



# Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan

2022-23 Annual Report



**Learn together.  
Grow together.**

# Meet Avis



When Avis retired in 2000, she was looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity that shared her love of learning. She found what was then READ Saskatoon and volunteered with Lead, our adult literacy program, for a year.

She found her way back in 2017 when she went back to school and needed volunteer hours. At the time, our agency was piloting a new program working with children in schools to increase their reading strategies and we were looking for volunteers. The timing was perfect.

Today, that program is Spark, our children's literacy program that matches a trained volunteer with a student in grades 2-4 with the goal of bringing the student's reading skills to grade level.

Thirty students later, Avis has found her dream volunteer job. "Spark is such a great program. It is structured enough to ensure easy delivery, but flexible enough to accommodate students' needs. It makes a big difference in their lives. Also, I love being in schools; the energy, staff, and students bring me such joy."

Avis was one of the first volunteers to take the program online in 2020. She remembers working with a student during this time: "Jillian was always so cheerful! I always looked forward to the screen time with students during those years because it was so hard to go out and connect with others."

Foundations believes lifelong learning habits contribute to strong and resilient communities. Avis fully exemplifies this. She attends each session with her plan on a card, stickers, and Spark materials ready to learn alongside her student. She considers the program a win-win, saying "if I am winning so are they."

Thank you, Avis, for your contributions to Foundations.

# Meet Jarvis



At the LIT UP! gala each year, we acknowledge a special literacy volunteer. This year, Foundations worked with 191 volunteers who put our mission and vision to work in the community and Jarvis is no exception.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said “Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Jarvis has been a volunteer with Foundations for five years. Most notably, as board chair, he led the board and agency through the pandemic. It has not been discussed enough, but non-profit board work during the pandemic was no joke. Strong governance, decision making practices, and leadership led many agencies into stronger positions than when they entered COVID. Foundations had Jarvis leading the way. His knowledge of IT helped them troubleshoot when everything went virtual, and he is currently helping our plan for future IT needs.

His humour, marathon running, bad golf, love of The Mandalorian, eagerness to play Santa at SIGA’s Christmas celebrations, and appreciation for learning has greatly endeared him to Foundations’ staff and his board colleagues. He was an exceptional leader in a time of great concern.

In his day job Jarvis is the Vice President of Information Technology (IT) & Gaming Systems at SIGA. Jarvis is a member of Cowessess First Nation. He is a father, grandson, son, uncle, husband, and friend to everyone he meets.

Jarvis, it is an honour to have you involved in Foundations’ work. In the words of the Mandalorian, “You mean more to us than you will ever know.”

# By the numbers

## Program Recap



3,053

Individuals served



1,005

Adults



282

Children



1,766

Individuals attended a family literacy event



191

Volunteers engaged



60

New trained facilitators in family and financial literacy this year



117

Trained facilitators through the province delivering Foundations literacy programs



241

Community partners



55

Programs delivered



50

Workshops and events delivered



64

Communities served

## 2018-2023 five-year average results:

**96%** of teachers report increased reading strategies for children participating in Spark

**98%** of parents whose children participate in Spark recommend the program to other parents

**92%** of parents who participate in family literacy programs report increased literacy activities to support children's emerging literacy development

**84%** of volunteers report Foundations' training allows them to feel prepared and effective in their role

**98%** of volunteers report being happy with the support they receive from Foundations

**95%** of adult program participants improve their literacy and/or numeracy skills

**73%** completion rate for adults participating in Lead, Foundations' one-to-one tutoring program

**93%** of participants increase their financial literacy skills, awareness, and access to information and services

**87%** of adults participating in financial literacy programs report changing the way they spend and/or save, while 80% report they follow a budget more successfully

**83%** of trained facilitators throughout Saskatchewan report they have a strong understanding of and can confidently deliver Foundations' programs thanks to the guidance and quality of supporting materials provided

**90%** of those trained in financial, child, or family literacy deliver the program in one or more communities

# Money Talk

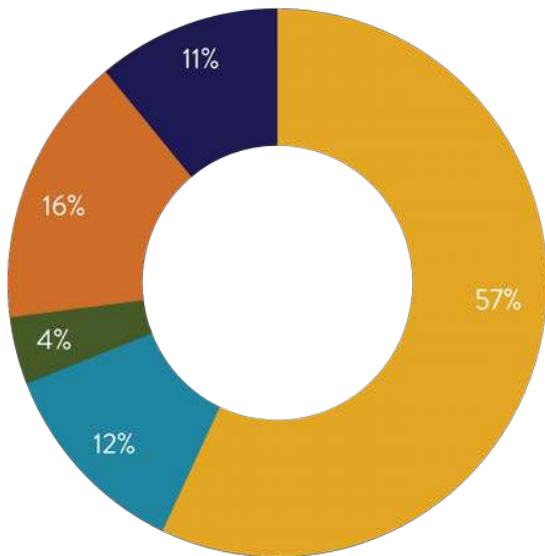


Revenue  
\$1,495,652



Amount Spent  
\$1,432,262

## Funding Sources



- Grant funding: 57%  
\$853,278
- Provincial government grants: 12%  
\$178,145
- Office sales, contracts, other: 4%  
\$56,852
- Individual donations: 16%  
\$244,050
- Fundraising: 11%  
\$163,327

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## Meet Dave

Dave needs to transition his career. He and his literacy coach were matched in Lead, our adult literacy program, this year. After his workplace injury, he set a goal to attend Saskatchewan Polytechnic. But first, he needs to pass the math section of the GED test. Dave is 58 years old. His literacy coach is encouraged by the progress he is making:

“Dave and I have had four meetings and it is going very well. He is progressing and is making major advances in understanding the material and, more importantly, in understanding how to address the GED questions. I too am learning as we proceed through the material and Dave is a wonderful coach as well as an enthusiastic learner. I thank you for providing me with a great introductory experience as a coach.”



Dave says things are 1000% better since receiving support!

# Thank you Community Sponsors, Funders, and Donors!

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City of Saskatoon		Ministry of Immigration & Career Training	SIGA	



Foundations thanks all 254 supporters who came together this year to ensure our community has free access to learning programs.

Collectively, these gifts have a profound impact on literacy and learning throughout our province.



**Learning & Skills  
Saskatchewan**

[FoundationsLearning.com](https://FoundationsLearning.com)



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