<sup>th</sup>. We will share it with Club Presidents, post it to facebook, put it on our website, send emails and share it in as many ways as we can think of! Stay tuned!!

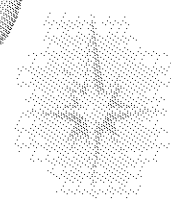
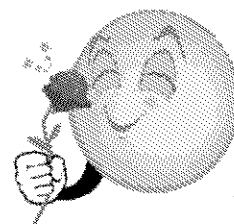
Again, I can't say it enough, thank you to everyone who contributes to this amazing organization, in big ways or small. It has been quite the year to take over the Pioneer President role and it has certainly presented some unique challenges, but this organization continues to succeed with your support.

We can't do it without you – you ARE the Pioneers!

Yours in Pioneering,

Dione Wall, Chapter 59 President

**No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.**  
— Aesop



**"Our focus is our Community  
and our strength is our Volunteers"**



**Pioneer Vision—** To be recognized as a world-class leader in volunteerism. To be respected and valued by our members, strategic partners, global community and our industry. We are committed to the diversity and growth of our members and strategic partners in improving the quality of life in our communities



**An electronic version of this Provincial Newsletter is on the website.  
This newsletter is issued twice a year - April and November.**

**www.sasktelpioneers.com**

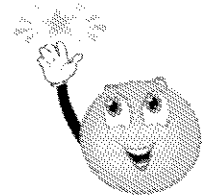
## Facebook—SaskTel Pioneers

**Twitter—@sasktelpioneers**

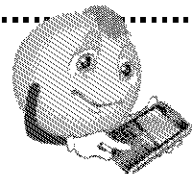
Visit the International TelecomPioneer website to learn more about our organization as it provides an overview of benefits unique to Pioneer membership

**www.telecompioneers.org**

**www.pioneersvolunteer.org**



## Upcoming Special events



**Due to Covid—many of our activities are not operating. We will keep you informed as much as we can.**

Signing up for the following options will help keep you informed of SaskTel Pioneer activities, achievements and announcements. Pioneer Newsletter is issued twice a year and is mailed to all Life Members that were Pioneers members when they retired. Contact your local Club President or executive to get information on your area.

**Email**—provide your email address to Darrell Liebrecht—[darrell.librecht@sasktel.com](mailto:darrell.librecht@sasktel.com)

**Facebook**—sign up to our SaskTel Facebook page



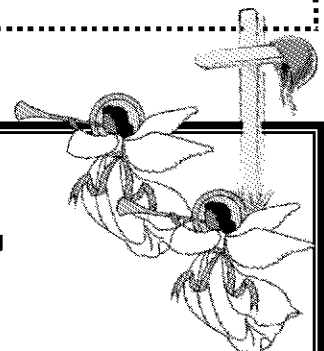
Love

**PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED >>>>>>>>>**

**We try our best to advise you of the deaths of employees, supeannuates and/or their spouses.**

We are not always advised of these deaths, especially when they are the spouse of a working or retired person or a member of the Public Employee Pension Plan.

**Please keep us advised so we can include this information in this newsletter.  
Contact your local Club Executives or Pioneer Office at 306 777-2515**



## In Memoriam... (Employees, Superannuates and Spouses)

Sympathy is extended to the following employees, Superannuates and their families.

**SaskTel Superannuate Gary Bitz of Regina** passed away 30 May 2015 at age 61. Gary retired in 2004. Survived by spouse Julia.

**SaskTel Superannuate Nadine Graham of Weyburn** passed away 16 Jan 2019 at age 81. Nadine Retired in 1992.

**Jerry Hartley of Cochin (North Battleford) (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Violet Hartley)** passed away 1 Nov 2018.

**SaskTel Superannuate Ken Woinaroski of Regina** passed away 13 Mar 2019 at age 68. Ken retired in 2006. Survived by spouse Debra

**Genevieve Wandler of Regina (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Jacob Wandler)** passed away May 26, 2019

**Bonnie Downes of Regina (spouse of SaskTel deceased Superannuate Robert Downes)** passed away 14 July 2019.

**SaskTel Superannuate Richard Allen of Moose Jaw** passed away 3 Aug 2019 at age 83. Richard retired in 1990. Survived by spouse Moira.

**SaskTel Superannuate Doug Samchinsky of Regina** passed away 28 Aug 2019 at age 67. Survived by spouse Sigrid.

**SaskTel Superannuate Geraldine Good of Regina** passed away 27 Sep 2019 at age 85. Geraldine retired in 1991.

**SaskTel Superannuate Bob Buhr of Regina** passed away 4 Nov 2019 at age 71. Bob retired in 2006. Survived by spouse Maureen.

**SaskTel Superannuate Jim Van Alstine of Victoria (formerly Regina)** passed away 9 Nov 2019 at age 83. Jim retired in 1991. Survived by spouse Helen.

**SaskTel Superannuate Linda MacLeod of Yorkton** passed away 20 Nov 2019 at age 72. Linda retired in 1997. Survived by spouse Finlay.

**SaskTel Superannuate Lois Pearce of Regina** passed away 30 Nov 2019 at age 90. Lois retired in 1986.

**SaskTel Superannuate Mary Richards** passed away 1 Nov 2019.

**Jean Schnitzler of Moose Jaw (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Bill Schnitzler)** passed away 11 Nov 2019.

**Ruth McKillop of Regina (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Ernie McKillop)** passed away 23 Nov 2019.

**SaskTel Superannuate Doug Reimche of Regina** passed away on 3 Dec 2019 at age 73. Survived by spouse Eileen.

**SaskTel Superannuate Nancy Dodds of Regina** passed away 3 Dec 2019 at age 65. Nancy retired in 2008.

**SaskTel Superannuate Dave Lozinski of Regina** passed away 28 Dec 2019 at age 67. Dave retired in 2007.

**SaskTel Superannuate Moe Hawrysh of Calgary (formerly Regina)** passed away 27 Dec 2019 at age 83. Retired in 1993.

**SaskTel Superannuate Lorne Beer of Pilot Butte** passed away 13 Dec 2019 at age 74. Survived by spouse Dianne.

**Former SaskTel employee Dan Baldwin of Whitewood** passed away 2 Dec 2019 at age 67.

**Marilyn Moberg of Regina (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Stephan Moberg)** passed away 12 Jan 2020.

**Jeannine Longpre of Regina (spouse of deceased SaskTel superannuate Roger Longpre)** passed away 20 Jan 2020.

**Isabelle Hood of Regina (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Bob Hood)** passed away 29 Jan 2020.

**SaskTel Superannuate Ruth Bouey of Regina** passed away 22 Jan 2020 at age 86. Ruth retired in 1989. Survived by spouse Clifford.

**SaskTel Superannuate Tom Klein of Fort Qu'Appelle** passed away 29 Jan 2020 at age 82. Tom retired in 1993. Survived by spouse Helen.

**SaskTel Superannuate Norm Hodgson of Saskatoon** passed away 13 Jan 2020 at age 88. Retired in 1986.

**SaskTel Superannuate Agnes Ottmann of Regina** passed away 7 Jan 2020 at age 91. Retired in 1982.

**Bea Simes of Winnipeg (Formerly Regina) (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Bill Simes)** passed away 20 Jan 2020.

**SaskTel Superannuate Don Wilmut of Saskatoon** passed away 16 Jan 2020 at age 77. Retired in 1993.

**SaskTel Superannuate Maureen Doorn of Regina** passed away 17 Feb 2020 at age 65. Maureen retired in 2005.

**SaskTel Superannuate Irma Culling of Regina** passed away 12 Feb 2020 at age 74. Irma retired in 2000.

**Sally Daly of Regina (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Gerry Dally)** passed away 5 Mar 2020 at age 93.

**SaskTel Superannuate Al Heming of Regina** passed away 23 Mar 2020 at age 83. Al retired in 1989. Survived by spouse Phyllis.

**SaskTel Superannuate Dwaine (Ben) Walsh of Moose Jaw** passed away 6 Apr 2020 at age 87. Ben retired in 1988. Survived by spouse Marj.

## In Memoriam... Continued

**SaskTel Employee Mark Dilsner of Saskatoon** passed away 6 Apr 2020 at age 46. Survived by spouse Carol.

**SaskTel Employee Gina Moorhead of Broadview** passed away 2 Apr 2020 at age 63.

**Edna Tholl of Windthorst (spouse of Deceased SaskTel Superannuate Arnold Tholl)** passed away 6 Apr 2020.

**SaskTel Superannuate Shirley Schatkoske of Saskatoon** passed away 17 Apr 2020 at age 78. Survived by spouse Gordon.

**Lyle Glenn Byers of Prince Albert (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Irene Byers)** passed away 24 Apr 2020.

**SaskTel Superannuate Linda Kopp of Weyburn** passed away 29 Apr 2020 age 65. Linda retired in 2009.

**SaskTel Superannuate Willis Warner of Moose Jaw** passed away 18 May 2020 at age 87. Willis retired in 1976. Survived by spouse Janet.

**Donn Henderson, of Regina (Spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Monica Richards)** passed away 5 May 2020.

**SaskTel Superannuate Doretha (Debbie) Stevens of Regina** passed away 28 May 2020 at age 85. Debbie retired in 2000. Survived by spouse Reg.

**SaskTel Superannuate Sally (Solange) Ferrera of Regina** passed away 8 Jun 2020 at age 68. Survived by spouse Allan.

**Avery Pearson of Regina (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Phyllis Pearson)** passed away 10 Jun 2020 at age 90.

**SaskTel Superannuate Gord Neish of Naicom** passed away 14 Jun 2020 at age 65. Dwaine retired in 2015.

**SaskTel Superannuate Brian Sharp of Swift Current** passed away 17 Jun 2020 at age 63. Brian retired in 2006.

**SaskTel Superannuate Sharon Barber of Yorkton** passed away 20 Jun 2020 at age 80. Sharon retired in 1997.

**SaskTel Superannuate Ross Bobier of Weyburn** passed away 23 Jul 2020 at age 70. Ross retired in 1999.

**SaskTel Superannuate Bobbie MacKintosh of Aberdeen** passed away 24 Jun 2020 at age 75. Bobbie retired in 1997. Survived by spouse Tom.

**Rita Miller of Regina (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Hugh Miller)** passed away 19 Jul 2020.

**SaskTel Superannuate Les Gabel of Moose Jaw** passed away 24 Aug 2020 at age 83. Les retired in 1991. Survived by spouse Patricia.

**SaskTel employee Steve Lindskog of Regina** passed away 13 Aug 2020 at age 65. Survived by spouse Donna.

**SaskTel Superannuate Brian Isabelle of Meath Park** passed away 12 Aug 2020 at age 71. Brian retired in 2001. Survived by spouse Selena.

**Thomas Trofimenkoff of Estevan (spouse of SaskTel retiree Irma Trofimenkoff)** passed away 8 Apr 2020.

**SaskTel Superannuate Irma Trofimenkoff of Estevan** passed away 16 Aug 2020 at age 83. Irma retired in 1991.

**SaskTel Superannuate Garry Reichert of Regina** passed away 20 Aug 2020 at age 74. Gary retired in 2005. Survived by spouse Maureen.

**SaskTel Superannuate Larry Gibney of Moose Jaw** passed away 29 Aug 2020 at age 84. Larry retired in 1989. Survived by spouse Johanna.

**SaskTel Superannuate Rod Eliason of Regina** passed away September 11, 2020 at age 82. Rod retired in 1999. Survived by spouse Marlene.



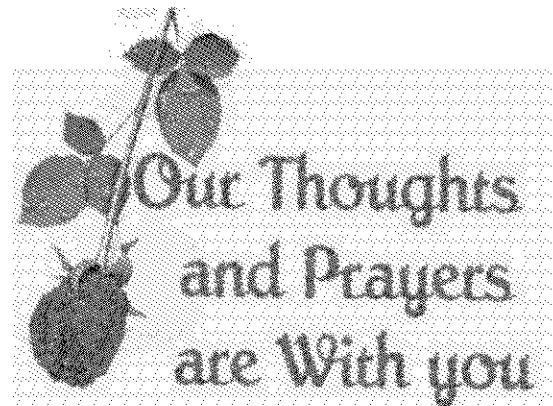
*Lord,  
Help me live this day,  
Quietly, Easily.*

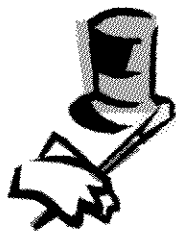
*To lean upon your great  
strength,  
Trustfully, Respectfully.*

*To await the unfolding  
Of your will,  
Patiently, Serenely.*

*To meet others,  
Peacefully, Joyously.*

*To face tomorrow,*



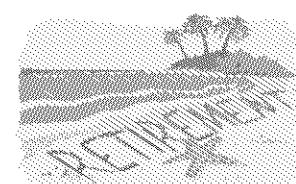


## SaskTel's Retirements—2019-2020

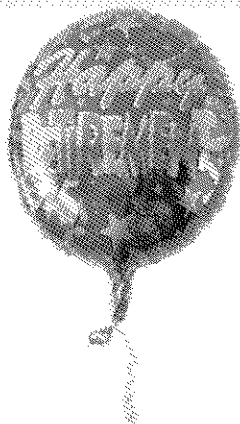
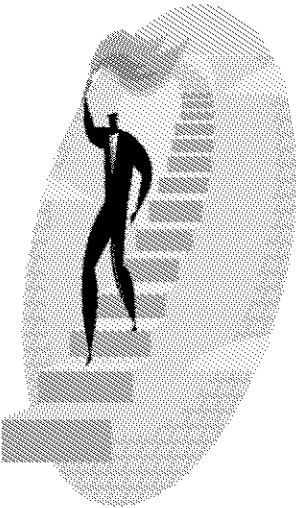
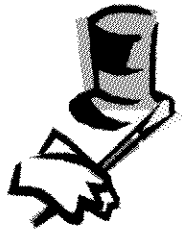
Congratulations and good luck to all of you who have chosen Retirement.  
We hope to see you involved in SaskTel Pioneer functions.

Due to Privacy Laws we can only provide a list of  
employees who have given us permission to release their names:

13-Jul-19	LORRIE	HOIUM	SASKATOON
16-Sep-19	DELMAR	DAVIES	MOOSE JAW
18-Oct-19	DIXIE	JOHNSON	SASKATOON
5-Dec-19	LOIS	CRAWFORD	REGINA
20-Dec-19	JIM	CRAWFORD	REGINA
27-Dec-19	LILLIAN	HICKS	REGINA
31-Dec-19	ERIN	MACDOUGALL	REGINA
31-Dec-19	KIMBERLY	TKACHUK	REGINA
3-Jan-20	CAROLYN	WELDER	REGINA
6-Jan-20	LES	NEMISH	PRINCE ALBERT
6-Jan-20	ALISON	STOECK	REGINA
10-Jan-20	CHERYL	SCHNELL	REGINA
14-Jan-20	SUSAN	WAIT	PRINCE ALBERT
15-Jan-20	DAVID	STANCHUK	REGINA
15-Jan-20	LUCIA	SYCKO	REGINA
24-Jan-20	DOUG	HARVEY	FORT QU'APPELLE
24-Jan-20	SHARON	KEATING	REGINA
28-Jan-20	MURRAY	CLARK	PRINCE ALBERT
31-Jan-20	JUDITH	CLOSEN	N. BATTLEFORD
19-Feb-20	ADRIAN	KRYSTAL	REGINA
24-Feb-20	EVA	PATERKIEWICZ	REGINA
1-Mar-20	KEITH	COOK	PRINCE ALBERT
6-Mar-20	KEN	BUHNAI	REGINA
6-Mar-20	KEVIN	SANDERSON	PRINCE ALBERT
13-Mar-20	RHONDA	COGHILL	REGINA
13-Mar-20	SHEILA	RICE	P. ALBERT
14-Mar-20	STACEY	SANDISON	REGINA
20-Mar-20	KEITH	MARCOTTE	REGINA
31-Mar-20	TREVOR	CAMPBELL	SASKATOON
10-Apr-20	JOANNE	STEPHANSON	SASKATOON
15-Apr-20	TOM	BLEWETT	KIPLING
17-Apr-20	COLIN	GARTNER	REGINA
1-May-20	DAVE	MCCANN	REGINA
15-May-20	ROB	LEFEBVRE	REGINA
16-May-20	DARCEE	MACFARLANE	REGINA
20-May-20	DARRYL	BOWMAN	REGINA
21-May-20	SUSAN	MOLDOWAN	MELFORT
23-May-20	MARLENE	AGAR	REGINA
23-May-20	JACQUIE	HALA	WEYBURN



## SaskTel's Retirements—2020 CONTINUED



12-Jun-20	JIM	SMITH	P. ALBERT
12-Jun-20	DAVE	WOYTOWICH	SASKATOON
14-Jun-20	CUC	DANG	REGINA
14-Jun-20	KIM	DANG	REGINA
14-Jun-20	BRAD	GAETZ	REGINA
17-Jun-20	DORIS	BURDON	REGINA
30-Jun-20	PETER	YU	REGINA
10-Jul-20	YVETTE	COSSETTE	REGINA
11-Jul-20	ROSS	PARKER	REGINA
17-Jul-20	LYNDA	COPELAND	REGINA
25-Jul-20	DIANE	BONK	MELFORT
1-Aug-20	SHERRY	LAMBERT	SASKATOON
7-Aug-20	DOUGLAS	LEGARE	MOOSE JAW
14-Aug-20	KATHY	KLASSEN	SASKATOON
17-Aug-20	DALE	LUND	SASKATOON
19-Aug-20	GLENN	BLOCK	REGINA
21-Aug-20	PAM	SPEIR	MOOSE JAW
21-Aug-20	JONI	WILFONG	REGINA
28-Aug-20	LINDSAY	PLUMMER	SASKATOON
30-Aug-20	HARRY	ONAGI	REGINA
31-Aug-20	GORD	HAY	REGINA
4-Sep-20	BERNIE	CANADAY	SASKATOON
4-Sep-20	LESLEE	DYKSTRA	REGINA
7-Sep-20	LIONEL	MERKOSKY	SASKATOON
11-Sep-20	TARA	BAST	REGINA
11-Sep-20	BRENT	KLASSEN	SASKATOON
18-Sep-20	DONNA	APPERLEY	REGINA
30-Sep-20	REID	LANE	REGINA
1-Oct-20	SANDRA	HENRY	REGINA
9-Oct-20	SHERRY	MATERI	N. BATTLEFORD
16-Oct-20	ROXANNE	FUCHS	REGINA
29-Oct-20	JEAN	HAUGEN	SASKATOON
30-Oct-20	BRENT	MCMURTRY	SASKATOON
13-Nov-20	DAVID	QUON	REGINA
20-Nov-20	GARY	VANCE	REGINA
27-Nov-20	KAREN	KRUSHELNICKI	REGINA
11-Dec-20	TRUDY	GRILL	REGINA
31-Dec-20	LEONARD	DESCHENE	REGINA
31-Dec-20	ROB	KAMINSKI	REGINA
31-Dec-20	DEBBIE	REBAN	REGINA
31 NAR 29	TREVOR	CAMPBELL	SASKATOON

### WELCOME RETIREES TO OUR LIFE MEMBER CLUBS IN SASKATCHEWAN.

**IF YOU WERE A PIONEER MEMBER AT RETIREMENT—YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A BI-YEARLY SASKTEL PIONEER NEWSLETTER THAT LETS YOU KNOW ABOUT DEATH NOTICES, RETIREMENTS AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SASKTEL PIONEER WORLD AROUND THE PROVINCE.**

### There are another couple options that keeps you in touch with SaskTel Pioneer Members:

- **EMAILS:** Sign up for SaskTel Pioneer emails by registering with Darrell Liebrecht at the Pioneer Office—Darrell.liebrecht@sasktel.com. These notices will let you know of upcoming events in your areas or other messages of interest.
- **FACEBOOK:** SaskTel Pioneers have a facebook account that keeps our members informed as to what is happening within your club or district in your community. Please sign up.



## WHO GOT LUCKY with the 2019—2020 SaskTel Pioneer Payday Lottery . . . .

**Draws are made every two weeks (on SaskTel payday)**  
*Funds raised from this lottery goes towards the improvement of our  
 communities throughout Saskatchewan—Raised over \$29,000 in past year*

### Two Special draws valued at \$2,500

Jan 2, 2020 Major Prize winner of \$2500 — Deborah Sather-Regina

### \$500 Winners every two weeks

- Feb 27, 2020 Beth Outerbridge — Regina
- Feb 13, 2020 Bernice Canaday — Saskatoon
- Jan 30, 2020 Kristin Mason — Yorkton
- Jan 16, 2020 Michelle Zurakowski — Prince Albert
- Jan 2, 2020 Brenda Dinsmore — Saskatoon
- Dec 19, 2019 Michael Vancoughnett — Prince Albert
- Dec 5, 2019 Andrea Rowley — Regina
- Nov 21, 2019 Jennifer Longpre — Regina
- Nov 7, 2019 Charity of Choice winner of \$500 — Geri Sauer — Prince Albert,  
 \$500 will go to Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, Geri's Charity of Choice
- Nov 7, 2019 Deb Gross — Swift Current
- Oct 24, 2019 Tabatha Vandale — Saskatoon
- Oct 10, 2019 Candace Wieler — Saskatoon
- Sep 26, 2019 Dan Meakin — Saskatoon

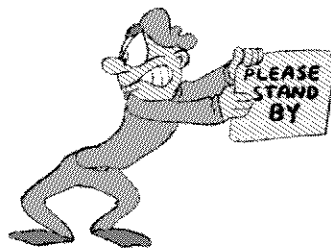


*Congratulations to the 'Winners'*



### SaskTel Pioneer Payday Lottery

**SecurTek employees and Life Members can choose one of the  
 Following Payday Lottery payment options:**

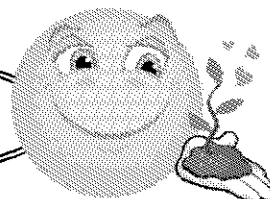


One cheque, covering the entire \$130 enrolment fee  
 or two cheques @ \$60 (post-dated)

**If you have any questions please call Darrell Liebrecht at 306 777-2515.  
 darrell.liebrecht@sasktel.com**

**or go to SaskTelPioneer website under Fundraisers.**

**Volunteer Hours can be submitted online at  
[Http://www.sasktelpioneers.com/form\\_hours\\_project.htm](http://www.sasktelpioneers.com/form_hours_project.htm)  
 or Email: [sasktelpioneers@sasktel.com](mailto:sasktelpioneers@sasktel.com)**







**Do you have any of the following items ?**  
**Check with your Club Executive as to where to send them.**

**METAL TABS — Contact Janice Muir, 306 777-4635**

Please save your metal tabs off of aluminium cans.

The current tab collection program benefits the Pasqua Hospital.

**STAMPS— Stamp out Leprosy-Contact Darrell Liebrecht 306 777-2515**

You can help "Stamp Out" Leprosy by saving all your postage stamps. The SaskTel Pioneers are shipping them to the Leprosy mission in Ontario. Any monies realized from the stamps after they have been sold to collectors will be used to pay for education and medicine etc.

**QUILT MATERIAL—Contact Jolene Norleen, 306 949-7607**

The SaskTel Pioneers are making lap quilts for Seniors and the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic.

**WOOL—Contact Jeannine Nelson, 306 777-1848**

If you have any wool taking up space in your closets, we will gladly turn it into lap robes for seniors. The SaskTel choir visits senior establishments each Christmas and leaves them with a selection of lap robes for their residents.

**Donations for Local Shelters / Outreach Centers—Contact Gina Angielski, 306 777-3341**

SAEN and the SaskTel Pioneers are accepting donations of unused hygiene items (e.g. soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste / brushes, feminine hygiene, etc) to be distributed to local shelters / outreach centres.

**USED EYEGLASSES**

Can be forwarded to Darrell Liebrecht at Head Office.

District locations can drop them off with their pioneer executive

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLEANING THE TPAC in Regina:** The TPAC Board in Regina are looking for people to assist with clean up. Sign-up as a team or as an individual. Time commitment is about 1 to 1.5 hours each week during the month you volunteer. Contact the Office at 306-777-8450 or email [tpac.pioneers@sasktel.net](mailto:tpac.pioneers@sasktel.net) if you are interested or have questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

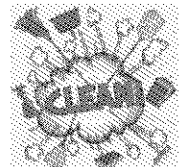
**TPAC in Regina**

**Thank you for your understanding during this Covid-19 Period.**

The official phased re-opening of the Regina TPAC Is October 1, 2020.

**Phase 1** on Oct 1, 2020 is open for Pioneer projects and meetings. We are not booking Pioneer Social gathering such as the Pioneer Birthday suppers. We are limiting the number of bookings per week. The max number of people in the TPAC will be 18 to allow for social distancing. There will be no access to the Kitchen.

**Phase 2** Will be discussed at the Jan 2021 TPAC board meeting. Potentially we could start renting for small external events given a stable covid environment in Regina and Saskatchewan.





## IF YOU HAVE SOME 'EXTRA TIME' TO SHARE YOUR SKILLS .. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE APPRECIATED.

**SOME PROJECTS THAT SASKTEL PIONEERS ARE INVOLVED IN:**  
(Check with your local club and see if they are participating in these projects)

*If you are interested in helping please contact the coordinator.  
Once we are back to a regular schedule we will add dates and times back in*

- **HUG-A-BEARS**—Donated to emergency vehicles to give to children in crisis situations.  
Regina Workshops are held once a month      Contact: Mary Wilhelm 306 545-5110  
Saskatoon contact Club President or executive
- **HEART PILLOWS**—Donated to open heart surgery patients.  
Saskatoon coordinator is Brenda Iwasuik (iwassb@sasktel.net)  
Regina coordinator is Andrea Hasz at 306 789-3700
- **TURBANS and TUBES** (Donated to cancer patients) —for Regina contact Jackie Huynink at 306 545-3827
- **QUILTING** (Donated to cancer clinic). For Regina contact Jolene Norleen at 306 949-7607
- **WALKER BAGS** (Donated to various Seniors / Nursing homes and any Pioneer or partner that needs one).  
Contact Jolene Norleen at 306 949-7607
- **CARD NIGHTS**—Regina (every 3rd Friday 7 p.m.) October 16th and November 20th are tentative dates for 2020. Contact Brenda Glaspey 306 777-3138
- **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**—Regina —On Hold until further notice —306 777-8450

\*\*\*\*\*

## Pioneer Salvage Sales

>>>>OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER >>>>

Refurbish and sells used SaskTel computers to the general public. All monies raised go towards Pioneer projects.

Regina—call 306 777-3431  
2106 1st Avenue (Back of the TPAC Building)

Saskatoon—Dan Blum 306-931-5564



*Thank you to the Pioneer Salvage Sales volunteers who are the unsung heroes in SaskTel Pioneers being able to make all the generous and very much needed donations to our communities.*



## Computers for Schools

Computers for Schools (CFS) in Regina and Saskatoon are looking for Volunteers to assist in their weekday and Saturday operations. They collect and repair donated computer equipment from government and private sector sources and distribute them free of charge to K-12 schools and libraries in Saskatchewan.

**Contacts:**

**Regina call Keith Grill @ 777-3435 and Saskatoon call 931-5625**



## CHAPTER 59 PROVINCIAL REPORT

**TENTATIVE PLANS FOR SaskTel Pioneers ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS NOVEMBER 13th, 2020—will probably be a Virtual meeting or video conference call**

>>>>Darrell has been elected as vice chair for International Pioneers. In 2021 he will become chair<<<<<

**Back Packs** - donated 350 to schools in Saskatoon

**50/50 tickets – Winner was Sheri Wolf of Saskatoon won \$9,465.00.** Tickets were sold over two Months as a fundraiser to Pioneer Projects. Draw was held on Friday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Chapter 59 has applied for a license with SLGA for another provincial 50/50 draw—all monies will go to organizations in the community. Will be sold online only—open to anyone living in Saskatchewan. Tickets were one ticket for \$10, 5 tickets for \$20 or 25 tickets for \$50. Sask Liquor and Gaming gave the Pioneers a grant of 25% of their sales to be used in whatever projects they like.

**Payday Lottery**—monies raised from this fundraiser was \$29,150 for 2019-20. We are in the process to apply for a licence to continue our Payday Lottery which will be available to all SaskTel, DirectWest and SecurTek employees and past employees. Due to Covid-19 this project has been put on hold.

**Association for the Deaf or hard of hearing**—Donated \$1,000.00 towards Kids camping.

**Lap Robes**—Judi Livingstone made 8 lap robes since COVID started. They will be distributed to senior homes.

**Food Banks of Saskatchewan** mentioned the Pioneers on their Facebook Page for \$28,000 donations across the province since COVID started. They understand the donations were fundraised monies and not SaskTel money.

**Willow Awards Sponsorship**—Donated \$1,000 to Willow Awards (young readers choice award)

**Therapy Dog**—Donated \$5,000 to support St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs Program.

**Literacy funding from chapter** – Donated \$3,000 to each club to promote literacy in their community.

**FIRST BOOKS Canada**—SaskTel Pioneers sorted and distributed 12 pallets of books this past summer. These books are to go home with the kids—not stay in the schools.

**Paracord project with Wounded Warriors of Canada** —Donated \$1500 to purchase supplies to make Paracord Bracelets which are sold on their website as a fundraiser to support the veterans program for Wounded Warriors.

**Income tax program** – This project has been off and on since February in Regina. Covid has made this program very difficult for our Dedicated Volunteers. Clients must make an appt, met at the door, answer Covid questions and wear a mask. Melfort Pioneers are also involved in this project. **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**

**Donated \$9,982.00 to Hospitals of Regina Foundation Ambulatory Care Unit at Regina General Hospital.** That money purchased two vital signs monitors. The Ambulatory Care Unit looks after thousands of hospital patients each year who have non-emergency medical procedures such as minor surgery, intravenous therapy, blood transfusions or diagnostic procedures like cardiac stress tests. See Page 24 for more information.

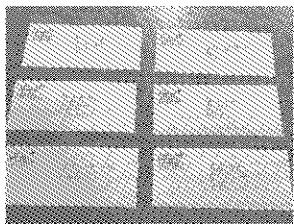
**HOME MADE MASKS**—for Covid-19 are being made by SaskTel volunteers and distributed throughout the community. See Page 35 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

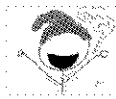


**A BIG special THANK YOU to all the essential workers during this COVID-19 epidemic.** We would definitely not have done as well as we did without you. Another special **THANK YOU** to our SaskTel employees who continued to provide great service to our customers—while having to work from home.

**Thanks to EVERYONE for your part to stay safe over COVID-19.**



SaskTel Pioneers have donated over \$70,000 charities in Saskatchewan to help them cope with Covid-19. These donations were made possible by SaskTel Pioneer's Salvage sales—Thank You again Volunteers at Salvage.



*See club reports from Regina Life Member Club \$25,000; Regina Prairie Council \$35,000; Saskatoon \$6,000; Prince Albert and Weyburn \$1,000.*

SaskTel reunion in Wadena for employees from the 1950s to 1972 when the office closed.



IHAP group receiving recognition Award from the Saskatchewan legislature for their longstanding commitment to the IHAP program.

L-r: Greta Bearman, Betty Spence, Phyllis Pearson, Marj Hegion, Doris Clarke, Dorothy Fidelick, Judy Jones, Darline Artemchuk, Sandra LeClare, Joan Fletcher.

### **Participation/Membership Reports . . .**



**Our membership is: 1361 regular members and 2560 Life Members  
for a total of 3911 members**

*We also have 300 associates who are not included in above total*

**As of September 2020 we have raised \$118,000 from salvage sales.**

**To date we have reach 7,062 volunteer hours by 180 participants**



## Yorkton Club...

Contact Club President: Jean Bryski  
Email: [jbryski@sasktel.net](mailto:jbryski@sasktel.net)

President— Jean Bryski  
Secretary - Sheila Johnson  
VP - Social - Adeline Markham/Sheila Johnson

Past President - Bob Hume  
Communication—Charlotte Ross

Treasurer - Wendy Hume

Volunteers can now email [Yorkton.pioneers@sasktel.sk.ca](mailto:Yorkton.pioneers@sasktel.sk.ca) to register their hours

- Held blanket workshop and donated socks to The Society for Involvement of Good Neighbors and the Salvation Army
- Donated fresh vegetables and donated it to the Food Bank. Money was donated by employees to help feed lesser advantaged families.
- Purchased an iPad for a nursing home in Yorkton
- Park clean up— planted flowers
- Meals on wheels every 2 weeks
- Distributed First books Canada to: Jackie Kidd's daycare; SIGN Family resourceful Drop In Center;
- Donated pillows to nursing home for bedridden patients to relive pressure points
- Partnered with Yorkton Terriers in hosting the annual Santa Party for Special Needs children (Desktop)
- Held Christmas party for Handicapped children on first week in December
- Donated \$500 to Salvation Army for food bank
- Santa parade held on November 23rd

Presented a cheque for \$500 to the Salvation Army food bank . And in the true Halloween tradition , Captain Hook (aka John McMurdo) president kept the booty safe till it was delivered to Captain Tim..

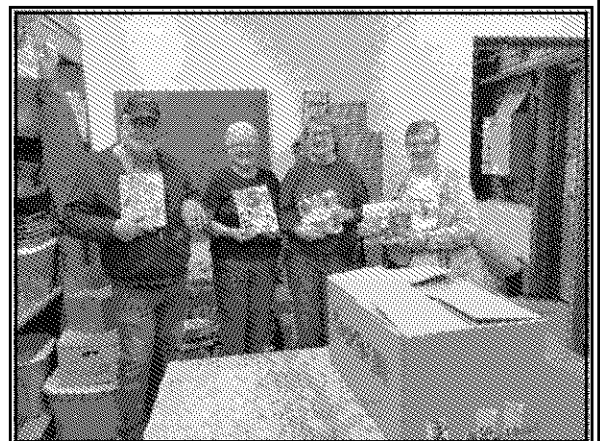
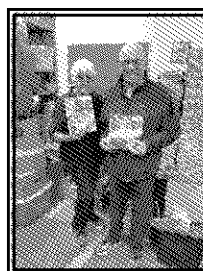
*Pictured left to right is John McMurdo, Pat Roberts , Dave Roberts , Jean Bryski and Captain Tim.*



*Left: Jean Bryski met with two avid readers at the SIGN Family Resourceful drop in centre in Yorkton. The kids picked out a book they would like to call their own. We opened one of the books and found stickers. How exciting .*



SaskTel Pioneers partnered with the Yorkton Terriers in hosting the annual Santa Party for Special Needs children



*Yorkton pioneers with the "Hume " dynasty of Bob, Jean, Norene and Wendy , along with fellow pioneers Pat and Dave Roberts sorted and put SaskTel pioneer stickers on approximately 1500 books. We're ready to distribute these books to young readers . Thanks goes to our club president John McMurdo for printing the stickers and delivering them .*

**Swift Current Club . . .**

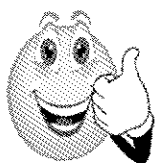
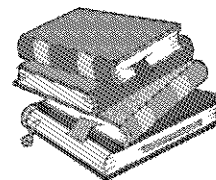
Contact Club President: Fred Wall 306 582-2111  
Email: lindaalfredwall@gmail.com

President—Fred Wall  
Secretary—Rhonda Wollbaum  
Treasurer—Linda Wall

Past President—vacant  
Life Member Rep & TPAC—Dennis Riach  
Salvage—Eliaja LaFontaine

Meetings held on the 1st Tuesday of the Month (except July and August)  
Activity Center—1800 Sidney St. W—Phone: 773-6035

- Donated \$250 salvation army & worked the kettles
- Donated \$500 donation to the Dr Noble Irwin Foundation
- Volunteered in November at blood donor clinic
- Volunteered at Christmas kettles for Salvation Army
- Presented \$250 scholarship to Community College
- Made up personal care packages
- Distributed First books.



**Media** – Thanks for books from Stewart Valley School and for scholarship donation for the community college

**SecurTek . . .**

Contact Club President: vacant  
Email: brittany.nagy@securTek.sk.ca

President—vacant  
VP - Finance—vacant  
Community Service—Amber Chepil

Past President—Brittany Nagy  
Publicity—vacant  
VP Membership—Shayla Hydamacka

Secretary - vacant  
Participation—vacant

>>>> NO REPORT SUBMITTED <<<<

**Weyburn Club . . .**

Contact Club President: Belinda Kradovill 848-3392  
Email: belinda.kradovill@sasktel.com

President—Belinda Kradovill  
LM Rep—Paul Wilson

Secretary - Vacant  
Member at Large—Willie Kradovill and Dale Huff

Treasurer - vacant

Adopt a family in Estevan in December and donated \$500 to Food Bank in Weyburn  
and donated socks to Salvation Army in Weyburn and Estevan

**Life Member Report . . .**

1st Year VP —Shirley Wolfe—306 545-2179  
2nd Year VP—Debbie Gorlick—306 227-2829

NB—Hugh Martin  
Melfort—Lynne Floyd  
Weyburn/Estevan—Paul Wilson  
Regina—Del Jones

Saskatoon—Debby Gorlick  
PA—vacant  
SC—Dennis Riach

Email: debbygorlick@sasktel.net  
Email: 232swolfe\_gmail.com.

Directwest—Judi Livingstone  
Yorkton—Jean Bryski  
Moose Jaw—Vacant



**Prairie Council . .**

**Contact Club President: vacant**  
**Email:**

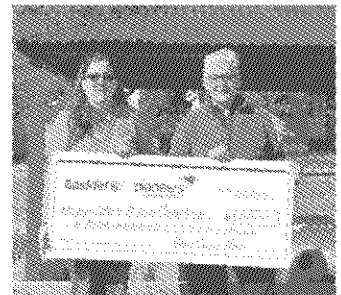
**President - vacant**  
**Past President - Sheila Solvason**  
**HAD Allen Life Member Club - Del Jones**  
**VP Membership—Vacant**  
**Salvage - Jolene Norleen (777-3431)**  
**Computers for Schools—Keith Grill**

**Secretary - Trina Klein**  
**VP Sports - Bev Cyca**  
**VP Ways & Means - Crystal Isaac**  
**VP Community Outreach & Collections—Laurel Werner**  
**Members at Large—John Winter**  
**VP Community Service - Haydee Iglesias (Special) & Sandy Elliott (Routine)**

**Treasurer - Andrew McKay**  
**VP Education - Tiffany Eide**  
**VP Youth —Sorina Makris**

**Monthly Club Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Noon at Head Office**

- Donated \$3200 to Kitchener school for exercise equipment and \$2,500 to Soul's Harbour
- Donated \$100 to Santa's Annual Visit
- Donated \$2,500 to Isobel Johnson Shelter (YWCA)
- Donated \$2,500 to Carmichael Outreach
- Donated \$2,500 to Salvation Army and \$2,500 to Souls Harbour
- Donated \$15,000 to Regina Food Bank
- Collected and distributed Wish Angels to two inner city schools
- Donated \$2500 for Arcola school to restock their empty library
- Donated \$3,000 to NCFC India Night fundraiser
- Provided Hampers for Fort Qu'Appelle and donated socks to YWCA, Carmichael Outreach and Salvation Army
- Handed out 359 gifts to Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 3 students at Sacred Heart and Kitchener Schools.
- Kids and volunteer "elves" filled the Oak Room at the Ramada Plaza Regina in December waiting for a chance to meet Santa Claus. Hope McCheyne, the "head elf" for the program, said the kids are taken in to meet and talk to Santa.
- Donations to Gemma House—30 pair of PJs, 13 Pillow cases, 10 Place Mats, 16 bags Celebration Mini Cookies, 13 Skittles Candy Canes, 13 Russell Stover Chocolates, 14 pair of socks, 13 pair of Gloves - touch screen, 15 Pacific Grove - Lotion, 14 Tooth Brushes, 13 Tooth Paste, 13 Playing Cards, 13 coloring books with coloring pencils, 11 tote bags, 13 Neon Notebook, 13 organizing Baskets
- Donated \$10,000 to hospitals of Regina & got a nice story written & included past donations from Prairie Council & HAD Allen. Total in the past 20 years was over \$600,000
- Partnered with Moose Jaw Pioneers and donated \$750 to Sarah Bakken family. They recently had a house fire that has left them with out many of the everyday luxuries we all enjoy.
- Donated \$2,500 to McVeety Child Care Centre play yard rebuilt. See Page 28 for more details

**North Battleford . . .**

**Contact Club President: Dan Nesdoly 441-0118**  
**Email: dan.nesdoly@sasktel.com**

**President—Dan Nesdoly**  
**Secretary & Treasurer — Brent Degenstein**  
**VP Salvage—Sharon Bogdan**

**Past President – Brent Degenstein**  
**VP Social - Marion Cashmore**  
**VP Computer Sales & Salvage—Lloyd Edmunds (445-3985)**  
**nbpioneers2sasktel.net**

**VP Membership - Marilyn Eckel**  
**LM Rep—Hugh Martin**

**Ladies meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month and the Men meet every Wednesday for coffee.**

- First books donations 1500 books across 4 schools and the Battleford's Boys & Girls Club (BBGC)
- BBGC will also receive \$7500 towards their mortgage burning fundraiser to pay down their debt
- Donated \$7500 to Canadian Mental Health Association towards a van to transport their clients
- Donated \$1000 to Cristal's Home
- Donated \$1000 donation to Interval house
- Donated \$1000 to Lighthouse—used to purchase toiletries and personal items for their clients, along with a Blue ray player for their facility. And donated socks The Olive Tree in Lloydminster
- Donated \$2000 to a local family to cover medical expenses related to their infant who was born without a functioning immune system
- Donate 4 laptops to Battleford's boys & girls club for homeschooling
- Donated lunches to hospital, paramedic workers over the Covid shutdown.





**Bridge City Club . . .**

**Contact Club President: Dwayne Iwasiuk, 306 222-5576**  
**Email: Dwayne.iwasiuk@sasktel.com**

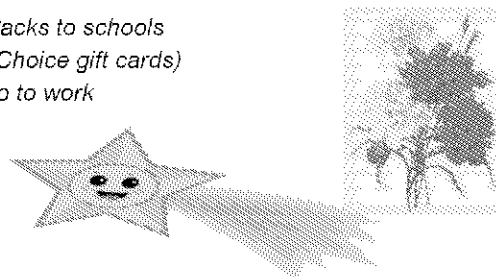
**President—Dwayne Iwasiuk**  
**Vice President—Kacey Vooght**  
**Vp Publicity—Bonny Stevenson**  
**VP Community—Michelle Hankewich**  
**VP Membership/Participation—Dorianne Urquhart**

**Past President—Mark Grambo**  
**VP Fellowship— Valerie Lukash**  
**VP Education - Dorianne Urquhart**  
**VP Environment - Dione Wall**  
**Life Member Rep—Debby Gorlick**

**Secretary - Pam Shillington**  
**Treasurer - Joe Bergen**  
**VP Salvage—Dan Blum**  
**Member at Large—Wanda Vass**

**Our Club meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Computers for School and Pioneer Salvage Sales is operated from the Sutherland Warehouse in Saskatoon**  
**210 103rd Street E. Saskatoon 306 931-5564 Email - npac@sasktel.net**  
**Hours of Operation: Monday—Friday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

- *Donated \$1000 for personal hygiene product and delivered 600 Power Packs to schools*
- *Donated \$2000 to Westmount school (10 packages of \$200 President's Choice gift cards)*
- *Donated \$1000 to Egadz for a program in getting your people ready to go to work*
- *Donated \$1,000 to YWCA (Emergency Shelter)*
- *Donated \$1,000 to Food Bank and \$1,000 to Friendship Inn*
- *Donated \$2500 to Ability in ME (AIM) for Dine for a Difference*
- *Donated \$2000 to MADD*
- *Donated to Telemiracle*
- *Donated IPADS for ICU*
- *Held Hug a Bear workshop and donated socks to the Lighthouse, Egadz, Interval House and Bridge Saskatoon.*
- *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held on November 20<sup>th</sup>*
- *Volunteers helped at Heart Pillow work bee in March. See page 27 for more detailed report*
- *Stars volunteer Appreciation night held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>*
- *Volunteers gathered at Market Mall to pass on kindness and good vibes as part of Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) week. Participants randomly handed out carnations to pleasantly surprised mall customers. See page 34 for more details.*
- *Donated Power Packs to 3 Saskatoon Schools. Includes pencils, crayons rulers, glue erasers, duotangs, etc.*
- *Bridge City Pioneers along with The Business Sales Directors, Operations Directors, Greg Meister and David Ekstrand made a donation of \$3000.00 to Westmount School.*

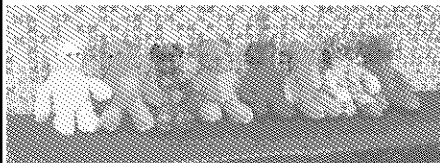


**Media Mentions:** Langham facebook page for masks donated to someone's family; Thank you from North Park Wilson school for last year's donation of \$2,500; CTV for Computers for Schools and Wish Angels; on Net insta about their Agriculture in the Classroom. Thank you from Greater Catholic School Division for all the Pioneers and what they do for their schools. Thank you for wish angels and from families of the forest. Westmount School was beyond excited to get donations for their families.

*Flowers planted in a courtyard at RUH for everyone to enjoy.*



**Held a Hug-A-Bear Sewing Bee in January.**  
*Volunteers always needed to cut out bears, put eyes and noses on the fabric, sew the bears, and stuff the bears.*



*Donated hygiene items to the Lighthouse and Egadz along with each a \$1000.00 cheque. The hygiene items were purchased in a partnership with the Saskatoon Travelodge.*

*Karen Pepper from the Travelodge joined, Mark Grambo, Bonny Stevenson and Debby Gorlick*





**Directwest . .**

**Contact Club President: Brittany Bartel 777-0446**  
**Email: brittany.bartel@directwest.com**

**President - Brittany Bartel**  
**Sr. VP—vacant**  
**VP Participation - Tim Dickson**  
**VP Social & Fellowship—Britney Brodt**

**Past President—Sharon Finnik**  
**Treasurer - Val Dodman**  
**VP Community Service - Allan Milham**  
**LM Rep—Judy Livingstone**

**Secretary—Ashley Raddysch**  
**VP Membership—Amanda Kreklewich**  
**VP Marketing—Michelle Roberts**  
**VP Ways & Means—vacant**

- Donated \$300 and 25 books to Help Portrait Regina
- Donated \$1,500 in foods and goods to RPS - Secret Santa
- Employees purchased 30 gifts for Regina Wish Angels 30
- Donated 58 books to Carmichael Outreach
- Held Taco in a bag fundraiser in early March
- Sold 50/50 tickets for the Warman curler who passed away after giving birth
- Donated to Cheque for Help portrait - where photos are taken of families who can't afford it



**Media Mentions:** Kitchener School for 78 books; Ecole Harbour Landing School for 135 books; Coronation Park School for \$1000 donation; Albert Park School for \$1000 donation and 150 books and 50 items items donated to Santa Store; SOFIA House for \$600 to purchase pj's and 15 books. ,Kitchener School, Ecole Harbour landing school, SOFIA House

**Moose Jaw Club . .**

**Contact Club President: Kristian Sjoberg 775-4308**  
**Email: kristian.sjoberg@sasktel.com**

**President - Kristian Sjoberg**  
**Secretary - Todd Carrol**  
**VP Fellowship & Social —Hoy Chey-Hill**

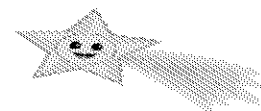
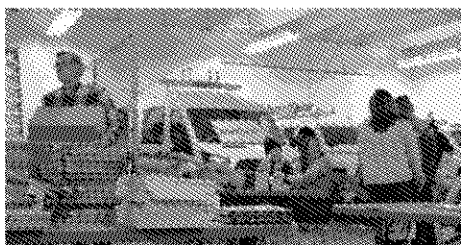
**Past President - Karena Warren**  
**Environment—Jim Waldenberger**  
**VP—Ryan Dionne**

**Treasurer —Todd Carrol**  
**VP Community - Michelle Wiley**

- Donated gift to seniors at Christmas
- Busy with Moose Jaw Gamers (Christmas stuff) Sold some laptop computers
- Donated two laptop computers to Moose Jaw Food Bank
- Donated First Books (see page 33 for article)
- Donated \$3,000 for Local Literacy (Holy Trinity and Prairie South schools)
- Donated computers to the Food Bank (See Page 21 for more information)
- Donated socks to Moose Jaw Women's Shelter, Riverside Mission and William Milne Place
- \* Donated \$500 to the Western Development Museum for the Moose Jaw and District Regional Heritage Fair to ensure area students can continue to showcase projects about local, provincial and national history. The heritage fair is an opportunity for students in grades 4 to 8 to create a project based on one aspect of Canadian heritage. The project could focus on a person, place or thing. More than 500 students in 11 schools from Moose Jaw and area participated in fairs at the school level this year. Sixty students were chosen to compete at the regional fair scheduled for April 30.
- Partnered with Regina Prairie Council Club and donated \$750 to Sarah Bakken family. They recently had a house fire that has left them with out many of the everyday luxuries we all enjoy. They are a very large foster family of 10 kids and two adults. We were very happy to be able to help them in their time of need.



**Moose Jaw Telcare** (an employee based contribution program) donated \$3,000 to Riverside Mission, Hunger in Moose Jaw, Moose Jaw & Distrist Food Bank and Moose Jaw Families for Change.



Donated over 6000 pounds of books to school divisions

**Melfort Club . . .**

**Contact Club President: Kathy Fidyk - 306 752-3448**  
**Email: [kaalfidy@icloud.com](mailto:kaalfidy@icloud.com)**

**Acting President - Kathy Kidyk**  
**Past President—Doreen Parenteau**  
**Life Member Rep - Lynne Floyd**

**VP Education - Kathy Fidyk**  
**VP Membership- Claude Bourgeois**  
**Members at Large—Karen Skwark , Russ Floyd and Kelly Bonk**

**Treasurer—Maureen Wood**  
**Secretary—Diane Bonk**

**Kathy Fidyk and Claude Bourgeois are acting co-presidents**

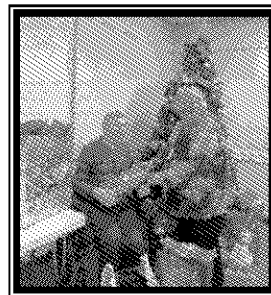
- Salvation army kettle - volunteered over 30 hours
- Donated \$200 to Salvation Army
- Donated \$200 to Tisdale TACCL
- Donated to Telemiracle
- Wish Angels for Parkland Long Term Care Home
- Held a Christmas supper and collected toys for salvation army
- Sold 50/50 tickets at hockey game donation to youth group
- Helped pack salvation army hampers
- Staffed the Christmas Castle in Melfort for 3 days
- Hug a bear bee
- Got water bottles to help Salvation Army with back packs in august
- Cleaning up around the water tower, watering flowers

**Media Mention:** volunteers at 50/50 hockey and Tax program



*35 members attended a Roast turkey & ham with all the trimmings supper in December 2019*

*Members brought an unwrapped toy  
 And donated to the Salvation Army  
 as well as a \$200.00 monetary donation!*



*Wish Angels for the local seniors home. Our very own Ted Magis a patient at the home presented the gifts*



*Volunteered-for the Salvation Army to hand out 205 hampers!*

**Prince Albert . . .**

**Contact Club President: Michael Vancoughnett—930.7200**  
**Email: [michael.vancoughnett@sasktel.com](mailto:michael.vancoughnett@sasktel.com)**

**President—Michael Vancoughnett**  
**Treasurer - Janessa Herbert**  
**Communication—Michelle Zurakowski**

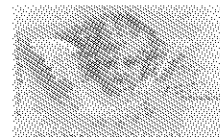
**Past President - vacant**  
**Life Member Rep - Jamie Tilford**  
**VP Fellowship—Shauna Uhlik**

**Secretary - Mark Johnson**  
**VP Social—Jordan Weatherbee**  
**Membership—Maureen Pepper**

**Club Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the PA Conference Room (Basement) at noon.**  
**Fellowship held on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the basement Pioneer Room.**



**Donated \$300 to SPCA and Participated in Wish Angel Project and donated socks to Our House in Prince Albert**



**H.A.D. ALLEN Life Member Club . . .**

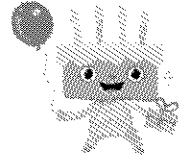
**President Del Jones — 306 543-7360**  
**Email: dw.jones@sasktel.net**

**President—Del Jones**  
**Secretary - Lynn Meikle-Brown**  
**Member at large—Alex Yakichuk, Carol Sagin**

**Past President - Wayne Rutten**  
**VP Fellowship—Gloria Lawson**  
**Salvage —Crawford McKee**

**Treasurer - Lyle Fluter**  
**Computers for Schools—Keith Grill**  
**Community Services/Social —Marilyn Lorence**

- ☐ **Monthly Club Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the TPAC in Regina.**
- ☐ **Birthday Parties are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the TPAC in Regina**

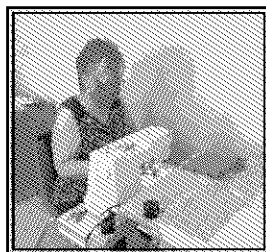


- Donated \$2,000 each to Carmichael Outreach; Street Culture Kids; Souls Harbour Mission and Salvation Army
- Donated \$12,000 to Regina Food Bank
- Donated \$5,000 to YWCA 'Say Yes Campaign'
- Purchased \$1,000 of school supplies for George Ferguson School and St. Augustine School
- Volunteers made 662 Masks by 8 volunteers—Donated to William Booth, Ranch Ehrlo, Pioneer Salvage Sales, Pioneers, Partners and families. Donations of \$672 will be used to support Mental Health initiatives. See Page 35 for more information.
- Donated \$2,000 to CKRM Musical Christmas card for MS. Donated another \$1,000 for an hour where HAD Allen will match other donations up to \$1,000. Received over 100 media mentions on CKRM
- Held Christmas party for Life Members on Dec 6
- Provided volunteers for Unifor kids Christmas party in 2019
- Sorted and Distributed First Books Canada. Volunteers unpacked and sorted 2 pallets of books—sorted by title and age group. Coordinated by Jolene Norlene.
- Jolene and Blaine Norleen participated in the Alzheimers Walk in May 2020.
- Donated 35 walker bags in early 2019. We have 26 others in progress for an early donation in 2020.

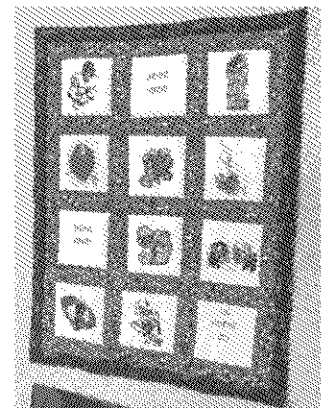
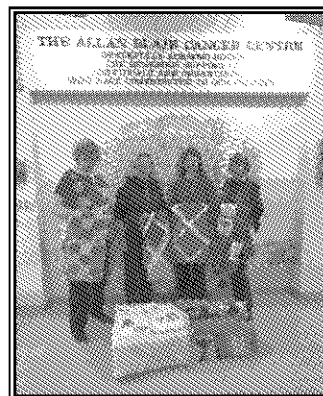
**Media Mentions:** CBC radio and CBC news & article in Leader Post about Computers for Schools. They talked to Barry Rutherford from Saskatoon Pioneer Club. Thank you mention on Regina food bank webpage - donated approx. \$28,000 between Prairie Council and HAD Allen Life Member Club.

Income Tax volunteers received an award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals at Center of Arts. They completed 6,000 returns in March & April 2019 and generated \$1M in benefits & refunds

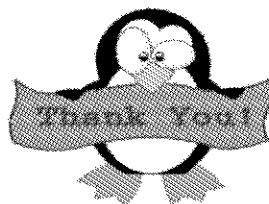
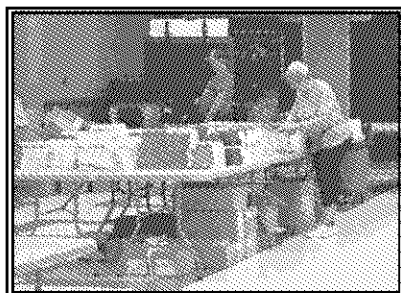
I am writing to you on behalf of the students and staff at Dr. George Ferguson Elementary School to extend an appreciative thank-you to the SaskTel Pioneers for the donation of supplies our school received to start off our Covid-19 year. Thank you once again for the work that you and the SaskTel Pioneers do. We are so lucky to have people like you in our community helping out. Yours in Education; Tyler Jones. (Marilyn Lorence purchased and delivered the supplies).



8 Volunteers made 662 Masks



Volunteers created 14 quilts in 2019 and donated them to the Allan Blair Cancer clinic.



Sorting and Distributing  
First Books Canada f



**TPAC—2106 1st Avenue,**  
**Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3Y2**  
**Phone: 777-8450 for bookings**  
**Email: tpac.pioneers@sasktel.net**



## **Tried and True The SaskTel Pioneers a Beacon of Positivity in a Changing World**

*SaskTel Pioneers stand out in Saskatchewan communities for their volunteer efforts.*

We've all heard about the SaskTel Pioneers. Many of us are proud members, in fact. But within the steady stream of good deeds the Pioneers partake in annually, it's easy to forget about what the Pioneers are all about.

**So let's start here.**

The SaskTel Pioneers are a network of current and former telecom industry employees from across North America and can include both partners and family members.

Their work is dedicated to making a recognized contribution to a variety of community needs. By doing so, they provide value to SaskTel by contributing to our strategic priorities. It also creates rewarding networking opportunities for their members.

While the original 'Telephone Pioneers' began in Boston in 1911, it wasn't until 1947 that Saskatchewan Chapter 59 became a member. In 1995, recognizing the need to strengthen and build on an already solid relationship, a formal partnership was signed between the Pioneers and SaskTel. In return for being a part of the SaskTel planning process, the Pioneers provide a business plan which assists SaskTel in meeting its commitment to social responsibility and good citizenship. This business plan includes the Pioneers being involved in activities that align to the researched needs of our communities, membership and sponsoring company.

These activities include:

- Corporate Contributions - Pioneers provide the hands on where SaskTel Community Relations makes a financial contribution
- Provincial corporate volunteer projects
- Salvage Operations - selling surplus computers donated by SaskTel

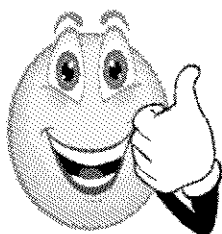
The latter is part of the partnership the Pioneers enjoy with Industry Canada for their 'Computers For Schools' program. The SaskTel Pioneers have refurbished over 70,000 computers and printers since the program began in 1993. This represents a saving of approximately \$60,000,000.00 to schools and libraries in Saskatchewan.

The 'value add' the Pioneers bring to SaskTel can be seen in the partnerships they have with schools across the Province. Activities include e-mail pen pals, mentoring, P.O.W.E.R. Packs, playground maps, clothing and food drives, hygiene kits, job shadowing, drug awareness and many other activities.

It's also apparent in the opportunities for personal and professional growth that benefit both employees and SaskTel. This is accomplished through project management as employees take on executive positions on the local Clubs and Councils. Pioneers provide leadership training for all Club and Council executives.

The list of Pioneer good deeds is a long one. They have raised over \$200,000/a year since 1998. This money is then donated back into the various communities within Saskatchewan.

The volunteer hours are also significant. Since 1998, the SaskTel Pioneers have contributed between 55,000 and 85,000 hours of community service. This equates to over a million dollars of volunteer labour each year!



In challenging times, it's comforting to know the SaskTel Pioneers are such an important part of our company!

*This article is copied from 'The Source' at SaskTel and edited by Pioneer News Editor*

## Computer Deposit

### SaskTel Pioneers Supply Laptops to Moose Jaw & District Food Bank

*Kristian Sjoberg (l) along with Howard Dore of MooseNet Computers (r) presents one of the laptops to Deann Little of the Moose Jaw & District Food Bank.*



When the Moose Jaw & District Food Bank needed help, the SaskTel Pioneers were there to lend a hand.

The Pioneers, along with Moose Jaw company MooseNet Computers recently teamed up to supply laptops to the charitable organization.

"Deann Little (Development Manager at the Food Bank) was in desperate need of some new computers to replace their aging ones that they struggled with on a daily basis," said Kristian Sjoberg, a CST from Moose Jaw who volunteers with the Pioneers.

"They reached out to the Pioneers and we partnered with MooseNet Computers. We supplied them with two wonderful refurbished laptops that were no longer in use at SaskTel, while Howard Dore of MooseNet graciously donated the software for the laptops, as well as his time."

Whether the Food Bank is launching new programs like 'Mighty Munchies' for kids or breaking records for distribution of food hampers, it's vitally important for them to have their infrastructure of computers and records up-to-date and working.

"The laptops and software that were so graciously donated to us are used to run the Food Bank and keep everything organized," said Deann. "We simply would not be able to do our jobs as efficiently and effectively without them. Among other things, the computers help us to keep client data up-to-date and to record different statistics that we need."

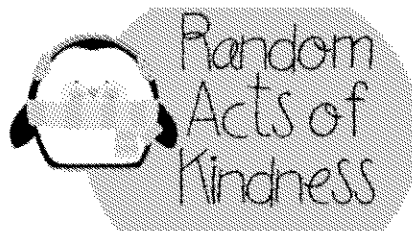
Deann said it's special relationships like these that make a difference for the food bank, where demand for their services is only increasing.

"As a community driven organization, it's of the utmost importance for us to build long lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with as many other like-minded businesses, organizations and individuals as possible," said Deann.

"Their support is imperative if we are to fulfill our duties. It's only together that we can make a real difference and we feel blessed to have organizations like the SaskTel Pioneers on our side."

Kristian echoed those sentiments.

"It's so wonderful to have businesses and charities here in Moose Jaw that can partner together in a pinch, that will jump to the rescue of others in need," he said.



*This article is copied from 'The Source' at SaskTel and edited by Pioneer News Editor*

## It Truly is a Beautiful Thing Teamwork Restores Spiritwood Services

*The rebuilt CDO in Spiritwood that replaced the one lost in the fire*



**When Jack Van Dyke heard a knock on his door in the early morning hours of 23 Aug 2020, he never imagined that it would be related to his previous work.**

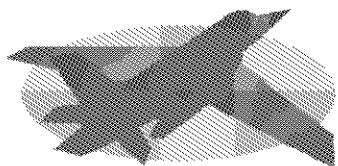
Jack, a former Customer Service Technician for SaskTel in the Town of Spiritwood retired in 2019 after 44 years of service for the corporation. He still lives in Spiritwood and happens to live across the street from the current CST in Town, Ryan Andersen. Knowing Jack from his years in the community, it was the RCMP who knocked on both his and Ryan's door to notify them that the SaskTel Central District office was on fire.

"My first reaction when I saw the blaze was this is unbelievable," says Jack. "As a CST this is your worst nightmare of what could happen to your services."

The blaze entirely destroyed the CDO knocking out landline, internet, data and cellular services in the Town of Spiritwood and surrounding area north up to Chitek Lake, south to Rabbit Lake and east to the Town of Debden. What transpired over the next number of days is something Jack marveled at in his days as a SaskTel employee; and that is what can be accomplished when SaskTel works as a team.

From Construction services to Service Technicians to Sales and beyond, numerous SaskTel departments began working hand in hand 24/7 to get the services restored.

It was in his farewell message in Leaving on a Jet Plane on The Source in July 2019 that Jack wrote:

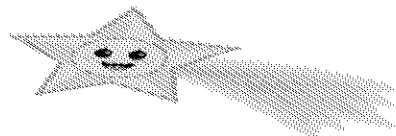
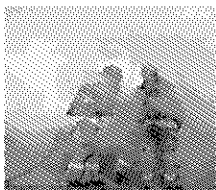


***"When all the departments within SaskTel pull energetically in the same direction great things can happen, it is a beautiful thing."*** – Jack Van Dyke  
*Leaving on A Jet Plane, July 2019*

"Seeing how quickly SaskTel was able to restore services in Spiritwood is exactly what I meant in my farewell message and what can happen when all departments at SaskTel pull together."

While SaskTel crews were busy working to restore services as quickly as possible, Jack also became part of the team. While wireless services were restored early in the week, landline services remained out and the safety of those vulnerable was of concern. Jack along with the Town of Spiritwood's Chief Administration Officer delivered pre-paid cell phones to the town's senior complex and a number of senior housing units enabling them to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

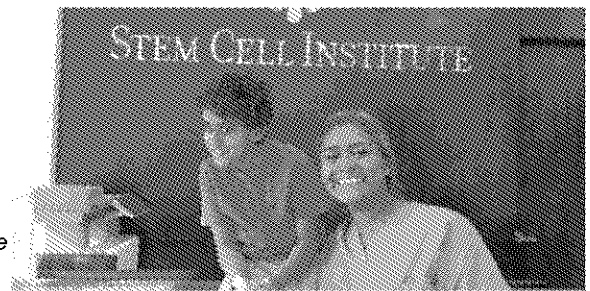
"It was fun to be a part of the team once again," says Jack. "Of course, the real credit goes to everyone at SaskTel from those who were on hand immediately, worked with the community and everyone who has worked so diligently to get the services restored"



*This article is copied from 'The Source' at SaskTel and edited by Pioneer News Editor*

## A Caring Company

### HOOP and Telcare— Two of Many Things That Make Us a Top 100 Company



*Faraz Rizvi's son Aryaan (l) at the Stem Cell Institute*

**When Faraz Rizvi's now 11-year-old son Aryaan was diagnosed with severe autism, Faraz began to seek all available options for the treatment of his boy.**

He soon discovered that stem-cell treatment offered one of the best potential therapeutic benefits for the neurodevelopmental disorder that impacts brain development.

"We took Aryaan to Mexico for the first treatment in 2018, and we, along with our family physician, felt that a measure of progress had been made," said Faraz, who works as a Manager – Consumer Sales at the Contact Centre in Saskatoon.

Inspired by the results, the family then decided to make a second trip earlier this year to a facility in Panama that's renowned as a leader in stem-cell treatment. With more progress made, the family is keen on returning to Panama in the coming months. But between the treatments, the travel and all associated costs, financial considerations have become a concern.

"As one can imagine, the expenses have been astronomical as we have dipped into our savings," said Faraz, who has spent upwards of \$42,000 up to this point. "Every penny counts. Still, when a fellow employee suggested I inquire for a bit of funding from HOOP, I did so with some hesitation."

**HOOP** is SaskTel's confidential Helping Our Own People fund. Among other things, the initiative offsets the financial burden of extended health care and illness costs. Faraz is thankful for having the option of reaching out to HOOP.

"I was amazed at how overwhelmingly positive HOOP has been for me and for my family," said Faraz. "The whole process was handled in a respectful and private way. The funding we received went a long way in helping us out and resulted in an immeasurable level of relief."

Faraz's experience also made it evident to him why SaskTel was recently recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers. "I've worked for other companies, and felt like I was treated like a number," he said. "It's not like that at SaskTel. HOOP is proof of the supportive environment we have here that goes beyond paying the bills and supporting our lifestyles. We work for an employer that's genuinely caring." It's one of the reasons Faraz was enthusiastic to share such a deeply personal story with his SaskTel co-workers.

"I'm open about this because it allows me to accept the situation," he said. "But also, because I want people to know that HOOP is an option for them in their hour of need."  
 "Employees are valued at SaskTel, and the company takes care of its people."

\*\*\*\*\*

## SaskTel TelCare (contributions by current employees and SaskTel

**TelCare** is another way for employees and SaskTel help our fellow employees and non profit charities in the province. TelCare has raised and donated over \$1.4 million dollars throughout the province in the last five years. Employees contribute regularly through optional payroll deductions. For every dollar donated by an employee, SaskTel contributes an additional \$.50 cents. With no overhead, 100 per cent of funds donated go directly back to the community, and since employees are the primary donors, they are also the ones who decide what organizations in their community to support each year. SaskTel Pioneers and SaskTel EnviroCare are another two means of SaskTel employees/retirees contribute to our communities.

TelCare recently accepted the Moose Jaw Gamers challenge to sponsor the Mighty Munchies program with a donation of \$750 to the Moose Jaw and District Food Bank.

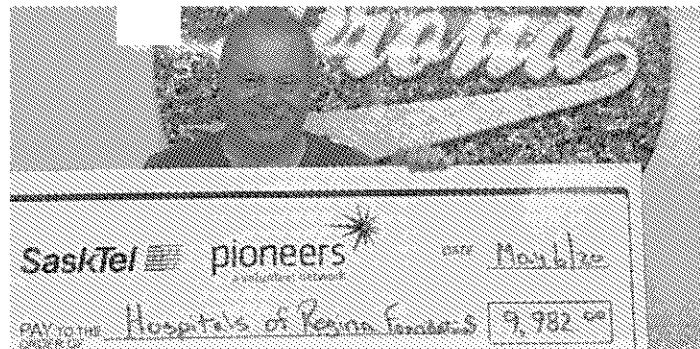


The SaskTel TelCare fund in Moose Jaw made its annual donations to four local charity organizations— thanks to the dedication of over 900 Moose Jaw SaskTel employees. They have distributed almost \$3,000 between Riverside Mission, Hunger in Moose Jaw, Moose Jaw & District Food Bank, and Moose Jaw Families for Change.



## A Vital Donation! Pioneers Make Donation Towards New Vital Signs Monitors for Hospital

*Pioneer Manager Darrell Liebrecht with the  
cheque for the Hospitals of Regina Foundation*



At SaskTel, one of our most important traditions as a company is coming together to support the communities we serve during times of need.

We are proud to say that since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, this important tradition has only grown and gotten stronger. Showing support to our health care workers and collaborating to help protect patients, care home residents and their families has become a priority for many current and retired employees, and for the SaskTel Pioneers this is no different.

For several weeks, Pioneers have been stepping up to be a force for good, making non-medical protective masks for care home employees and community members across Saskatchewan. However, as a group, the Pioneers knew that they wanted to do something more to support our critical health care workers and the general delivery of health care in the province.



After identifying an urgent need with their long-time partner, the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, the Pioneers were able to organize two generous gifts equaling nearly \$10,000 to support the purchase of two vital signs monitors for the Regina region. The much-needed monitors will be used to support care in the Ambulatory Care Unit at Regina's General Hospital.

"This equipment can change lives and help ensure patients receive the care they need. It's a great feeling for all of us at the Pioneers to know we can help improve health care delivery in the community."

Vital signs monitors help to track and display a patient's vital signs such as body temperature, blood pressure, heart rate and rhythm, and blood oxygen saturation. The tool gives doctors and nurses the information they need quickly, and accurately, and can help ensure they can continue to deliver the safest, most accurate and efficient care possible.

"Thanks to the support of dedicated community partners like the SaskTel Pioneers, Hospitals of Regina Foundation is able to invest in the highest priority needs of our hospitals and help our health care teams deliver the best care possible, right here at home," said Dino Sophocleous, President and CEO of Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

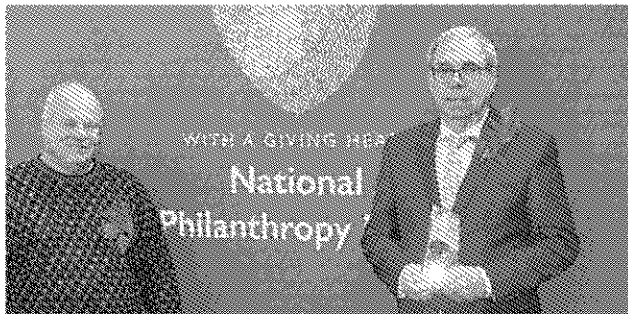
SaskTel Pioneers have contributed more than \$660,000 since 1983 to Regina hospitals to priorities such as the NICU, Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care, Mosaic Heart Centre, Palliative Care unit, and the Wolfe Stroke Care Unit at Wascana Rehab, just to name a few.

Since the onset of the outbreak, Pioneers have also pursued opportunities to support essential workers and vulnerable people in the community who may be facing additional challenges, with generous donations to the Regina Food Bank, Carmichael Outreach, Salvation Army and Souls Harbour Rescue Mission all made in the past month.

"During these difficult times, Pioneers are doing everything possible to contribute meaningfully to our communities and to help those on the frontlines," added Darrell. "While the virus has changed how we work and how we live, we can still help those in our community who are working to keep us safe and healthy."

There is no question that there are a lot of fundraisers and activities going on all around us to support those affected





## From Poverty to Possibility Pioneers Receive Recognition on National Philanthropy Day

*Darrell Liebrecht (l) and Rick Gauthier with the Outstanding Community Group award the Pioneers received at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon in Regina.*

The philanthropic activities of the SaskTel Pioneers were recognized recently on National Philanthropy Day.

National Philanthropy Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the daily impact generosity has on our communities. This internationally recognized day celebrates the heartfelt contributions individuals and organizations make to countless causes and missions across the world.

In Regina, the 2019 National Philanthropy Day Luncheon took place on 12 Nov 2019 at the Conexus Arts Centre.

**"We were nominated by the United Way of Regina," said Pioneer Manager Darrell Liebrecht.**

**"And we were honored to receive the Outstanding Community Group award at the luncheon."**

The award recognizes a community or group of volunteers who demonstrate outstanding skills in coordinating and motivating donors and volunteers for fundraising projects for the benefit of charitable institutions.

Darrell attended the luncheon with Rick Gauthier. Rick, a SaskTel retiree who is a big part of Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) in Regina. CVITP, which is a program of the Canadian Revenue agency, works with volunteer and charitable groups like the SaskTel Pioneers and the United Way Regina to provide free personal income tax filing clinics.

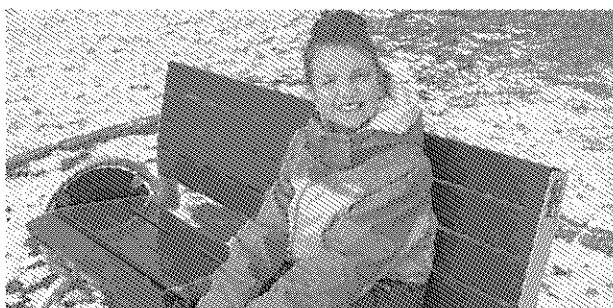
"I have seen first-hand the tremendous amount of work and dedication the Pioneers have provided through the numerous Tax Clinics that have been held," said Trish Taylor, Director of Individual & Corporate Giving for the United Way. "I cannot thank them enough for their commitment to supporting our community and providing this incredibly essential service for those who would otherwise not have the knowledge, skills or means to complete taxes on their own."

**"Your efforts help move people from a life of poverty to one of possibility. You are incredible champions for our community, and in recognition of all your time and work, we were happy to nominate you."**

Of course, their work with the CVITP is only one of many causes the Pioneers support. The group contributes more than 60,000 volunteer hours to Saskatchewan causes every year.

***"It was a great feeling to be recognized, particularly on such a special day, and along with the other organizations and individuals who were also honoured," said Darrell.***





## Buddying Up

Be Kind Online Helps Sedley Students Put Positivity into Action

*Aleeya Deck on the buddy bench she helped to get for the Sedley School playground.*

**At Sedley School, students have discovered the power of kindness and they believe it deserves to be spread far and wide.**

And though the hallways of Sedley School clearly show a culture of kindness, there was one place where grade 6 student Aleeya Deck believed still needed a special touch: the playground.

While many students get to build relationships in the classroom, Aleeya noticed that there wasn't as many chances for students from different grades to get to know one another. As a member of the school's Student Leadership Council (SLC) she tries to get kids involved in school activities but felt that something permanent outside would help to create a safe and happy place for kids during recess.

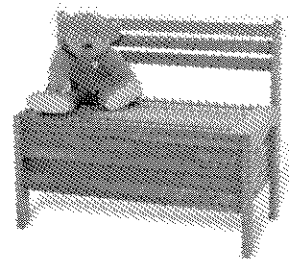
"I think we've all had or know someone who's Aleeya. "I want all kids to feel cared about, about other schools getting buddy benches feels lonely."



having a tough day and needs someone to talk to," said including kids who may have just moved here. I heard and thought it was a great way to make sure no one ever

This past spring, she decided to put in an application to Be Kind Online asking for funds so that the school could buy a "buddy bench" for their newly renovated playground. To her surprise, Aleeya's application was selected and she was presented with a \$1,000 cheque at a school assembly in April to help make it happen.

The money was put towards the school's first buddy bench as well as a school-wide BBQ and activity. In late October, the school celebrated the unveiling of their bench, and SaskTel Be Kind Online was ecstatic to help them mark their achievement.



"We are just thrilled to support Sedley School and their efforts to promote kindness on the playground," said Jennifer McLeod, HR Manager – CSR, Diversity and Organizational Design. "The buddy bench is one of those projects that goes a long way toward creating the strong sense of community that I think any school requires."

Work is ongoing to put the finishing touches on landscaping around the playground which will ensure the bench is a welcoming place for students to sit for years to come. But, for the school of 110 kids, Aleeya is already seeing how the bench is making a difference:

"The other day I saw a girl who was sad because she had nobody to play with her. I saw her sitting on the bench and went up to her and asked her to play with me."

From all accounts, the Sedley School buddy bench is a great success. Sedley students are now putting the lessons they've learned about kindness into action when they see someone sitting by themselves.

***"Buddy benches provide such a boost for everyone," Jennifer added. "Not just for students who seek companionship or who may be going through a difficult time, but also for the students who know they've done the right thing by showing others they're never alone."***

Whether it's a big act of kindness or small everyday acts, there is something everyone can do to encourage compassion and kindness in our communities.

## Sew Comforting! Pioneers Put Together Heart Pillows for Coronary Patients

A Heart Pillows the SaskTel Pioneers helped to create.



Throughout the course of the year, the SaskTel Pioneers play a role in many heart-warming stories. Their participation in the creation of Heart Pillows is literally one of those stories!

The Bridge City SaskTel Pioneers in Saskatoon, along with members of the Coronary Rehab Group (CARG) held a Heart Pillow bee on 27 Oct 2019 at Grace Westminster Church in Saskatoon.

*"Heart Pillows are designed to aid patients recovering from heart surgery at Royal University Hospital (RUH)," said Ken Johnston, a member of CARG who are made up of individuals who have had open heart surgery and who provide the pillows to the RUH. "We like to have one for every patient who has had open heart surgery."*

The pillows serve as comfort after surgery. If a patient coughs, they can press the pillow against their chest to alleviate any pain that may exist. The making and distribution of the Heart Pillows is coordinated by RUH along with CARG. Cloth is ordered, heart shapes are cut out of the cloth, and graphics are placed on each pillow.

The Heart Pillows are then sewn together twice a year by SaskTel Pioneer members (as well as volunteers from CARG). In the latest Heart Pillow bee, 175 pillows were made. Ken says about 40 pillows are handed out every six to eight weeks.

Ken, who had quadruple by-pass surgery himself 15 years ago, says the Heart Pillows were a comfort to him when he went through surgery. "By being presented with the Heart Pillows after their surgery, it provides some comfort and lets patients know someone cares about them."



"We feel this is a very important project, and one we are very happy to be a part of," said Brenda Iwasiuk, who coordinates the Heart Pillows project for the Bridge City Pioneers. "It's a great cause and like with any Pioneer project, it's a chance to be reacquainted with familiar faces, all while adding an element of caring into the community."

The Regina Life Member Club are actively involved in this project as well.

"The Pioneers are a great organization to work with," added Ken. "Brenda and the group do a tremendous job for us and we are pleased that they continue to take this project on, helping those who have gone through heart surgery."





## Greening McVeety

### SaskTel EnviroCare and the Pioneers Make Donation to Vandalized Daycare

The YMCA daycare play area at McVeety School in Regina.

**Kindness and caring can play a role in helping to soothe even the most senseless of situations.**

An example of this occurred in September 2019 when the YMCA of Regina reached out to the community for help after the playground of a daycare at Marion McVeety School was vandalized.

Two groups that stepped up to help were SaskTel EnviroCare and the SaskTel Pioneers.

"There was a lot of damage done at the property, up to \$5,000 worth," said Tony Showchuk, Director of STEPPP at SaskTel and chairperson of the EnviroCare committee. "I spoke to a YMCA representative who was in charge of raising funds for the rebuilding of the playground." Tony learned that the vandalism included the complete destruction of a wooden playhouse, climbing structures, seating and interaction spaces.

"We felt this was an opportunity to make something positive out of a negative situation," said Tony. "It also related well to EnviroCare's mission of 'Greening the spaces in which we work and live in'. We therefore dedicated \$2,500 to the rebuilding efforts at McVeety school, which will be used towards the development of a green space within the play area." The Pioneers' support will go directly into the playground.

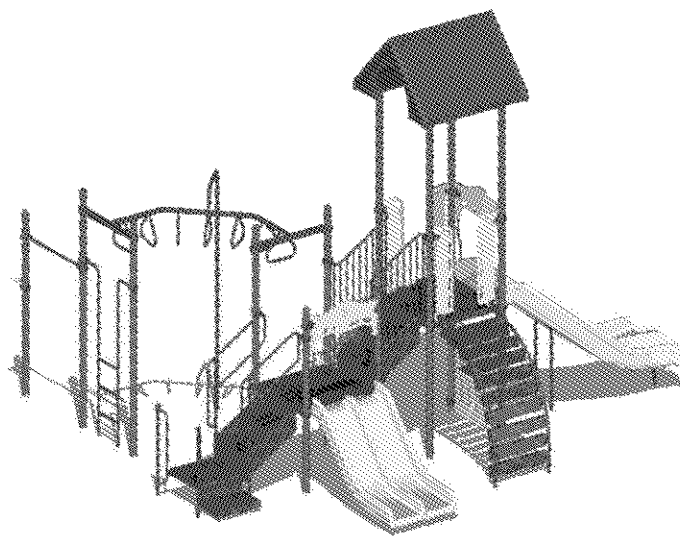
Besides its planned projects, EnviroCare makes donations like this one a few times a year when they discover a situation that fits within their mandate where they might be of assistance. In this case, the group was able to assist the YMCA (which is a charitable none-profit organization) in dealing a situation that arose unexpectedly.

The EnviroCare donation was made possible due to the proceeds the group receives from their internal bottle recycling efforts they have set up at SaskTel. The group also received a special contribution of \$5,000 from the SaskTel Pioneers earlier this year to mark their fifth-year anniversary.

"The donations will be especially important to the more than 30 children who attend the daycare and use the playground several times a day," said Tony. "We hope the new green-space will help to make their playtime that much more enjoyable." The greenspace is slated to be completed for the spring of 2020.

*But due to Covid-19 I am not sure it got completed*

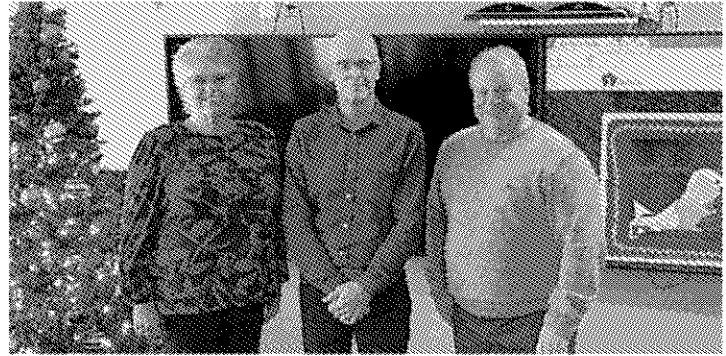
**No act of kindness,**  
no matter how small,  
**is ever wasted.**  
— Aesop



## Fostering Goodwill

### Organization for Foster Families Recognizes the SaskTel Pioneers

(From l): Deb Davies of SFFA, Kevin Harris and Darrell Liebrecht at the room dedicated to the SaskTel Pioneers by the SFFA in Saskatoon.



**The SaskTel Pioneers have always made a point of fostering good will in Saskatchewan communities.**

**One shining example of that is the work they do with the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association (SFFA).**



The SFFA is an organization that supports and encourages foster families through education and advocacy, helping create healthy homes, positive environments, and brighter futures for children and youth in care across the province. The Pioneers first became involved with SFFA when Kevin Harris, an Account Executive who is himself a foster parent, approached Pioneer Manager Darrell Liebrecht about the donation of an old SaskTel videoconferencing platform SaskTel no longer required.

Instead of salvaging the equipment or putting it up for re-sale, it was donated by the Pioneers to the SFFA and used to revamp Saskatchewan's foster parent training program. The equipment is now part of the SFFA's new offices in Saskatoon. Darrell attended a media event held on 12 Dec 2019 in which the training room was officially named after SaskTel and the Pioneers.

**"We're really proud to have been part of providing SFFA with the technology that allows them to help recruit and train foster parents in a new way," said Darrell.**

"The focus of the curriculum is to provide insight and new skills for foster parents as they work with children and youth who have experienced different degrees of trauma in their lives, to become Trauma Competent Caregivers," said Kevin, who developed the training made possible by videoconference. "We help foster parents understand the life altering impact of trauma and how to view life from the lens of a wounded child."

**The trauma training has now become mandatory for all foster parents, who no longer must travel long distances for training.**

"The donation of the videoconferencing equipment has made a huge difference for families that are not able to participate in-person for training sessions," said Deb Davies, Executive Director, SFFA. "The videoconferencing has also allowed other community organizations to deliver training from our facility in training our members. The equipment has provided support to families across our province and assisted in making our organization more efficient in conducting our day-to-day business."

A new 'time tracker' app developed by SaskTel International (SI) is also making a difference. The app was developed for SFFA's 200 in-home support staff, that support families across the province. It enhances safety, accountability and allows a more efficient submission of timesheets.

"SaskTel, SI and the SaskTel Pioneers have made major contributions to SFFA," said Deb. "We would like to thank them for their continued support of our organization and families across Saskatchewan."

**No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.**  
- Aesop

*This article is copied from 'The Source' at SaskTel and edited by Pioneers News Editor*

## An Enchanted Night

### Bridge City Pioneers Help to Spark Holiday Season for Saskatoon Families

*Volunteers pose with the treat bags given to the kids who attended bus tours to the BHP Enchanted Forest in Saskatoon.*



This year marks the 21st season for the BHP Enchanted Forest, and throughout its history it has dazzled Saskatoon families with millions of sparkling lights and an exciting atmosphere only fitting for this festive time of year.

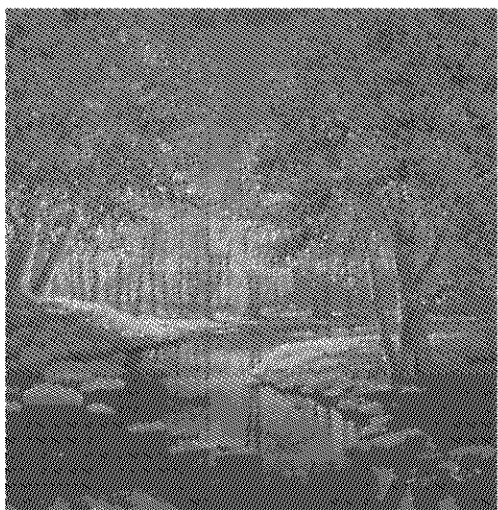
With custom light displays ranging from magical winter wonderlands to Santa's workshop, it's an incredible way to make memories. But for some families, this local tradition can be too far out of reach whether it's due to cost or a lack of access to transportation.

To help bring the holiday spirit to more people in the community, the Bridge City Pioneers stepped up to sponsor school-aged children from inner city schools so they could attend the holiday lights festival along with their families.

Dorianne Urquhart, a SaskTel Customer Service Specialist and Pioneer volunteer, has been involved with the project for five years now, with this year marking her third year as coordinator.

"As Pioneers, our goal is to effect immediate and tangible changes within our community," she said. "We really feel this is a great way to be involved in our community and make an impact on a lot of deserving members in the community." As in many years past, the Bridge City Pioneers made a donation to the Enchanted Forest Foundation that was matched by SaskTel. The donation went towards the "Families to the Enchanted Forest" bus tours and helped the Foundation cover some of the expenses associated with setting up the beautiful light displays.

During the fall, Dorianne and other Pioneers got in touch with about 16 local schools to help them identify students who would most benefit from a special night out. Each nominated student could bring family members with them on their tour.



"We can take 40 students and family members per bus," explained Dorianne. "I can confidently say we've never had a problem filling all 16 student spots, and all 16 buses. In all, we typically take about 600 to 640 attendees throughout our 16 evening tours."

Bridge City Pioneers helped by chaperoning the evening family bus tours and making sure each child had a fun experience. The tours took place on December 2, 3, 4 and 5.

In all, about 45 Pioneers were involved in the event. "The kids were absolutely delighted to see the Enchanted Forest, and they all received a treat bag at the end of the tour which is a great way to end the night!"

For Dorianne, the Families to the Enchanted Forest bus tours are a holiday tradition she always looks forward to. While it certainly takes up more of her time during the busy holiday season, seeing everyone's sparkling smiles and faces light up with wonder makes the sacrifice completely worthwhile.





## 'It Becomes Christmas' Wish Angels Program an Important Part of the Holiday Season

SaskTel Bridge City Pioneer Deb Eskra (r) delivers packages of Wish Angels to Central Haven Special Care Home in Saskatoon.

***There could be no doubt about it – Santa's toy makers are all in the North Pole.***

But every December, one could be excused for thinking at least part of Santa's toy shops exist right here at SaskTel! As has become tradition, SaskTel's Wish Angel program was once again hard at work across the province this past Christmas gathering gifts and presenting them to children and seniors who are in special care homes and long-term care facilities.

"We're so grateful to be able to provide folks with these gifts every year," said Dione Wall, Service Representative, who is part of the Bridge City Pioneers Wish Angel Program in Saskatoon. "We realize that for some, these will likely be the only gifts they receive this year, so the idea behind this program is a very special and important one."

The Bridge City Pioneers distributed 274 Wish Angel gifts to over six nursing and special care homes (Parkridge Centre; Oliver Lodge; Stensrud Lodge; Sherbrooke Community Centre; Sunnyside Care Home; Central Haven and Porteous Lodge). Dione has been the coordinator for the Saskatoon Wish Angel program for 16 years. During that time, she has seen the need for Wish Angels grow.

"This event means the world to the people in our facility," said Mark Trew, who is Chaplain at the Sherbrooke Community Centre. "Most of our residents don't have family to give them presents, so when the Wish Angels arrive it becomes Christmas!"

***"So many more people are in need each year and without fail, our amazing SaskTel employees answer the call and fulfill all the Christmas wishes," she said. "I would like to send a big hearty thank you out to each and every person who has made a Christmas Wish come true for these folks this year!"***

### Wish Angel presentations were also made in Regina and Prince Albert.

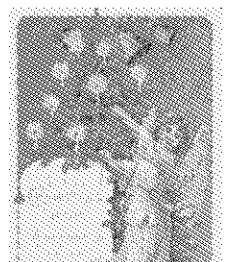
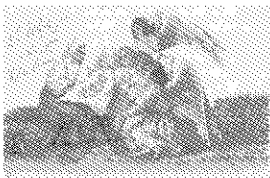


In Regina, 359 gifts were handed out to Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 3 students at Sacred Heart and Kitchener Schools. With some singing to "Jingle Bells" and others running around brandishing balloons and dolls, kids and volunteer "elves" filled the Oak Room at the Ramada Plaza Regina on Tuesday morning, just waiting for a chance to meet Santa Claus. Hope McCheyne, the "head elf" for the program, said the kids are taken in to meet and talk to Santa.

In Prince Albert Pioneers delivered 30 Wish Angels and 75 stuffed animals to the residents of the Herb Basset home located at the Victoria Hospital. The 30 Wish Angels were selected and bought for by employees from Operations, BS&S, the Retail Store and the SaskTel Pioneers in PA. The stuffed animals were donated to the Pioneers through the annual Prince

Albert Raiders Hockey Club's Teddy Bear Toss held in December.

"It's a great feeling to see people's faces light up when we present them with gifts," said Sales Manager Michael Vancoughnett. "The Wish Angels program is such a good indication of the generous nature of SaskTel and our employees."





## The Gift of Literacy

**SaskTel Pioneers Donate Books to Moose Jaw Schools and donated \$3,400 to support three Literacy Programs for children.**

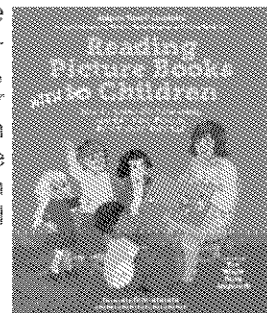
Members of the Moose Jaw SaskTel Pioneers held a working bee 15 Dec 2019 for their annual Book Drive Project.

**For schools in the Prairie South School Division and Holy Trinity Catholic School Division in Moose Jaw, Christmas 2019 took on a new meaning this year thanks to the SaskTel Pioneers.**



Volunteers with the Moose Jaw Chapter of the SaskTel Pioneers along with teachers from both school divisions gathered to sort, stamp and package close to 6,000 pounds of books as part of the SaskTel Pioneer Book Drive. "It's part of our literacy objectives to try and help promote literacy, so Pioneers do this across the province," said Kristian Sjoberg, President of the SaskTel Pioneers in an interview with Moose Jaw Today.

Book drives like the one in Moose Jaw are an annual initiative held by SaskTel Pioneer Branches province wide. The Pioneers partner with First Book Canada who work with schools, libraries and other partners across the country to ensure that all children, regardless of their family's financial situation, can have access to new, high-quality books. The books donated in Moose Jaw will be used in several different ways, either kept in the classrooms or sent home with kids as donations or prizes. Some titles will be made into take-home reading kits with fun activities to encourage reading. The superintendents of learning from both Moose Jaw school divisions were pleased to see the support from the Pioneer's donation.



*"The love of literacy is something that's so important for kids," said Ward Strueby from Holy Trinity School Division in an interview with Moose Jaw Today.*

*"Anytime we can get new books for kids, it's a great day," said Lori Meyer, from Prairie South. "We're really pleased to be able to offer those to our schools, thanks to the generosity of the club here."*

**In Addition to these books donated—Moose Jaw Pioneers donated over \$3,000 shared between the summer programs at the Moose Jaw Literacy Network; Holy Trinity School Division and the Prairie South School Division. Funding will be used to improve online resources and other literacy projects, including books for summer reading programs for students.**

*"It is important for students to continue their reading skills over the summer, students of both French Immersion and English of all grades will benefit from the generosity of the Moose Jaw Pioneers," said Lori Meyer, PSSD superintendent of learning, in a press release.*

Darrell Liebrecht, SaskTel Pioneer Manager, says the Pioneers take great pride in the program and know how important it is to provide educational opportunities to help school children succeed.

**"Our clubs across the province work extremely hard on this initiative delivering thousands of books every year," says Darrell. "But in the end its all worth it as giving the gift of literacy is so very important.**



Moose Jaw Pioneers President Kristian Sjoberg (L) presenting the cheque to Prairie South School Division director of education Tony Baldwin (R). (supplied)



*This article is copied from 'The Source' at SaskTel and edited by Pioneers News Editor*



## Quite a Feet

SaskTel employees warm feet and hearts across the province

SaskTel employees Rhonda Wollbaum (centre) and Tanya Bouvier-Mortensen (r), hand over donated socks to the Swift Current Salvation Army.



**As program Manager at the Moose Jaw Newcomer Welcome Centre, Melissa Mitchell knows the challenges facing immigrant newcomers to Canada.**

Along with learning a new language, getting accustomed to new surroundings or finding employment, many new Canadians face unsuspecting challenges such as the cold of our prairie winter.

It's cold in Canada and some of our new immigrants who come in are learning just how cold it is.

That's why when the centre received a donation of a boxful of socks from SaskTel recently, clients were very excited. "Sometimes it can be challenging for these individuals to get something that little bit extra like socks" says Melissa. "The socks were definitely appreciated to help keep their feet warm."

***The donation was just a small part of the over 5,000 pairs of socks collected by SaskTel employees in the recent Socks in a Box Corporate Challenge. The campaign, which ran in December 2019, challenged employees to help keep the feet of Saskatchewan's homeless and at-risk population warm by donating socks and/or money. Along with the over 5,000 pairs of socks collected, over \$1,000 in cash was also donated.***

"The money was used to purchase more socks," says Jennifer McLeod, HR Manager – CSR, Diversity and Organizational Design. "Overall, we will be donating over 7,000 pairs of socks across the province to about 20 homeless shelters and organizations who help provide support to those at-risk."

At the Regina YWCA, staff were overwhelmed with the generosity shown by SaskTel employees when over 900 pairs of socks were delivered. "Wow!", exclaimed the YWCA in a thank you note to SaskTel. "That's a lot of socks. Thanks for helping us keep the community warm this winter."

The Socks in a Box Corporate Challenge was born from a campaign started three years ago by SaskTel employee Lindee Richards in Saskatoon. Lindee started a sock collection campaign at the Customer Support Centre after noticing one winter some homeless people on the streets of Saskatoon with no socks on their feet.

### **Socks were donated around the province:**

- Moose Jaw Women's Shelter, Riverside Mission and William Milne Place.
- YWCA, Carmichael Outreach and Salvation Army in Regina
- Our House in Prince Albert
- Salvation Army's in Estevan and Weyburn
- The Olive Tree in Lloydminster
- The Society for Involvement of Good Neighbors and the Salvation Army in Yorkton
- In Saskatoon to the Lighthouse, Egadz, Interval House and Bridge Saskatoon.
- Donations were also made in Melfort.



"It's always great to witness how SaskTel employees come together in these Corporate Challenges," says Jennifer. "It's just another great example of the giving nature and spirit of the people who work here at SaskTel."

## Adding A Human Touch How Flowers and Notes Went Beyond Simple Customer Service

*SaskTel Customer Service Technician (CST) Pierce McLachlan.*



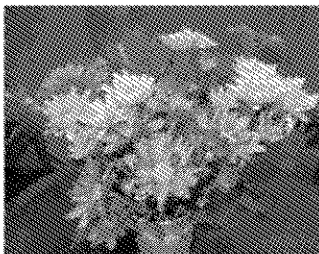
If there is one positive that has come from the current COVID-19 situation, it is the stories of humans going to extra lengths to help and support one another. Around the world and here at SaskTel we have seen people pulling together at a time of need.

Take for example a recent gesture from SaskTel Customer Service Technician Pierce McLachlan. Pierce, a CST in Regina, was on duty Easter Sunday when he was dispatched to repair a phone of an elderly customer.

"When I got to the lady's home, she was a little distraught. She was telling me that she was having heart pains throughout the day," recalled Pierce. "I asked her if she was okay and she began telling me how she couldn't get in to see her doctor due to COVID."

Pierce continued with his assignment and was able to get the customer's phone back up and running. But what he did next was beyond the customer's expectations.

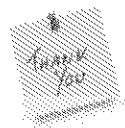
"As I walked out, she started to cry. She said it had been a long time since she had seen anyone due to COVID-19. That kind of touched me because she was not feeling well and all alone."



What he did next was touching. On his lunch break, Pierce purchased some flowers and then left the bouquet in the lady's door. Along with it a note: "I noticed you were sad when I dropped by to fix your phone. I hope these brighten your day. Sincerely, Pierce - The SaskTel Guy."

That act of kindness prompted the customer's niece to publicly commend Pierce on his thoughtfulness. In a facebook post, the niece wrote:

*"The technician arrived on Sunday afternoon; he came in full protective gear and checked out her phone and extension phones and then left. Due to his gear, she was unable to totally see his face, but she said he was such a nice polite young man. I'm sure there are not a lot of 'SaskTel Guys' named Pierce who work in Regina. On behalf of my Aunt and our family I would like to give 'Pierce' a big hug and an even bigger 'Thank you' for your thoughtfulness you showed Auntie on Easter Sunday. You have no idea what your kindness meant to her at this time."*



The story reached the desk of SaskTel President and CEO Doug Burnett who in a recent video address to employees shared Pierce's story saying "Thank you, Pierce, for making us all SaskTel Proud."

This isn't the first time a SaskTel CST has gone above and beyond by adding a human element in this fashion. Trent Templeton, Director - Customer Services (Regina), shared a similar story that occurred last September. In that case, CST Landon Adelman left a touching note in the mailbox of a customer he had just helped who was going through chemotherapy. The note read: "Good luck with the rest of your chemo. You can beat this! Keep fighting and stay strong." The note prompted this social media post from the customer: *"Just knowing that you took the time to leave this note in my mailbox left me in tears. You are an amazingly wonderful human being."*

Pierce meanwhile is hopeful the elderly lady is doing better. Thinking back about that Easter Sunday service call, Pierce says, "At the end of the day we are all people. It was more than a service call, it was about caring for her well-being."

## Masked Heroes! SaskTel Pioneers sew non-medical masks

*SaskTel Bridge City Pioneer Dwayne Iwasuik  
sewing a non-medical mask*



**Although sewing may not be the most common past time, SaskTel Pioneers across Saskatchewan have taken to needle and thread to help provide comfort and protection for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The Pioneers have been busy sewing hundreds of masks after Canada's top doctor, Dr. Theresa Tam, announced that there is new evidence suggesting that non-medical masks can help protect the people around you limiting the spread of Covid-19 in places like grocery stores and public transit.

"Our members saw this as a fantastic opportunity. We all know someone who could be affected by the virus, so it was great to see the Pioneers jumping on board with this project to help make the most of a challenging situation," said Dwayne Iwasuik, President of the Saskatoon Bridge City Pioneers. With the help of Chapter President Dione Wall, and Regina Life Member Jolene Norleen the project gained quick popularity among Pioneers and community members alike.

"We've even had the Riverview Hutterite Colony volunteer to help us sew the masks with the fabric we have available. They heard about the project from one of our members, and it's humbling to see how other groups have stepped up to the plate out of sheer kindness," Dwayne said. Prairie Girls Kitchen Linens donated material for our masks.

**Each mask has elastic ear loops and is made of pima cotton – a higher-end cotton with a reputation for being ultra-durable and producing a fabric that's soft to the touch.**

The masks will first be distributed to care homes and transition houses across the province (places such as Grace William Care Community and the Pasqua Hospital day Surgery Unit in Regina) by request and then made available to other community members. Besides being available for the community, SaskTel employees could also pick a mask up for a donation of their choice, with the proceeds going to a provincial charity. The sale of masks to employees has raised almost \$2000.

"We are definitely taking this on with the intention of making it a long-term project if needed," he said.

"This is another wonderful project for us to take on because it fits right in the Pioneers' wheelhouse. We have the opportunity to help the community and it also gives some of our members the opportunity to contribute something special while they're staying safe at home," Darrell said.

### **Chapter 59 SaskTel Pioneers donated over \$70,000 to charities to support COVID-19 issues**

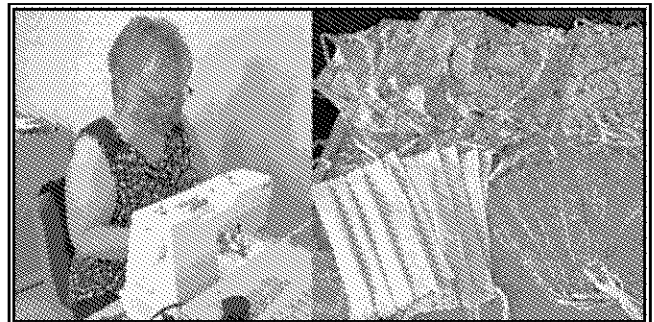
3560 masks were made across the province— distributed over 2800 to date— over 1500 volunteer hours and 32 volunteers

The Pioneers have also made and distributed 895 mask extenders to go along with the masks they donated. Mask extenders attach to mask straps to provide a more custom and comfortable fit while alleviating painful rubbing and pressure around the ears.

Otto Dobler designed and made the extenders on a 3D printer.



*Regina Coordinator Jolene Norleen*



*This article is copied from 'The Source' at SaskTel and edited by Pioneers News Editor*



## **Smiles on People's Faces!**

### **Computers for Schools Helps Long Term Facility Residents Stay in Touch**

Computers for Schools employees Thomas Hartley (l) and Marc Barry at the Computers for Schools warehouse in Regina.

Covid-19 has made things different for all of us. One group that has really felt the changes that have arisen are residents in senior care homes and long-term facilities. That's especially true when it comes to staying in touch with friends and loved ones.

#### **Enter the Computers for Schools (CFS) program!**

The program has supplied laptops, iPads and mobile devices to long term care facilities. This allows residents to reach out to people who are important to them. Conversely, it also gives peace of mind to those who can't presently visit the residents but can still contact them.

"We're currently trying to fill as many requests as possible," said Keith Grill, Executive Director, CFS. "It's all worth it to know we are putting a smile on people's faces when they get to see their families. It makes you feel like you're helping out, even if it's in a small way."

Through the Computers for Schools program, the Pioneers have donated 606 laptops, iPads and mobile devices to long term care facilities and schools. This allows residents to reach out to people who are important to them, while giving peace of mind to those who are not able to visit the residents but can still contact them. The equipment from CFS has been sent to facilities such as the Bethany Pioneer Village in Middle Lake; the Cut Knife Health Complex; the Nokomis Health Centre, the Moose Mountain Lodge in Carlyle and Long Lake Valley Integrated Centre in Imperial to name but a few.

"With the visitation restrictions in place by Public Health, this is a way to link families," said Jason Carson, who is Senior Administrator for four Extendicare facilities in Regina and Saskatoon. Extendicare received a dozen laptops as well as iPads and one mobile device for each facility from CFS.

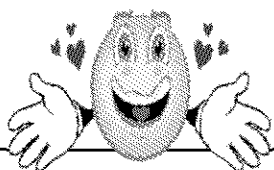
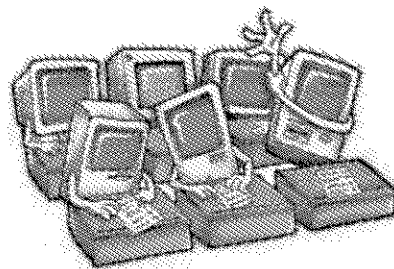
"Through video conference on these devices, people are able to stay in touch with loved ones," he added. To date, CFS has sent out: 10 iPads; 45 iPhones; three desktop computers and 53 laptops.

"We're happy to do our part to help people of all ages get past this challenging time," said Keith. "Ultimately, we would like to see our warehouse empty. That's how we'll know we're doing a good job!"

#### **Computers for Schools—donated 600 Computers to schools and students who do not have any other device available that can be used for distance learning during the pandemic.**

London Drugs in Regina and Saskatoon have partnered with Computers for schools until the end of September. They will donate laptops and computers that they normally sent to be recycled. CFS, which has been serving Saskatchewan for over 25 years at their two hubs in Saskatoon and Regina are excited to receive these additional units.

The work, performed by a predominantly volunteer staff, gives hard drives an additional memory wipe before reconditioning the units to be used by students throughout the province. "In the life cycle of a year, we'll send out about 4,500 to 5,000 computers," CFS executive director Keith Grill said.



## Ready to Grow

### SaskTel Pioneers Help to Provide Books for Youth Literacy

*Pioneer volunteers were busy sorting and distributing over 25,000 books as part of a partnership with First Book Canada.*



While many school operations and protocol will look a bit different this fall due to the pandemic, one thing certainly remains the same: the importance and value of a good book for every child. With the help of the SaskTel Pioneers, organizers of the First Book Canada Drive said the event was another huge success this year in Regina and Saskatoon.



Pioneer volunteers were busy sorting and distributing over 25,000 books as part of a partnership with First Book Canada. The non-profit organization works with schools, libraries and other partners across the country to ensure that all children can have access to new, high-quality books.

"With schools and libraries closed for months during the pandemic, accessibility to books dried up very quickly," said Tom Best, Executive Director with First Book Canada. "Our whole purpose is to allow all children, regardless of their financial situation, access to books. So, this drive was more important than ever."

Tom says families often take reading for granted as a common practice, and according to statistics from First Book Canada, a quarter of Canadian households don't even own a single book.

"Books are so incredibly important for building literacy skills, especially in rural areas where parents often don't have access to pre-kindergarten and other early childhood learning programs," Crystal said. "Not only does literacy make all the difference for a child's development, but books can also help parents and children create a special bond when they sit down together and read as a family."

This is the seventh year the SaskTel Pioneers in Regina worked together with First Book Canada to put new resources in the hands of Saskatchewan youth. "Our Pioneers love this project each year, and it was easy to gather volunteers even through the pandemic," said Jolene Norleen, with the SaskTel Pioneers in Regina.

For students at 33 Central School in Fillmore, the books donated from the drive have helped boost their reading level test scores to what Literacy Teacher Dawn Ray describes as "more than acceptable" overall. "Several years ago, reading scores were so low that the school division was concerned," Dawn said. "This program really helped increase those scores and we are forever grateful for these donations. Without First Books there is no way we could supply these children with the number of books that we have. This is huge for us."



The books were distributed to registered organizations and teachers from in and around the Regina and Saskatoon areas, representing both the Public and Catholic School Boards, as well as some private schools.

*Yorkton club (Jean Bryski) donated books to SIGN Early Learning Centre and daycare. Met some very excited children. They each got to pick a book they wanted. One little girl said her mom would be excited that she was bringing a book home. A perfect*

## A Rare View

### Weyburn Employee's Live-Stream Captures Biologists' Attention

*Kelly Kozij points to a spruce tree beside his Weyburn home where a family of Falcons are nesting.*



#### **Kelly Kozij has a keen interest in birds of prey.**

"Falcons, hawks, eagles, owls. All birds of prey really," says Kelly, a Trucking and Switching Technician from Weyburn. "I've got an interest in all wildlife, but somehow birds of prey have always been of a bit more interest."

Kelly's interest peaked a few years ago when a pair of Merlins, a mall species of falcon, decided to nest in a spruce tree outside of his Weyburn home. So much so that Kelly set up a live webcam to stream the activity of the birds and its young over the internet.

**This spring, the Merlins were back and on May 2, the first of five eggs was laid.**

**That's when Kelly's live stream caught the attention of biologists.**

"When I streamed it a few years ago, Weyburn was on copper for our internet service which didn't provide the quality needed for streaming video, so the feed wasn't very good," says Kelly. "But now that the City has *infinet*, I'm able to upload at a higher speed which gives a much better streaming quality for others to watch."

After sharing the link with a few interested friends, Kelly began receiving chat messages from biologists in Saskatoon and Ontario. The feed has also caught the attention of falconers from as far away as Washington State and Oregon.

Kelly says the Merlins are the most commonly found birds of prey in urban centres, however he says the nesting habit of this species has never been documented in the way he has been able to share.

"The biologists I've spoken to say they have never seen a nestcam like this before," adds Kelly. "A biologist in Saskatoon I'm in contact with is writing a paper about the nesting activity of the Merlins right from the time the eggs were laid, through the hatching and the fledgling period when the young leave the nest."

Biologists are recording every detail; how long the mother falcon is on the nest, how often they feed the young and how the female interacts with the male.

"The biologists have been interested in how the male gets food to the female. It seems that the female makes a call and then her and the male meet at another tree where the food is transferred."

**Kelly says of the five eggs that were laid, four hatched. The young are approximately 2 weeks old and Kelly expects the birds will be on the nest until approximately late July.**

Until then, Kelly will remain in contact with biologists who are paying close attention to his live feed.

"The first year I streamed this, I had only 8 or 10 viewers in total, but now I get about 8 or 10 a day who are truly interested. It's pretty cool people are watching and recording what's happening, especially when it has never been witnessed before."





## Flash Mob in the Food Court! Random Acts of Kindness Make People's Day in Saskatoon Mall

Some of the crew that took part in this year's Random Acts of Kindness Week in Saskatoon.

One never knows when or where an act of kindness may occur. It could even be a Saturday at a Saskatoon mall!

**On 22 Feb 2020, 16 members of the Bridge City Pioneers (along with family members and friends) gathered at Market Mall to pass on kindness and good vibes as part of Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) week.**

On that Saturday, the participants randomly handed out carnations to pleasantly surprised mall customers. The recipients of the flowers could either keep the flowers or keep the kindness flowing by passing the flowers to someone else.

"We were like a flash mob in the food court – everyone was looking and wondering what we were doing," said Giselle Howard, Sales Manager - Quality Assurance at SaskTel and the Pioneer's liaison with the Saskatoon RAK Day Organizing Committee. "People were excited, thankful and receptive and we had lots of fun with them."

"I heard one volunteer tell the story of how she delivered a carnation to a gentleman who said he would visit his wife at a nearby nursing home right after his tasks were done at the mall. He was going to make sure he gave her the flower."

RAK Week is a city-wide celebration of kindness promoting a 'pay it forward' movement in the community organized by the Saskatoon Community Foundation which supports a wide range of community projects and initiatives. It's meant to be a fun and simple way to encourage unexpected moments of kindness in the community of Saskatoon – and in this case – in a mall!

"In the past, we took part in RAK activities outdoors," said Giselle. "This year, we decided to avoid the outdoor elements, so we partnered with Market Mall and worked indoors. The weather was just cold enough though to drive a lot of patrons to the mall." Regardless of where it takes place, Giselle said the Pioneers plan to be a part of the RAK initiative for many years to come.

***"It's all about getting people to think about kindness," said Giselle. "By doing what we do, it will hopefully encourage others to also do something because making someone's day never gets old!"***



**DID YOU . . .**

**..... ever think about**



## **Signing up for the new SASKATCHEAN ONLINE ORGAN, TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY**

Saskatchewan Online Organ, Tissue Donor Registry has been officially launched as of September 4, 2020. It's important for families to discuss organ donation to help ensure everyone's feeling and intentions on the issue are known.

This not only includes you (our retirees) but your family as well.  
Ensuring others know your choice is vital.

Having this conversation when it isn't a stressful time is recommended.

This program was launched to expand the pool of organ and tissue donors.  
Prior to this date, we had to place a sticker on our health card indicating one's consent.

Anyone over the age of 16 can register to become an organ donor.  
The Saskatchewan Organ Donor Registry has the ability to accommodate a change to a presumed consent/opt-out model if a decision is made to do so. They will assess the potential benefits and any risks associated with a presumed consent model in Saskatchewan.

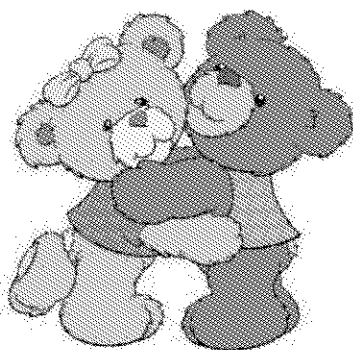
According to stats—one tissue donor can help 75 people and one organ donor can save eight lives.

Kidney transplants are a common request to families.

This online registry will provide the province with a better idea of how many have opted in to be organ donors.

***Register to be a donor and save lives.***

**You can register online to become an  
organ and tissue donor at  
[www.givelifesask.ca](http://www.givelifesask.ca)**



*So much  
to be  
Thankful  
for!*

