

**SHRF**  
SASKATCHEWAN  
HEALTH RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 25

# LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL



Her Honour, the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre,  
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the annual report of Saskatchewan Health  
Research Foundation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Kaeding".

**Honourable Warren Kaeding**  
Minister Responsible for Innovation



The Honourable Warren Kaeding,  
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the annual report of  
Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation for the fiscal period of  
April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Dutchak".

**Jordan Dutchak**  
Board Chair



# 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff and Board Members .....	2
Strategic Goals and Values in Action .....	3
Message from our Leaders .....	4-5
Investing in Saskatchewan Health Research in 2024-25 .....	6-9
Celebrating Health Research Excellence in Saskatchewan.....	10-13
2024-25 Year at a Glance .....	14
Partnerships .....	15-17
Research Story .....	18-19
SHRF Virtual Care Research Expo.....	20-21
Grant Recipients - Connections: Truth & Action .....	22
Santé Awards .....	23-24
2024-25 Peer Review Committee Members .....	25-26
2024-25 Funding Recipients .....	27-40
Financial Statements .....	41-56



SHRF receives funding from the Government of Saskatchewan through Innovation Saskatchewan. We extend our gratitude for their support.



SHRF funds, facilitates, and promotes innovative and collaborative health research in Saskatchewan.

## STAFF

**Patrick Odnokon**

Chief Executive Officer

**Jennifer Poitras**

Corporate Administrator

**Evan Poncelet**

Evaluation Lead

**Karen Tilsley**

Director of Programs and Partnerships

**Pawan Kumar**

Programs and Peer Review Manager

**Chelsea Cunningham**

Programs and Engagement Manager

**Tanya Skorobohach**

Programs and Peer Review Coordinator

**Lina Kazan**

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

**Daniel Ramirez Nava**

Accountant

**Sarah Kasleder** *(On leave as of September 2024)*

Communications and Outreach Manager

## BOARD

**Jordan Dutchak, Chair (4/4)**

**Rachelle Ashcroft (4/4)**

**David Boehm (to Feb 2025) (1/3)**

**Danya Kordan (4/4)**

**Darcy Marciniuk (3/4)**

**Gabriela Novotna (3/4)**

**Sarah Oosman (3/4)**

**Elan Paluck (4/4)**

**Madeline Press (to Feb 2025) (3/3)**

**Jeff Wandzura (4/4)**

**Sheldon Brandt (4/4)**

*The number in brackets denotes the number of board meetings attended out of the total possible.*



SHRF serves as the provincial agency advancing research and innovation to improve the health and well-being of Saskatchewan's citizens. Through strategic investments and partnerships, we fund high-impact, peer-reviewed research that enhances the health research ecosystem, drives nationally competitive innovation, and delivers responsive solutions to meet Saskatchewan's unique and evolving health challenges.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Increase investment in research and innovation
2. Align research with stakeholders' needs
3. Strengthen research capacity and competitiveness

## VALUES IN ACTION

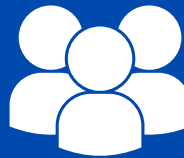
Our values in action represent a vital part of SHRF's strategic foundation and exemplify our fundamental beliefs and guiding principles for working with each other and all stakeholders.



Accountability



Adaptability



Collaboration



Excellence



Integrity

# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

The past year is one we can be immensely proud of as an organization. SHRF's success in 2024-25 stems from a continued focus on expanding the partnerships that are so key to our work, as well as the launch of an exciting new opportunity we believe will advance the research we fund to new levels. This work ultimately benefits the people of this province, our healthcare system, and Saskatchewan's economy.

## **Partnering: Better Research Together**

Partnerships are at the heart of what SHRF does. We know that when we work together with other committed partners we're able to accomplish so much more than we could on our own. Joining forces with other organizations helps extend our investments and amplify the impact of the health research we support.

Last year alone, our partners provided over \$1M toward 16 projects in our Solutions and Capacity programs. Partnering highlights from 2024-25 included investment from the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation (JPCHF) for the Child and Youth Health focus area in our Solutions program, and our longstanding partnerships with Lung Saskatchewan and Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be adding Brain Health as a new Solutions focus area with three core partners investing alongside SHRF:

- Brain Canada: \$1M over two years that SHRF will invest in promising work through our Solutions program.
- Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan: \$1.2M over three years in brain health grants related to dementia research.
- JPCHF: \$400K next year specifically earmarked for supporting research addressing children's brain health.

These investments from SHRF partners are poised to catalyze the efforts of Saskatchewan health researchers, empowering them to tackle brain health challenges with innovative solutions.

## **Realizing Value: Taking Virtual Care to the Next Level**

A key element of SHRF's strategy is investing in excellent health research that is relevant and aligned with the needs of the health system and has the potential to make a major impact for patients. In July we launched a new pilot program called Realizing Value which we see as the next logical step in our work to build a research pipeline - an end-to-end suite of programs. Realizing Value will attempt to advance SHRF-funded research towards adoption, widespread use, and long-term sustainability - ensuring maximum benefit for the people of Saskatchewan, the healthcare system, and the economy.

In October we hosted our Virtual Care Expo, a networking and knowledge-sharing event which brought together more than 100 participants and featured presentations from five teams awarded Phase 1 funding (\$25K/1 year) to advance their research related to virtual care. To be considered for funding, teams had to have demonstrated under real world circumstances evidence that their solution is effective, feasible to scale up, and has the potential to have an impact on care. We were also looking for evidence that relevant stakeholders - including those who will need to implement the solution, use it in practice, and benefit from it - are on-board. Stay tuned for more on this exciting initiative!

## Celebrating Research Excellence

Our funding and partnership numbers for 2024-25 help paint a picture of last year's success:

- We provided \$3,553,972 in funding for 94 projects.
- Our partners invested an additional \$1,837,328 in funding for 34 of those projects.
- Of teams who completed their SHRF-funded projects in the past year, 38% have already attained additional funding totaling \$15,581,545.

These figures are brought to life in the stories of our Santé award recipients and the impact they are having for people in this province and beyond. You can learn more about the researchers and their work throughout this report.

## Exploring New Opportunities

As an organization, we are continually excited by the potential of new initiatives and the impact they can have on amplifying our work. By example, working with our sister agencies across the country through the National Alliance of Provincial Health Research Organizations (NAPHRO) we have begun work to better define and demonstrate the value of health research for both policymakers and citizens. This is important work in making the case for increased investment in research with the potential to benefit patients and the healthcare system. Through nurturing existing relationships and exploring new potential partnership opportunities, we continue our mission to unlock more funding support for researchers in this province. Through our innovative Realizing Value pilot program, we are endeavoring to see how additional support can enable research teams to get their findings embedded, scaled up, and sustained.

## A Heartfelt Thank You

The past year has been both busy and effective in our mission to improve the health of Saskatchewan citizens. As always, it has been a true team effort. We want to thank the SHRF staff and Board for their unwavering commitment and contributions. It is a genuine honor to work with each of you. We also want to express our heartfelt appreciation to all of the researchers we support through our programs. Your work truly is making a difference in the lives of the people of this province. The path before us is exciting, with the potential to have an even greater impact on the province's health system, its economy, and the health of Saskatchewan citizens.



**JORDAN DUTCHAK**  
CHAIR



**PATRICK ODNOKON**  
CEO



# INVESTING IN SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH IN 2024-25

SHRF leads strategic investments in high-impact, peer reviewed research that builds a collaborative and nationally competitive health research ecosystem, while supporting the development and implementation of solutions to Saskatchewan health challenges.

Through tailored research grant competitions delivered by SHRF throughout the year, we invest in research Capacity, Connections and Solutions. We thank our funding partners for their trust in SHRF, which enables us to extend the reach of our investments and support more high-quality, timely research across the province.

## CAPACITY

### ESTABLISHMENT GRANT

Up to \$150,000 for up to three years

The **Establishment Grant** offers competitive, peer-reviewed research funding for early-career researchers in Saskatchewan to establish an autonomous program of health research addressing Saskatchewan health challenges.

This funding supports researchers to achieve the research productivity necessary for obtaining major funding from national and other external agencies. Researchers working in any area of human health are eligible to apply.

# \$1,199,823

Invested in 2024-25

## 8 GRANTS FUNDED

**INNOVATION GRANT**

Up to \$50,000 for one year

The **Innovation Grant** aims to drive creative problem-solving to catalyze innovative ideas and approaches by supporting interdisciplinary research teams that include knowledge-users. This grant inspires new ideas in strategically targeted 'focus areas', paving the way for meaningful and collaborative health innovation.

**\$449,089**

Invested in 2024-25

**9 GRANTS FUNDED**

**IMPACT GRANT**

Up to \$150,000 for two years

The **Impact Grant** aims to advance the translation of research into real-world settings and practical applications by supporting interdisciplinary research teams that include knowledge-users; this grant enacts meaningful change and impact within strategically targeted 'focus areas' in Saskatchewan.

**\$1,648,131**

Invested in 2024-25

**11 GRANTS FUNDED**

**INNOVATION & IMPACT PARTNER INVESTED IN 2024-25**



SHRF and partners funded 20 grants for a total investment of \$2,097,220  
SHRF: \$1,322,850 + Partners: \$774,370



Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation **\$400,000**  
Lung Saskatchewan **\$99,400**



Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan **\$124,970**  
Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research (SCPOR) **\$150,000**



## ALIGN GRANT

Up to \$10,000 for one year

The **Align Grant** provides funding for activities that increase research relevance, engage a diverse and connected research community in Saskatchewan and increase quality and success of Saskatchewan applications to peer-reviewed funding competitions.

**\$249,504**

Invested in Align Calls 1, 2 & 3 in 2024-25

**25 GRANTS FUNDED**

## REALIZING VALUE GRANT

Up to \$25,000 for one year

This **Realizing Value** Pilot Program is intended to support teams previously funded through SHRF's Solutions Program to advance their promising solutions towards widespread use and sustainable implementation for the benefit of Saskatchewan's residents, health system and economy. The 2024-25 pilot was open to eligible projects in SHRF's virtual care solutions focus area.

**\$123,453**

Invested in 2024-25

**5 GRANTS FUNDED**

## MOBILIZE GRANT

Up to \$10,000 for one year

The **Mobilize Grant** provides funding for knowledge mobilization activities that connect with knowledge-users and target non-academic audiences. The project may be led by researchers and/or knowledge-users with the goal of improving the applicability and impact of health research in Saskatchewan.

**\$139,928**

Invested in 2024-25

**14 GRANTS FUNDED**

CONNECTIONS

TRUTH AND ACTION

Up to \$10,000 for one year

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action and in the spirit of reconciling Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples and perspectives, the **Truth and Action** funding supports knowledge sharing and collaboration for healthy and connected Saskatchewan communities.

**\$59,452**

Invested in 2024-25

6 GRANTS FUNDED

PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Varying Amounts and Terms

The **Partnerships Program** aims to connect Saskatchewan researchers with an expanded network of funding opportunities. This is achieved through providing support and contribution to partner opportunities. SHRF is continuously building partnerships and supporting Saskatchewan applicants.

**\$458,963**

Invested by SHRF in 2024-25

**\$1,062,958**

Invested by partners in 2024-25

16 GRANTS FUNDED



Dr. Kelsey Cochrane

## EXPANDING INFANT FEEDING OPTIONS: DR. KELSEY COCHRANE'S RESEARCH ON DONOR BREASTMILK FOR HIV-EXPOSED BABIES

"What if we can provide the benefits of breastmilk to babies born to HIV-positive mothers without the risk of transmission?" That question drives Dr. Kelsey Cochrane's research, recipient of the SHRF Excellence Award for the top-ranked 2023-24 Solutions Innovation Grant, co-funded by Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation.

The research project explores the acceptability and feasibility of donor breastmilk as an alternative to formula feeding, currently recommended to prevent HIV transmission through breastfeeding. "We're not just talking about feeding babies," Dr. Cochrane says. "We're talking about potentially changing how we approach infant health for some of our most vulnerable populations."

Breastmilk is rich in nutrients and immune-boosting components that cannot be replicated in formula, benefits that are important for HIV-exposed infants, who may have compromised immune systems.. "Providing donor milk to this population, especially those exclusively getting infant formula, could really benefit these babies," Dr. Cochrane explains.

Dr. Cochrane's interest in donor milk began at the Human Milk Institute in San Diego. Returning to Saskatchewan, where HIV rates are five times higher than the national average, she saw a gap

in infant feeding guidelines. "There's a clear need for more options that prioritize the health and well-being of these vulnerable infants," she says. "Donor breastmilk could be a game-changer, but we need the research to back it up."

The study has two phases. First, Dr. Cochrane is partnering with Indigenous groups, Pewasaskwan and Waniska, to hold sharing circles and focus groups with HIV-positive individuals. "These sharing circles are not just about collecting data, they're about building trust and understanding within the community," says Dr. Cochrane.

In the second phase, in collaboration with Dr. Rupeena Purewal and the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the team will assess the real-world feasibility of offering donor breastmilk to a small group in Saskatoon.

Overall, Dr. Cochrane's research seeks to revolutionize infant feeding practices for HIV-exposed babies, offering a promising alternative that prioritizes their health and well-being. Despite challenges like logistical issues and the need for caregiver education, Dr. Cochrane remains optimistic due to strong support from her research partners and the scientific community in Saskatchewan.



Scan the QR code to read the full story of Dr. Kelsey Cochrane or visit our website [shrf.ca](https://shrf.ca)

The connection between gut health and mental wellness might be the secret to transforming how we treat Crohn's disease.

The idea is at the centre of a new research project led by Dr. Amanda Hall, who was recently awarded the SHRF Excellence Award for the top-ranked 2024-25 Establishment Grant in the Biomedical category. Dr. Hall and her team are developing a novel organoid model to explore the gut-brain axis in inflammatory bowel disease, aiming to understand how inflammation in Crohn's disease may affect both the gut and the brain and how that link could lead to better treatment options.

The project began with a simple hallway conversation. Dr. Hall was working on intestinal organoids, miniature, lab-grown models of the gut, when she connected with Dr. Tyler Wenzel, who was building similar models just down the hall. "We were both working on organoids, my team on intestines and his on brains," Dr. Hall said. "It was clear that we could do something unique by combining our efforts." Together with Dr. Sharyle Fowler from Gastroenterology, they formed a team to investigate how inflammation in the gut might affect the brain and vice versa.

Crohn's disease causes ongoing inflammation in the digestive tract. It can lead to symptoms like pain, fatigue, and weight loss, and is also linked to mental health issues like anxiety and depression. The team believes that the same inflammatory signals causing damage in the gut may also be contributing to changes in the brain.

To study this, Dr. Hall and her team are using stem cells from Crohn's patients to build personalized organoid models. "By using stem cells from actual Crohn's patients, we're able to create models that closely mirror the specific ways the disease manifests in different individuals," said Dr. Hall. These models could help researchers understand the movement of inflammatory signals between the brain and gut and how that might shape both physical and mental health symptoms.

## DR. AMANDA HALL: BREAKING NEW GROUND IN CROHN'S DISEASE RESEARCH



Dr. Amanda Hall

"Right now, treatments for Crohn's and its associated mental health issues are often handled separately, which can be ineffective or even counterproductive," Dr. Hall explained.

By studying how Crohn's disease affects both the digestive system and the brain, this research aims to support more complete, personalized care. With an estimated 3,000 people living with Crohn's in Saskatchewan, many of whom also face mental health challenges, this work could lead to meaningful improvements in treatment.

This project is a powerful example of what's possible through collaboration and how a shared idea, grounded in curiosity and connection, can lead to a new way of thinking about care.



Scan the QR code to read the full story of Dr. Amanda Hall or visit our website [shrf.ca](https://shrf.ca)



Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer

## NOURISHING MINDS: DR. RACHEL ENGLER- STRINGER'S VISION FOR A NEW APPROACH TO SCHOOL MEALS

What if improving children's health and learning starts with what they eat at school?

That question drives Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer's research, recipient of the SHRF Excellence Award for her top-ranked 2023-24 Solutions Impact Grant, co-funded by the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation. The project explores how school food programs impact student well-being and builds on two CIHR-funded grants, one completed and one ongoing.

"We've long recognized that what kids eat during the school day impacts their overall well-being," Dr. Engler-Stringer says. "Yet Canada has lagged in developing a national school food program. Our work is focused on building the evidence to support it."

Based on a successful pilot and partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools, Dr. Engler-Stringer's team is working toward a universal, curriculum-integrated school lunch program that reflects Canada's diverse needs. "Canada is incredibly diverse," says Dr. Engler-Stringer. "What works in a large urban center might not be suitable for a remote Indigenous community. Our approach needs to be adaptable, inclusive, and grounded in local needs."

From dietary needs, urban centres and limited access to fresh produce in rural areas, tailoring programs to local communities is essential. But many schools lack infrastructure to prepare meals. "We're working closely with Saskatoon Public Schools to address those challenges and upgrade facilities where needed," Dr. Engler-Stringer explains.

The program includes food education, teaching students about where food comes from, how it's grown, and how it connects to culture and the environment. "Eating together also plays a role," she adds. "When children share meals, they're more likely to try new foods and build positive experiences around food."

Success is measured through surveys, focus groups, and photography-assisted plate waste studies. The positive feedback from teachers, parents, and students highlights improvements in student focus and behaviour.

With the federal government announcement of a National School Food Program, Dr. Engler-Stringer's research is well positioned to help shape what comes next. "It's about more than feeding children," she says. "It's about supporting healthier, more connected communities."



Scan the QR code to read the full story of Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer or visit our website [shrf.ca](https://shrf.ca)



Dr. Andrew  
Eaton

## REAL-TIME SOLUTIONS: DR. ANDREW EATON'S APPROACH TO COMBAT HIV AND SYPHILIS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Dr. Andrew Eaton, recipient of the 2024 Excellence Award for his top-ranked 2024-25 Establishment Grant in the Socio-health category, leads the "Community-engaged pop-up prevention." This project uses real-time data from a web-based tool to report discarded needles, identify drug hot spots and improve HIV and syphilis prevention in Regina, Saskatchewan.

The project leverages technology through the community needle reporting application, [www.reportneedles.ca](http://www.reportneedles.ca), to gather live data on needle prevalence in public spaces across Regina. This data helps identify specific locations where drug use is most common, allowing for targeted interventions. Real-time data ensures interventions are flexible and responsive to the shifting landscape of drug use.

"Drug use doesn't happen uniformly across a city," Dr. Eaton explains. "It clusters, and those clusters shift. With real-time data, we can go where the need is."

But data is only part of the story. "We're not just working for the community—we're working with them," he says. His team partners with AIDS Program South Saskatchewan (APSS), other local non-profits, and includes people with lived experience of HIV, substance use, and homelessness. "It's not just about offering services," Dr. Eaton adds. "It's about showing people that we're here for them, and they can trust us."

The flexibility of real-time data allows Dr. Eaton's team to respond quickly to emerging trends and set up pop-up sites. Setting up pop-up sites in high-risk areas offers rapid HIV and syphilis testing, education interventions, and PrEP and PEP medications that help prevent HIV transmission in new high-risk areas. This adaptability maximizes the effectiveness of their interventions and ensures they meet the community's needs. "We hope that by intervening in real-time and in the right locations, we can identify cases that might have otherwise gone undetected," says Dr. Eaton

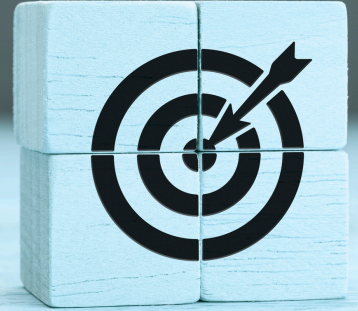
Despite challenges like harsh winters and limited support for non-profits, Dr. Eaton's project has shown significant impact. His previous work, funded by SHRF's Impact Grant, saw a reduction in opioid overdoses in Regina, highlighting the importance of community-driven programs.

Looking forward, Dr. Eaton hopes the model developed in Regina will guide similar initiatives across Canada. By focusing on low-cost, adaptable strategies and strengthening local networks, Dr. Eaton is laying the groundwork for sustainable, responsive public health care.



Scan the QR code to read the full story of Dr. Andrew Eaton or visit our website [shrf.ca](http://shrf.ca)

# 2024-25 YEAR AT A GLANCE



2024-25 saw significant success in SHRF funding opportunities and among funded researchers, advancing SHRF's strategic goals.

## Investing in Research and Innovation



**94**

New grants funded

**\$5,391,300**

New research investments by  
SHRF and its partners

**51%**

Increase to SHRF's funds  
from \$1,837,328 in partnership  
contributions

## Aligning Research with Stakeholders' Needs



**13**

**Partner Organizations**  
helping to shape the focus of  
co-funded research

**75**

**Saskatchewan Citizens**  
including knowledge users and people  
with lived experience made up an integral  
40% of the total 189 research team  
members on newly funded Solutions and  
Establishment Grants

## Strengthening Research Capacity and Competitiveness



**462% ROI**

Research teams who completed their  
previously funded projects in the past  
year have already attained \$4.62 in  
additional funding for every \$1 SHRF  
invested

**134**

**Research personnel**  
supported through this year's research  
investment, building capacity in our  
province



# THE IMPACT OF SHRF'S PARTNERSHIPS

As a provincial agency with a clear mandate, a Board of Directors with wide representation, and stable government funding through Innovation Saskatchewan, combined with our 20+ years of experience, we are a trusted convener of multiple interests in the health research landscape. SHRF's unique value in this ecosystem is our ability to develop responsive research funding opportunities, facilitate peer review, streamline grant administration, and measure research impact. More than just providing financial support for research, SHRF's well-developed policies, industry-specific expertise, and purpose-built infrastructure empower us to invest in research in a strategic and efficient way.

Through collaboration, we align our strengths and goals to complement one another and amplify our collective impact. For partners interested in investing in Saskatchewan research that furthers their purpose and mission, SHRF offers access to our well-designed funding opportunities, administrative policies, processes, and infrastructure. This includes our valuable expertise in research funding administration (i.e. program design, application intake, peer review, evaluation and reporting). Additionally, SHRF's established partnerships with research institutions alleviate administrative burdens, ensuring responsible stewardship of partner and donor funds.

We are grateful for our long standing provincial partners Lung Saskatchewan and Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan. Together over the years we have doubled the impact of donor and SHRF dollars and supported excellent, local research.



Over the years:

**\$1.6M**

Jointly invested  
in 25 grants



Over the years:

**\$2.8M**

Jointly invested  
in 12 grants

Our partnership program extends to national partners, including federal funding entities and national health charities. National partnerships are vital connections, linking Saskatchewan researchers to broader networks, showcasing local support, and facilitating complementary research support initiatives. For SHRF, national partnerships offer opportunities to learn, collaborate, and increase research investments in Saskatchewan. National partnership agreements with Parkinson Canada, MS Canada, and Alzheimer Society of Canada continue with ongoing partnerships with CABHI (Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation), Mental Health Research Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society, AGE-WELL (Canada's technology and aging network), and various CIHR initiatives.

**19**  
active partnership agreements

SHRF's Solutions Program is designed with partnerships in mind. Over the past 5 years, partners have invested over \$2M through SHRF's Solutions Program. Looking ahead, Solutions partnerships are playing an even greater role. On February 5, 2025, SHRF and Brain Canada announced a two-year commitment to jointly fund Brain Health research through SHRF's Solutions Program. Tackling challenges as important as brain health requires partners who are aligned through values, purpose, and strategy. SHRF is proud to partner with Brain Canada and our provincial partners to advance this shared priority.

**Leveraged dollars on Solutions**  
Over **\$2M** since 2021 (\$2,175,381.23)  
**\$1.3M** planned for 2025-26

The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan (ASOS) has partnered on the Solutions program since it launched in 2020. With the announcement of the Brain Health focus area, ASOS came through with big news! Their Board of Directors announced a \$1.2 million investment into dementia research through SHRF's Solutions Program – a 4X increase in ASOS's partnered research investments over the next three years!



“Dementia research represents a significant piece of brain health. When the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation made the decision on their brain health focus area, the Alzheimer Society's Board of Directors instantly sprang into action to align our efforts for transformational progress.

We are thrilled to put our Unlock Dementia Research campaign dollars to work immediately.”

- Kaleta Strain, CEO, Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan



Kaleta Strain

Building on our successful collaboration with the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation (JPCHF) to fund Child & Youth Health Solutions over the past two years, SHRF is proud to continue this partnership with a new focus on investing in Brain Health for Saskatchewan’s children and youth.

We were excited to kick off these new partnerships with Brain Canada, ASOS and JPCHF by hosting the SHRF Brain Health Launch and Networking Event. Our goal for this event was to provide a venue to bring together a wide scope of those working in areas of brain health – from researchers to practitioners to advocates – to find synergies and inspire collaborations ahead of the next call for Solutions applications.

These synergistic collaborations epitomize value-based partnerships, injecting additional funding into health research and catalyzing positive change for all.

**Child & Youth Health Solutions**

Over the past 2 years:

**\$2.75M**

Invested with partners to support

**23 grants**



Exhibitors and attendees of the SHRF Brain Health Launch + Networking Event held on March 26, 2025 at Innovation Place.



Dr. Viviane Poupon



**We are thrilled to launch this exciting new partnership to build capacity in Saskatchewan, drive innovative brain research, and improve health outcomes," says Dr. Viviane Poupon, Brain Canada President & CEO. "By powering solutions here in Saskatchewan, this partnership will create a ripple effect, driving advancements in brain health that will benefit people across the country."**



# SOCIOLOGIST BROADENING APPRECIATION FOR ROLE OF ANIMALS IN HUMAN WELLNESS

When University of Saskatchewan sociologist Dr. Colleen Dell set out on a sabbatical in 2013, she had no idea it would lead to a new research focus that would positively impact the lives of both human and canine. Up to that point, Dr. Dell, 2024 recipient of the SHRF Achievement Award, had spent much of her career focused on addictions research. Inspired to explore new ways of making an impact, she decided to try something completely different.

A friend suggested she pursue something she loved. Her response? "I love my dogs." A quick online search for "dogs and addiction" revealed just one study. That was all the motivation Dr. Dell needed. Soon after, she and her bulldog Anne-Belle were certified as a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog team.

That was just the beginning of their journey. Dr. Dell went on to take a course on dog psychology in Illinois, which completely reframed her thinking. She went from seeing herself as a pet owner to someone who was sharing her life with a supportive companion who could sense and respond to her emotions. That shift set the foundation for what would become a decade of groundbreaking research work on the human-animal bond.

Over the past 10 years, Dr. Dell has become a leading researcher in animal-assisted interventions, exploring how animals support human wellness. Her work has reached patients in emergency departments, veterans coping with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and seniors in long-term care.

Raised in Winnipeg, Dr. Dell's early life in that city's north end exposed her to the social justice issues that later shaped her academic focus. Equipped with a Master's and PhD in sociology, she took on a joint position at Carleton University and the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, before relocating to Saskatchewan in 2007 to serve as the province's research chair in substance abuse. In 2016, Dr. Dell was appointed Centennial Enhancement Chair in One Health and Wellness at the University of Saskatchewan, a role that blended her experience in addiction research with her growing interest in animal-assisted care.

She has played a major role in building the evidence-based research by publishing extensively on the human-animal bond. A major, peer-reviewed study Dr. Dell co-led, demonstrating that therapy dogs can help reduce stress and pain for patients in emergency departments —garnered coverage in the New York Times, People magazine, and on CNN. Today, St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog teams are now available in several hospital emergency departments across Saskatchewan reflecting a growing recognition of the benefits of animal-assisted therapy.

Working with the Audeamus Service Dogs program, Dr. Dell also co-led Canada’s first study on how service dogs support veterans recovering from PTSD and substance use. That project led to the development of a host of resources, including a toolkit, online course, 14 publications, and a trip to Ottawa to present to a Canadian House of Commons committee. “Working alongside (my dog) Subie at the time informed every aspect of my work for the better, and still does,” says Dr. Dell.

Dr. Dell is a passionate mentor, encouraging her students and research assistants to challenge norms, think broadly, and focus on the needs of those they’re working to support. “I honestly think I wouldn’t be where I am today without her (Dr. Dell),” says Dr. Linzi Williamson, who now co-directs the PAWSitive Connections Lab along with Dr. Dell and Darlene Chalmers from the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina. The lab, launched in 2023, is a hub for studying how animals support mental health, addiction recovery, and general well-being. Dr. Dell is now working to scale that model into a national research centre.

Whether researching substance use among incarcerated populations or trying to bring therapy dogs into healthcare settings, Dr. Dell has spent much of her career pushing against convention. But she has remained steadfast in the face of resistance and skepticism. Dr. Dell knows this is how change happens.

She likens our growing appreciation for the role of animals in human wellness to changes in society’s views on smoking or drinking alcohol. “It’s like anything,” says Dr. Dell. “Ten years from now we’re going to say “oh my gosh, I can’t believe we were doing that (questioning whether animals contribute to human wellness and vice versa). We have these transitions. I am extremely proud that I’ve been able to contribute to this societal shift.”



Dr. Colleen Dell accepting her SHRF 2024 Achievement Award, along with her colleagues and dog Molly.

# SHRF VIRTUAL CARE RESEARCH EXPO

A first of its kind, the SHRF Virtual Care Research Expo was held on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Over the past four years, SHRF and our partners have invested \$2,657,582 through the Solutions program to fund 29 projects that advance virtual care.

The Virtual Care Research Expo was an opportunity to show the progress to date and launch a pilot program to support research teams in making continued progress towards sustainable implementation of evidence-based solutions that have been tested in real-world environments and shown promise. This successful event was more than just a showcase; it was an opportunity for collaboration and connection. The event brought together over 100 stakeholders across the implementation spectrum, from researchers and healthcare providers to policymakers and industry leaders.



### Presentations:

- Implementing Virtual Pre-Surgery Assessments Across Saskatchewan, led by Jonathon Gamble, Jennifer O'Brien and Michael Prystajecy
- Regulating the use of Virtual Reality in Education and Practice: Actionable Insights for Healthcare Professional Regulators and Policymakers, led by Shauna Davies and Ramona Kyabaggu
- Culturally Safer Caregiver Support Groups for Caregivers of Indigenous Peoples Living with Dementia in Saskatchewan, led by Megan O'Connell, presented by August Kortzman and Shoshana Green
- Virtual Interventions and Community Connections for Indigenous Youth (VICCIY) Initiative, led by Lindsey Boechler
- A Virtual Health Hub and The Future of Healthcare Delivery, led by Ivar Mendez, Stacey Lovo and Scott Adams



**Outcome:**

With the goal of achieving three main objectives; this event successfully increased awareness and excitement, enhanced knowledge sharing and collaboration, and turned innovative, home-grown solutions into reality.

We were honoured to play our part in bringing together this community of researchers, knowledge-users, leaders, community organizations, institutional representatives and individuals with lived/living experience.

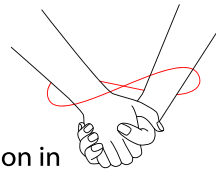
We see many exciting synergies and useful learnings across all of the virtual care research and we hope that this year's Realizing Value pilot program and this event are the first of more opportunities to bring the research community together and work collaboratively to "realize the value" of the important work happening here in Saskatchewan.



*Thank you to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, who provided livestreaming and recording of the event:  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/kiWqK-RlfHM>*



# FUNDING FOR RECONCILIATION IN ACTION IN SASKATCHEWAN



First established in 2021, SHRF's [Truth & Action Grant](#) is a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. It reflects SHRF's commitment to meaningful action and reconciliation in the health research communities of Saskatchewan and sincere belief in the importance of addressing health inequities faced by Indigenous peoples, the need for culturally responsive health promotion and healthcare practices, and our collective responsibility to work to improve the health of Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan.

Below, we highlight select initiatives from each of our three largest post-secondary institutions. Detailed information about all grant recipients and their projects can be found on our website or by scanning the QR code found below.

## **LINDSAY BOECHLER (Saskatchewan Polytechnic)**

*Virtual Interventions and Community Connections for Indigenous Youth (VICCIY): Provincial Wellness Summit for Youth Living in Rural and Remote Saskatchewan*

The VICCIY Initiative supports Indigenous youth mental health in Saskatchewan through community-based research, blending cultural practices with virtual reality technology. Launched in La Loche in 2020, it enhances care access while preserving traditions. A key feature is the provincial youth summit, which fosters culturally grounded, inclusive experiences for youth in rural, remote, and northern communities, promoting wellness, cultural preservation, and culturally responsive mental health resources.

## **TRISTAN HOPPER (University of Regina)**

*Heart to Heart: A Coming Together of Indigenous Youth*

This project engages Indigenous youth from the Street Culture Project in co-producing knowledge mobilization activities focused on mental health. Following the 'Heart to Heart' event, a youth learning team will lead workshops highlighting the need for improved Indigenous youth mental health services in Regina. Co-developed by Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars and leaders, the initiative empowers youth to share their experiences and create practical resources for educators, policymakers, healthcare workers, and Elders, promoting culturally informed support and youth agency.

## **CHRIS ZHANG, Lee Wilson, Lori Bradford and Duncan Cree (University of Saskatchewan)**

*Wheels of Wisdom: Culturally Grounded Assistive Devices for Nehiyawak (Plains) and Maskêkowiyniwak (Swampy) Cree and Métis Elders*

Wheels of Wisdom aims to co-design assistive wheeled mobility devices that reflect the social, cultural, and environmental contexts of Nehiyawak, Maskêkowiyniwak, and Métis communities. Grounded in lived experiences and Indigenous knowledge, the initiative promotes inclusive healthcare design through community-based collaboration. By using Indigenous methodologies and prototyping devices within communities, the project seeks to decolonize design processes, enhance cultural competence among designers, and improve wheeled device-related healthcare.

Scan the QR code to read more on the grants recipients and their projects or visit our website [shrf.ca](http://shrf.ca)



# 2024-25 SANTÉ AWARDS

The Santé Awards celebrate health research excellence in Saskatchewan, and provide a chance to recognize local researchers for their contributions to a robust culture of health research and innovation. They also allow SHRF to foster and strengthen connections between members of the research community, our partners and other provincial supporters. The 21st Annual Santé Awards were celebrated at the Holiday Inn on College Drive, Saskatoon on January 30, 2025.

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Dr. Colleen Dell**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

Dr. Colleen Dell is among the University of Saskatchewan's most eminent social scientists. She is a leader in her fields of health studies, from local to international levels. She has a highly innovative and influential academic career trajectory, advancing knowledge through her impactful health research and commitment to capacity building. She truly models the exceptional qualities of a SHRF Achievement Awardee.

## IMPACT AWARD

**Dr. Amira Abdelrasoul**  
**College of Engineering**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

Dr. Amira Abdelrasoul, recipient of the SHRF Impact Award, has made it her mission to improve quality of life for dialysis patients, first by developing dialysis membranes that are more compatible with the human body. Ultimately though, she wants to leverage this work to create a wearable kidney, to free patients from having to come to the hospital multiple times each week for treatment.

## EXCELLENCE AWARDS

These awards recognize the top-ranked applications from researchers and teams in the past year's funding competitions. All applications to SHRF's funding competitions are ranked according to our rigorous peer review process by committees of active researchers and health professionals.

### TOP 2024-25 ESTABLISHMENT GRANT, BIOMEDICAL

**Dr. Amanda Hall**  
College of Medicine, Department of Surgery,  
University of Saskatchewan

### TOP 2024-25 ESTABLISHMENT GRANT, SOCIO-HEALTH

**Dr. Andrew Eaton**  
Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina

### TOP 2023-24 SOLUTIONS, IMPACT GRANT

**Led by Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer, Dr. Hassan Vatanparast, Colleen Norris**  
College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

### TOP 2023-24 SOLUTIONS, INNOVATION GRANT

**Dr. Kelsey Cochrane**  
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of  
Saskatchewan

# 2024-25 SANTÉ AWARDS

A new award was introduced at the Santé Awards this year; the Recognizing SHRF Connections award. This award recognizes an individual or team who have contributed significantly to Saskatchewan's research community by volunteering their time and sharing their invaluable experience and expertise, even though research is not part of their official role.

## RECOGNIZING SHRF CONNECTIONS AWARDS

### Heather Dyck, Patient Partner and Co-Investigator

Provincial Department of Anesthesiology

### Pelican Narrows Community Research Team

Sally Sewap, Knowledge Keeper; Marie Custer, Patient Partner; Elder Rose Dorion; Shannon Hammer, LPN; Tracey Sewap, LPN; Ravonne Custer, LPN

### Theresa Robertson, Director

Saskatoon Rehabilitation Centre, Saskatchewan Health Authority

### Saskatoon Rehabilitation Centre Team

Healthcare providers, staff, and administrators at Saskatoon Rehabilitation Centre

### Kayla DeMong, Executive Director

Prairie Harm Reduction (PHR)



Scan the QR code to read more about the Recognizing SHRF Connections award winners.

# PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and expertise to review, discuss, and provide application feedback for this year's SHRF grant competitions.

**Sayeh Bayat**

University of Calgary

**Robert Beattie**

University of Manitoba

**Anita Benoit**

University of Toronto

**James Benson**

University of Saskatchewan

**Ning Cheng**

University of Calgary

**Roslyn Compton**

University of Saskatchewan

**Jorden Cummings**

University of Saskatchewan

**Ekaterina Dadachova**

University of Saskatchewan

**Xiongbiao (Daniel) Chen**

University of Saskatchewan

**Sarah Donkers**

University of Saskatchewan

**Rohan D'Souza**

McMaster University

**Shannon Freeman**

University of Northern British Columbia

**Donna Goodridge**

University of Saskatchewan

**Andrew Halayko (Chair)**

University of Manitoba

**Carla Hilario**

University of British Columbia

**Tania Janaudis-Ferreira**

McGill University

**Soyeon Kim**

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care

**Nathan Lachowsky (Chair)**

University of Victoria

**Claudia Lai**

University of Victoria

**Chitra Laloo**

Hospital for Sick Children Research Inst.

**Roger Leng**

University of Alberta

**Nicole Letourneau**

University of Calgary

**Adelaine Leung (Chair)**

University of Saskatchewan

**Song Liu**

University of Manitoba

**Steven Machtaler**

University of Saskatchewan

**Amy Metcalfe (Chair)**

University of Calgary

**Paul Mick**

University of Saskatchewan

**Tatiana Ogourtsova**

McGill University

**Joel Pearson**

University of Manitoba

**Antonio Ruzzini**

University of Saskatchewan

**Dallas Seitz**

University of Calgary

**Maryam Sharifzadeh-Amin**

University of Alberta

**Gillian Strudwick**

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

**Mary Sullivan**

Nipissing University

**Alison Thompson**

Lakehead University

**Candice Waddell-Henowitch**

Brandon University

**Kristi Wright (Chair)**

University of Regina

**Yang Zhou**

McGill University

# EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and expertise as an external reviewer for an application to SHRF.

**Alon Altman**

University of Manitoba

**Kelly Anderson**

Western University

**Michelle Ardolino**

University of Ottawa

**Rosemary Bagot**

McGill University

**Jane Bayani**

University of Toronto

**Julie Bettinger**

University of British Columbia

**Tamara Bodnar**

University of British Columbia

**Vera Caine**

University of Victoria

**Rick Carvalho**

University of British Columbia

**Brian Christie**

University of Victoria

**Jocelynn Cook**The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
of Canada**Marianna Foldvari**

University of Waterloo

**Jane Francis**

Acadia University

**Shannon Freeman**

University of Northern British Columbia

**Kimberley Good**

Dalhousie University

**Jessica Grahn**

University of Western Ontario

**Andrea Gruneir**

University of Alberta

**Gillian Hanley**

University of British Columbia

**Jennifer Hedges**

University of Manitoba

**Carla Hilario**

University of British Columbia

**Meg Holden**

Simon Fraser University

**Olivier Julien**

University of Alberta

**Jessie King**

University of Northern British Columbia

**Sharon Koehn**

Simon Fraser University

**Kristina Kokorelias**

University of Toronto

**Jasmin Lalonde**

University of Guelph

**Pierre Landry**

Dalhousie University

**Sarah Larney**

University of Montreal

**Afsaneh Lavasanifar**

University of Alberta

**Orly Linovski**

University of Manitoba

**Sabrina Luke**

University of British Columbia

**Jessica Mcalpine**

University of British Columbia

**Brendan McConkey**

University of Waterloo

**Alison Mildon**

University of Toronto

**William Montelpare**

University of Prince Edward Island

**Maisam Najafizada**

Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Anuradha Prakki**

University of Toronto

**Karen Ragoonaden**

University of British Columbia

**Leigha Rock**

Dalhousie University

**Robert Schroth**

University of Manitoba

**Hala Tamim**

York University

**Christina Thornton**

University of Calgary

**Christopher Tomlinson**

University of Toronto

**Kiril Trpkov**

University of Calgary

**Christine Voss**

University of British Columbia

**Stephen Welch**

Western University

**Paul Woods**

University of Guelph

**Roseanne Yeung**

University of Alberta

---

# 2024-25 Funding Recipients

## CAPACITY PROGRAM

### 2024-25 ESTABLISHMENT GRANT

**Jacob Alhassan**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Transportation poverty and health equity in Saskatchewan: Measuring the current evidence and the development of an innovative decision support tool*

**\$149,993**

**Andrew Eaton**

Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina

*Mapping Needles, Preventing Disease: Feasibility of Pop-Up HIV and Syphilis Prevention Among People Who Use Injection Drugs in Regina, Saskatchewan*

**\$150,000**

**Amanda Hall**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Examining the gut-brain relationship in Crohn's Disease*

**\$150,000**

**Julie Kosteniuk**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Exploring opportunities to increase rural primary care readiness for dementia care*

**\$149,909**

**Charles Plante**

Saskatchewan Health Authority

*Using Health and Social Data to Support Local Health Decision-Making in Saskatchewan*

**\$149,995**

**Aneesh Thakur**

Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, University of Saskatchewan

*Inducing protective immunity in the lungs by messenger RNA vaccines*

**\$150,000**

---

**Charlene Thompson**

College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

*Improving Immunization Services and Health Outcomes for Children and Families in the Saskatchewan Health Authority*

**\$150,000**

**Sabira Valiani**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Connect-ICU: Improving communication and patient and family centered care in the ICU with the use of communication technology*

Funded in partnership with Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research

**\$149,926**

## SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

### 2024-25 INNOVATION GRANT

**Angela Baerwald**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Prenatal Folic Acid Supplements and Musculoskeletal Health in Pregnant Women and Babies*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$50,000**

**Xiongbiao (Daniel) Chen**

College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan

*Engineering out-of-body lung models for fighting lung diseases*

Funded in partnership with Lung Saskatchewan

**\$50,000**

**Jorden Cummings**

College of Arts & Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Supporting Parents Supporting Consent: Evaluation of Support Groups to Empower Parenting of Consent, Body Agency, and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$49,091**

**Ekaterina Dadachova**

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan

*Investigating the use of antibody molecules armed with radiation for treatment of Alzheimer's disease*

Funded in partnership with Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

**\$50,000**

**Shela Hirani**

Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina

*Improving Mother-Child Care in Saskatchewan through Baby-friendly Hospital Initiatives*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$50,000**

---

**Haizhen Mou**

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan  
*Improving Access to Primary Care in Rural Saskatchewan: Evaluating the Implementation of Two Pilot Patient Medical Home Models*

**\$50,000**

**Schroder Sattar**

College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan  
*FIRST-Sask Study*

**\$50,000**

**Changiz Taghibiglou**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan  
*Neuroprotective role of a novel SREBP1 inhibiting peptide Indip in an in vitro model of Alzheimer's disease (AD)*

Funded in partnership with Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

**\$50,000**

**Charlene Thompson**

College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan  
Co-Lead Jacob Alhassan  
*Improving Immunization Services for Children 0-6 Years of Age in Southwest Saskatchewan*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$49,998**

## 2024-25 IMPACT GRANT

**Scott Adams**

Saskatchewan Health Authority  
Co-Lead Ivar Mendez  
*Artificial Intelligence for Obstetrical Imaging from Blind Ultrasound Sweeps*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$150,000**

**AG Ahmed**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan  
Co-Lead Holly Graham  
*Mitigating Substance Abuse: Culture-Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program with Indigenous Clients in Rural Saskatchewan*

**\$149,551**

**Lindsey Boechler**

Centre for Health Research, Innovation and Scholarship, Saskatchewan Polytechnic  
*Virtual Interventions and Community Connections for Indigenous Youth (VICCIY): Enhancing Indigenous Youth Wellness through Interactive Virtual Reality*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$150,000**

---

**Timothy Bradley**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Darryl Adamko

*Assessing the Incidence and Prevalence of Birth Defects in Saskatchewan Based on Existing Datasets*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$149,840**

**Andrew Freywald**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Franco Vizeacoumar

*Developing new therapies for pediatric T-ALL*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$150,000**

**Akram Khayatzaheh Mahani**

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina

*Key Features of Neighborhoods that Support Youth Mental Health*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation and Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research

**\$150,000**

**Stacey Lovo**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Leads Scott Adams; Ivar Mendez; Joey Deason

*Planning and Evaluation of kisahpapamik, a Mobile Health Services Pod, for Pediatric Rehabilitation*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation and Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research

**\$150,000**

**Ana Mendes Silva**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Leads John Howland; Carlos Ueira-Vieira

*Exploring kefir's potential to treat Alzheimer's disease*

Funded in partnership with Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

**\$149,940**

**Ivar Mendez**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Corinne Berger

*Enhancing ADHD and Autism Diagnosis in Rural and Remote Communities Using Eye Tracking Technology*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$150,000**

---

**Brandy Winqvist**

Saskatchewan Health Authority

Co-Lead Daniel Adeyinka

*Safe Pregnancy Saskatchewan: Working together to measure and improve maternal and newborn health*

Funded in partnership with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation

**\$150,000**

**Wen Jun (Chris) Zhang**

College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan

*A non-invasive methodology for removal of lung cancerous tumors*

Funded in partnership with Lung Saskatchewan

**\$148,800**

## CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

### 2024-25 ALIGN GRANT

The following list reflects projects funded across Call 1, Call 2 and Call 3 of the 2024-25 Align Grant.

**Timothy Bradley**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Congenital Anomaly Database for Saskatchewan (CASK)*

**\$10,000**

**Xiongbiao (Daniel) Chen**

College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Neeraj Dhar

*Development of novel lung models for combating lung diseases*

**\$10,000**

**Jorden Cummings**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Promoting Interpersonal Coordination and Alignment for Self and Society (PICASSO): Development of a Transdisciplinary Research Cluster*

**\$9,960**

**Andrew Eaton**

Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina

*Engaging Indigenous Communities in Cognitive Remediation Group Therapy*

**\$10,000**

---

**Nicole Hansmeier**

Luther College, University of Regina

Co-Leads Akram Khayatzaheh Mahani; Colleen Strauch; Tzu-Chiao Chao; Jacob Alhassan; Cassandra Opikokew Wajuntah  
*Exploring the social acceptability of wastewater-based health surveillance*

**\$10,000**

**Gaurav Jain**

University of Saskatchewan

*Patient Experiences of Having Gender Surgery in Saskatchewan*

**\$9,990**

**Haizhen Mou**

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan

*Toward a Patient Medical Home Model of Care: a Study of the Role of Nurses*

**\$10,000**

**Amrinderbir Singh**

College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Jessica Lieffers

*Assessing Oral Health Needs of International Students at University of Saskatchewan*

**\$10,000**

**Hassanali Vatanparast**

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Leads Stacey Wiens; Tim Hanna

*Idea and Action Mapping with Stakeholders to Improve the Food Environment in Saskatchewan Public Recreation Facilities*

**\$9,993**

**Matthew Butz**

Saskatchewan Health Authority

*Improving Teaching Methods for Point of Care Ultrasound by Utilization of Gaze Tracking Technology*

**\$10,000**

**Colleen Dell**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Unleashing Connections: Developing a National Centre for Studying the Human-Animal Bond*

**\$10,000**

**Barbara Fornssler**

School of Public Health, University of Saskatchewan

*Developing Municipal Capacity to Reduce Substance Use Harms in Saskatchewan*

**\$9,964**

**Suelen Goes**

College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Marianne Kostyna

*Candle Lake Alive and Well: An Asset-based Community Engagement for Collective Action*

**\$10,000**

---

---

**Harminder Guliani**

Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

*Understanding the Influence of Urban Design on Healthcare Costs: Stakeholder Perspectives*

**\$10,000**

**Holly McKenzie**

School of Public Health, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Cassandra Opikokew Wajuntah

*Identifying Priorities and Taking Action: Building a Community-Engaged Reproductive Justice and Health Research Program*

**\$9,981**

**Eduardo Moffa**

College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan

*Evaluating the Effectiveness of a New Antimicrobial Material in Treating Drug-Resistant Oral Infections*

**\$10,000**

**Nathaniel Osgood**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Supporting Deepened Understanding of Drivers for Homelessness via Group Model Building*

**\$10,000**

**Asmahan AbuArish**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Chung-Chun Tya

*Is cell stress response defective in COPD airway epithelium leading to elevated lung inflammation?*

**\$10,000**

**Mohamad Baydoun**

Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina

*Prescription Opioid Misuse and Its Predictors Among Young Adults with Cancer: A Survey Study*

**\$9,982**

**Daniel Dickson**

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan

*Against Tokenism: Modelling Effective Co-Design in Health and Social Services Policies for People Labelled with Intellectual Disabilities in Saskatchewan*

**\$9,718**

**Erika Dyck**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Leads Norman Ross; Kelly Daniels

*Preserving Healthy Traditions: Indigenous peyote ceremonies in Saskatchewan*

**\$9,992**

---

**Kristy Kowatch**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Mapping mental health resources for Indigenous children and youth*

**\$10,000**

**Gabriela Novotna**

Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, University of Regina

*Toward Continuity of Care: A Review of the [Political] and Policy Discourses on Substance Use Disorders in Saskatchewan*

**\$10,000**

**Daniela Pita de Melo**

College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan

*Development and Validation of a Deep Learning-Based Infrared Thermography Model for Detection and Differentiation of Thyroid Nodules*

**\$10,000**

**Mateen Raazi**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Exploring a team-based model of anesthesia care in Saskatchewan; understanding options and assessing the potential for change*

**\$9,924**

## 2024-25 ALIGN GRANT: REALIZING VALUE

**Lindsey Boechler**

Centre for Health Research, Innovation and Scholarship, Saskatchewan Polytechnic

*The VICCIY Initiative: Virtual Interventions and Community Connections for Indigenous Youth*

**\$25,000**

**Shauna Davies**

Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina

Co-Lead Louis-Robert Beaulieu-Guay

*Using Virtual Reality in Education and Practice: Implementable steps for healthcare professional regulators and policymakers*

**\$24,171**

**Jonathan Gamble**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Leads Jennifer O'Brien; Michael Prystajeky

*Harnessing the Value of an Electronic Medical Record in Implementing Virtual Pre-Surgery Assessments Across Saskatchewan*

**\$24,282**

---

**Ivar Mendez**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Leads Stacey Lovo; Scott Adams

*Strengthening the Technological Infrastructure of a Command Center for the Virtual Health Hub*

**\$25,000**

**Megan O'Connell**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Exploring Barriers and Facilitators to the Alzheimer Society of SK Facilitating Virtual Care Partner Support Groups for Indigenous Care Partners*

**\$25,000**

## 2024-25 MOBILIZE GRANT

The following list reflects projects funded across Call 1 and Call 2 of the Mobilize 2024-25 Connections Grant.

**Mona Bates**

MS Canada SP Canada

*MS Insights: Bridging MS Healthcare, Research and Community Knowledge - a one-day MS multi-stakeholder learning event*

**\$10,000**

**Lindsey Boechler**

School of Health Sciences and Nursing, Saskatchewan Polytechnic

*Breaking the Bad: Capturing Voices from the Bedside to Understand Why Nurses Stay*

**\$10,000**

**Jorden Cummings**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*RESOLVE SK Public Repository: Mobilizing 25 Years of Anti-Violence Research*

**\$10,000**

**Michelle Gagnon**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Connecting Youth to Knowledge: Creating a Research Hub on Menstrual Pain*

**\$10,000**

**Anne Leis**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Translating the results of an exercise pilot project to promote physical activity participation by Indigenous older adults*

**\$10,000**

---

**Sithokozile Maposa**

College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Lead Katelyn Roberts

*Bridging Hope Through Strength: Connecting people with lived experience and knowledge users of Sanctum 1.5 to enhance understanding towards responsive care and policy*

**\$10,000**

**Elise Matthews**

Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina

*Sharing My Health Care Experiences: Building Connection Among Nursing Students and People with Lived Experience of Intellectual Disabilities*

**\$10,000**

**Cara Spence**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Community-Based Syphilis Surge Response (CB-SSR) - A Resource and Tool Development Project*

**\$10,000**

**Kara Fletcher**

Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina

*A Digital Hub for Strengthening Relationships: Confronting the Challenges of Conspiracy Thinking and Misinformation in Saskatchewan*

**\$10,000**

**Saija Kontulainen**

College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan

*Working Together with Older Adults at Risk of Fracture and Their Care Providers to Expand the Patient-Oriented Pole Walking Intervention*

**\$10,000**

**Trent Litzemberger**

Lung Saskatchewan Inc.

*Saskatchewan Web-Based Radon Mapping Tool & Report*

**\$10,000**

**Maxine Proctor**

Learning and Engagement, The Art Gallery of Saskatchewan Inc.

Co-Lead Kelly Van Damme

*Dementia support programming and training at Remai Modern: Public awareness and staff training through art engagement.*

**\$10,000**

**Mateen Raazi**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Anesthesia HHR Solutions for Saskatchewan: A Knowledge Mobilization Study*

**\$9,928**

---

**K. Ruth Whelan**

Saskatchewan Health Authority

Co-Lead Brett Graham

*Improving Provincial Stroke Care Through In-Person Education and Support*

**\$10,000**

## 2024-25 MOBILIZE GRANT: TRUTH AND ACTION

**Lindsey Boechler**

Centre for Health Research, Innovation and Scholarship, Saskatchewan Polytechnic

*Virtual Interventions and Community Connections for Indigenous Youth (VICCIY): Provincial Wellness Summit for Youth Living in Rural and Remote Saskatchewan*

**\$10,000**

**Melissa Dykhuizen**

The Centre for Health Research, Innovation and Scholarship (CHRIS), Saskatchewan Polytechnic

*Sharing Witaya: Building Transnational Two Spirit and IndigiQueer Communities*

**\$9,452**

**Heather Foulds**

College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan

*"Métis are People Who Gather": Development of a theatre-based knowledge mobilization output*

**\$10,000**

**Tristan Hopper**

Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina

*Heart to Heart: A coming together of Indigenous youth*

**\$10,000**

**Eileen Zaba**

CHRIS/School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Saskatchewan Polytechnic

*Keeper of the Talking Quilt and Big Medicine Blanket*

**\$10,000**

**Wen Jun (Chris) Zhang**

College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan

Co-Leads Lee Wilson; Duncan Cree; Lori Bradford

*Wheels of Wisdom: Culturally Grounded Assistive Devices for Nehiyawak (Plains) and Maskêkowiiniwak (Swampy) Cree and Métis Elders*

**\$10,000**

---

## 2024-25 PARTNER-LED GRANTS

Dollar amounts listed reflect the combined contributions of SHRF and our partners.

### AGE-WELL EPIC-AT Health Research Training Platform

**Kylie Arsenault**

Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

Supervisor Thomas Hadjistavropoulos

*Development and preliminary validation of a novel checklist to address age bias in digital technologies*

**\$18,500**

**Briana De Roo**

Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

Supervisor Natasha Gallant

*Addressing psychological distress associated with chronic disease in Saskatchewan's rural and remote communities: A pilot study*

**\$18,500**

**Olivia Ryan**

Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

Supervisor Natasha Gallant

*Comparing Multi-Sensory and Olfactory Stimulation in the Well-Being of Individuals with Advanced stages of Dementia*

**\$18,500**

### Alzheimer Society of Canada Doctoral Award

**Andrew McLennan**

Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

Supervisor Thomas Hadjistavropoulos

*Evaluation of Observational Pain Assessment Tools in a Sample of Older Adults with Severe Dementia in Collaboration with Caregivers*

**\$129,000**

### Alzheimer Society of Canada Proof of Concept Grant

**Darrell Mousseau**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Using patient-derived brain organoids to support a diagnosis of sporadic, late-onset Alzheimer disease*

**\$100,000**

---

## Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation Grant

### **Susan Tupper**

Saskatchewan Health Authority

*Feasibility and acceptability of a structured chronic pain self-management and peer support program delivered through rural chiropractic clinics in Saskatchewan*

**\$50,000**

## CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship Doctoral Stream

### **Kaylee Michnik**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Supervisor Rachel Engler-Stringer

*Supporting Childhood and Youth Nutrition: Equitable Health Policy, Partnerships & Knowledge Mobilization for Universal School Food Programs in Canada*

**\$50,000**

## CTPP - CAN-TAP-TALENT Doctoral Award

### **Mohsen Keramati**

College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan

Supervisor Saija Kontulainen

*Pole walking and risk factors of falls and related fractures in retirement care homes: a pilot cluster randomized controlled trial*

**\$35,000**

## CTTP-CANTRAIN Postdoctoral Fellowship

### **Michele Monroy-Valle**

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan

Supervisor Hassanali Vatanparast

*How adding milk and yogurt to the diet can improve bone health in young Canadian adults: a study in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

**\$61,000**

## CTTP-CBITN Doctoral Award

### **Anna Dollimount**

Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

Supervisor Kristi Wright

*Group Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Adults with Cystic Fibrosis: An Exploration of Effectiveness, Feasibility, Acceptability, and Participant Experiences*

**\$35,000**

---

## CTTP-CBITN Master's Award

### **Matea Gerbeza**

Faculty of Arts, University of Regina  
Supervisor Kristi Wright

*Examining the Efficacy of an Online Delivered Psychoeducational Program for Siblings of Children and Adolescents with Congenital Heart Disease*

**\$17,500**

## MHRC-Mitacs-SHRF Annual Indigenous Studentship

### **Chasity Delorme**

Faculty of Education, University of Regina  
Supervisor JoLee Sasakamoose

*Fostering Future Matriarchal Resilience*

**\$15,000**

## MS Canada Clinical Best Practice Grant

### **Sarah Donkers**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Canadian Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Clinical Best Practice Guideline*

**\$300,000**

## MS Canada Discovery Grants

### **Sarah Donkers**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Healthcare Providers' Practices regarding Physical Activity Prescription in the care of People with Multiple Sclerosis*

**\$299,611**

### **Michael Levin**

College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

*Identifying and screening small molecules for the treatment of neurodegeneration in MS*

**\$299,385**

## Parkinson Canada Pilot Project Grant

### **Christopher Phenix**

College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan

*Measuring GCase and GBA2 activities in leukocytes from blood and saliva*

**\$74,925**

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

---

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation  
Financial Statements  
For the year ended March 31, 2025

## Report of Management

Management is responsible for the integrity of the financial information reported by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

Fulfilling this responsibility requires the preparation and presentation of financial statements and other financial information in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles that are consistently applied, with any exceptions specifically described in the financial statements.

The accounting system used by the Foundation includes an appropriate system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that:

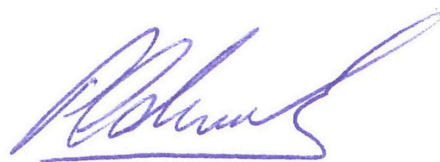
- transactions are authorized;
- the assets of the Foundation are protected from loss and unauthorized use; and
- the accounts are properly kept and financial reports are properly monitored to ensure reliable information is provided for preparation of financial statements and other financial information.

To ensure management meets its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control, board members of the Foundation discuss audit and financial reporting matters with representatives of management at regular meetings. Foundation board members have also reviewed and approved the financial statements with representatives of management.

The Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan had audited the Foundation's statement of financial position, statements of operations, change in net financial assets and cash flow. Her responsibility is to express an opinion on the fairness of management's financial statements. The Auditor's report outlines the scope of her audit and her opinion.



Jordan Dutchak  
Chair



Patrick Odnokon  
Chief Executive Officer

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the statement of operations, statement of change in net financial assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation as at March 31, 2025, and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards for Treasury Board's approval, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit.

Regina, Saskatchewan  
June 25, 2025

Tara Clemett, CPA, CA, CISA  
Provincial Auditor  
Office of the Provincial Auditor

STATEMENT 1

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

As at March 31

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Schedule 2)	\$ 1,553,788	\$ 1,237,888
Accrued interest receivable	54,690	77,332
Accounts receivable	235,086	661,482
Short-term investments (Schedule 2)	3,800,000	3,800,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,643,564	5,776,702
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	10,276	27,309
Payroll liabilities	28,999	22,158
Grants payable	4,854,778	5,238,818
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,894,053	5,288,285
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net financial assets (Statement 3)</b>	749,511	488,417
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Tangible capital assets (Note 3)	2,438	7,199
Prepaid expenses	5,769	22,185
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,207	29,384
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Accumulated surplus (Statement 2)</b>	\$ 757,718	\$ 517,801
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Contractual Rights & Contractual Obligations (Note 4)

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

## STATEMENT 2

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

For the Year Ended March 31

	2025		2024
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	(Note 10)		
<b>Revenues</b>			
Innovation Saskatchewan	\$ 4,849,000	\$ 4,849,000	\$ 4,849,000
Partnerships (Note 6)	650,000	774,370	938,724
Other Revenue (Note 7)	360,000	536,907	413,111
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>5,859,000</u>	<u>6,160,277</u>	<u>6,200,835</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Programs			
Grants & Awards (Note 5)	4,250,000	4,346,042	4,699,218
Program delivery	726,433	735,460	610,366
Program support	485,229	419,133	409,989
	<u>5,461,662</u>	<u>5,500,635</u>	<u>5,719,573</u>
Corporate Expenses	435,178	419,725	385,694
<b>Total Expenses</b> (Schedule 1)	<u>5,896,840</u>	<u>5,920,360</u>	<u>6,105,267</u>
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b> (Statement 3, 4)	\$ <u>(37,840)</u>	239,917	95,568
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year		517,801	422,233
<b>Accumulated surplus, end of year</b> (Statement 1)		<u>\$ 757,718</u>	<u>\$ 517,801</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

STATEMENT 3

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS**

For the Year Ended March 31

	2025		2024
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	(Note 10)		
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b> (Statement 2)	\$ (37,840)	\$ 239,917	\$ 95,568
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(6,000)	(3,657)	-
Amortization of tangible capital assets	9,205	8,418	9,712
	3,205	4,761	9,712
Acquisition of prepaid expense	-	(15,364)	(24,857)
Use of prepaid expense	-	31,780	12,594
	-	16,416	(12,263)
<b>Increase (decrease) in net financial assets</b>	(34,635)	261,094	93,017
Net financial assets, beginning of year	488,417	488,417	395,400
<b>Net financial assets, end of year</b> (Statement 1)	\$ 453,782	\$ 749,511	\$ 488,417

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

## STATEMENT 4

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

For the Year Ended March 31

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Operating transactions</b>		
Annual surplus (Statement 2)	\$ 239,917	\$ 95,568
Non-cash items included in annual surplus:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	8,418	9,712
Net change in non-cash working capital items:		
Accrued interest receivable	22,641	(4,554)
Accounts receivable	426,396	(551,527)
Prepaid expenses	16,416	(12,263)
Deferred revenue	-	(10,000)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(17,032)	16,424
Payroll liabilities	6,841	2,165
Grants payable	(384,040)	(234,785)
	<u>319,557</u>	<u>(689,260)</u>
<b>Cash provided by (used in) operating transactions</b>		
<b>Capital transactions</b>		
Cash used to acquire tangible capital assets	(3,657)	-
	<u>(3,657)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash applied to capital transactions	(3,657)	-
	<u>(3,657)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Investing transactions</b>		
Purchase of investments	(3,800,000)	(3,800,000)
Proceeds from disposal and redemption of investments	3,800,000	4,000,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Cash provided by investing transactions	-	200,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>315,900</b>	<b>(489,260)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	1,237,888	1,727,148
	<u>1,237,888</u>	<u>1,727,148</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 1,553,788</b>	<b>\$ 1,237,888</b>
	<u><u>\$ 1,553,788</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,237,888</u></u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2025**

**1. Establishment of the Foundation**

On January 31, 2003, *The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Act* (S.S. 2002, c.S-21.1) came into force establishing the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (referred to as The Foundation or SHRF). The Foundation is responsible for organizing, managing and allocating most provincial health research funding in Saskatchewan and for ensuring that supported research fits with the province's health research priorities and leads to benefits for health and the health system in Saskatchewan.

**2. Accounting Policies**

Pursuant to standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) and published by the Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) Canada, the Foundation is classified as an other government organization. The Foundation uses Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. These statements do not include a Statement of Re-measurement Gains and Losses as the Foundation does not have Remeasurement Gains or Losses.

The following accounting principles are considered to be significant.

**a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

**b) Revenue**

Historically, the Foundation's main revenue for operations has been contributions from the Ministry of Health – General Revenue Fund. Effective April 1, 2015, responsibility for the Foundation, including the provision of annual grant funding, was transferred from the Ministry of Health to Innovation Saskatchewan. Other revenue comes from partnerships, interest, recoveries and miscellaneous revenue.

Funds not spent during the term of a research grant or award compose recoveries if the grant or award expense was recognized in the prior years.

Government contributions are recognized as revenue when the transfer is authorized and any eligibility criteria are met, except to the extent that contribution stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability. Contributions are recognized as deferred revenue when contribution stipulations give rise to a liability. Contributions are recognized in the statement of operations as the stipulation liabilities are settled.

**c) Measurement uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with PSAB accounting principles requires the Foundation's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of commitments at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**d) Tangible capital assets**

The recognition and measurement of tangible capital assets is based on their service potential. Purchases of furniture, office equipment, and computer hardware and software over \$1,000 are recorded at cost as a capital asset. Purchases below these amounts are expensed as incurred. Amortization is recorded on a straight-line basis as follows:

Furniture	10 years
Office Equipment	5 years
Computer Hardware and Software	3 years
Leasehold Improvements	length of lease

Normal maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred.

e) **Investments**

Investments are valued at amortized cost.

f) **Future changes in accounting policies**

A number of new Canadian public sector accounting standards and amendments to standards are not yet effective and have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. The following standards will come into effect as follows:

(i) Conceptual Framework (effective April 1, 2026) replaces Financial Statement Concepts, Section PS 1000, and Financial Statement Objectives, Section PS 1100, which will be withdrawn.

(ii) PS 1202 Financial Statement Presentation (effective April 1, 2026) a new standard ensuring increased understanding of financial statements and the indicators within them, and provides improved accountability information for users.

The Foundation plans to adopt these new standards on the effective date and is currently analyzing the impact this will have on its financial statements.

**3. Tangible Capital Assets**

	Furniture and Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	2025 Totals	2024 Totals
Opening cost	\$ 257,546	\$ 13,007	\$ 270,553	\$ 273,223
Additions during the year	3,657	-	3,657	-
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	(2,670)
Closing cost	\$ 261,203	\$ 13,007	\$ 274,210	\$ 270,553
Opening accumulated amortization	250,347	13,007	263,354	256,312
Amortization for the year	8,418	-	8,418	9,712
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	(2,670)
Closing accumulated amortization	\$ 258,765	\$ 13,007	\$ 271,772	\$ 263,354
Net book value of tangible capital assets	\$ 2,438	\$ -	\$ 2,438	\$ 7,199

**4. Contractual Rights & Obligations**

At March 31, 2025, the Foundation has a funding agreement in place with Innovation Saskatchewan for one year extending from April 1, 2025 until March 31, 2026.

This contractual right results in the following economic resources being transferred to SHRF in future years:

	2025-26
Innovation Saskatchewan	<b>\$ 4,849,000</b>

At March 31, 2025, the Foundation had the following contractual obligation with Innovation Saskatchewan for office lease:

	2025-26
Office Lease*	<b>\$ 69,887</b>

\*This office lease agreement is effective April 1, 2021 and expires November 30, 2025.

**5. Grants and awards expense**

Grants and awards expense is recorded when eligibility has been determined and the grant has been authorized. Awarded funds are sent to the recipients’ home institution to manage and disburse. Funds not spent during the term of a research grant or award reduce the respective expense if the expense was recognized in the same year.

SHRF holds annual funding competitions through which applications are adjudicated by experts based on excellence and relevance. Terms vary and are sometimes multi-year. For multi-year grants and awards, eligibility and authorization for all years may be granted in the year the grant is awarded or on a yearly basis depending on the grant program terms and conditions.

SHRF partners with other organizations to fund excellent health research and increase funding available through SHRF funding programs. Also, provided that SHRF standards are met, SHRF partners strategically on funding opportunities offered by other organizations. These partnerships improve the ability of Saskatchewan researchers to participate in national and international research initiatives by showing provincial support. In this scenario, SHRF’s partner administers the funding competition and, if a grant is authorized by the partner, SHRF provides funding to the recipient’s host institution in Saskatchewan. Multi-year partner led grants and awards are recorded by SHRF either in full in the year that authorization is received by the partner or on a year-by-year basis depending on the terms defined in the agreement between the partner organization and SHRF.

Grants and awards expense for the year ended March 31, 2025, is composed of the following:

<b>Capacity</b>	
Establishment Grants	\$1,199,823
<b>Research Partnerships</b>	
Solutions Grants	
Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan	\$249,940
Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation	\$400,000
Lung Saskatchewan	\$198,800
Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research	\$300,000
Partner Led Grants	
Alzheimer Society of Canada	\$100,000
Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation	\$25,000
CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship	\$15,000
Clinical Trials Training Program	\$53,750
AGE WELL Age Tech Fellowships	\$24,000
Mental Health Research Canada	\$3,750
MS Canada	\$200,000
Parkinson Canada	\$37,462
	\$1,607,702
<b>Solutions</b>	
Children and Youth Health Innovation & Impact Grants	\$698,929
Rural and Remote Innovation & Impact Grants	\$249,551
	\$948,480
<b>Connections</b>	
	\$590,037
	<b>\$4,346,042</b>

**6. Revenues from Partnerships**

In 2024-25, revenues generated by the Foundation through its partnerships were as follows:

Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan	\$124,970
Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation	\$400,000
Lung Saskatchewan	\$99,400
Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research	\$150,000
	<u>\$774,370</u>

**7. Other Revenue**

In 2024-25, other revenue generated by the Foundation were as follows:

Grant Administration Fees	\$4,970
Interest	\$242,435
Miscellaneous	\$1,156
Recoveries	\$278,846
Sponsorships	\$9,500
	<u>\$536,907</u>

**8. Related Party Transactions**

Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown corporations, ministries, agencies, boards and commissions related to the Foundation by virtue of common control by the Government of Saskatchewan, as well as key management personnel and their close family members (collectively referred to as "related parties"). Related party transactions with the Foundation are in the normal course of operations and are recorded at fair market value.

**9. Financial Instruments**

The Foundation has the following financial instruments: accrued interest receivable, accounts receivable, investments, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, grants payable and payroll liabilities. The following paragraphs disclose the significant aspects of these financial instruments. The Foundation has policies and procedures in place to mitigate the associated risks.

**a) Significant terms and conditions**

There are no significant terms and conditions associated with the financial instruments, other than investments, that may affect the amount, timing and certainty of future cash flows. Significant terms and conditions for investments are described separately on Schedule 2 of these financial statements.

**b) Interest rate risk**

The Foundation is exposed to interest rate risk when the value of its financial instruments fluctuates due to changes in market interest rates. As the Foundation seldom disposes of investments prior to maturity, this risk is minimal.

The Foundation's receivables and payables are non-interest bearing. Due to the short-term nature of these, as well as cash and short-term investments, interest rate risk is minimal.

**c) Credit risk**

The Foundation is exposed to credit risk from potential non-payment of accounts receivable or investment income and principal.

Most of the Foundation's receivables are from registered charities with which the Foundation has partnership agreements. The credit risk is assessed to be minimal based on the history of these organizations honouring their financial commitments to the Foundation in a timely manner.

The Foundation's investments consist of guaranteed investment certificates (GIC's). Therefore, credit risk for investments and related accrued interest receivable is minimal.

**d) Fair value**

For the following financial instruments, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to their immediate or short-term nature:

- Accrued interest receivable
- Accounts receivable
- Short-term investments
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities
- Grants payable
- Payroll liabilities

**10. Budget**

The operating budget was approved by the Foundation's Board on March 26, 2024.

**11. Pension Plan**

The Foundation is a participating employer in the Public Employees Pension Plan, a defined contribution pension plan. Eligible employees make monthly contributions of 7% of gross salary with the Foundation contributing 7.6% of gross salary. The Foundation's financial obligation is limited to making required contributions. During the year, the Foundation's total contributions were \$78,863 (in 2023-24, they were \$74,259).

**12. Future Research Funding Cash Commitments (Schedule 3)**

This schedule shows the cash commitment that is scheduled to be paid over the next five years. This is an ever changing chart, as new grants are awarded, grants are completed and recoveries are recorded, the commitment of total cash to be paid out changes.

SCHEDULE 1

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES BY OBJECT**

For the Year Ended March 31

	2025		2024
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	(Note 10)		
Grants and awards	\$ 4,250,000	\$ 4,346,042	\$ 4,699,218
Salaries & Benefits	1,321,805	1,300,889	1,157,154
Goods & Services	278,830	240,382	220,780
Amortization	9,205	8,418	9,712
Board	21,000	11,667	14,949
Travel	16,000	12,962	3,454
	<u>\$ 5,896,840</u>	<u>\$ 5,920,360</u>	<u>\$ 6,105,267</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

SCHEDULE 2

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

As at March 31, 2025

	MATURITY DATE	CARRYING VALUE	EFFECTIVE RATE
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b> (Statement 1)			
Cash		\$ 815,504	
TD Waterhouse - Investment Savings Account		<u>738,284</u>	2.30%
		<u>1,553,788</u>	
<b>Short-term investments</b> (Statement 1)			
TD BK GIC	23-Oct-2025	2,000,000	3.90%
TD BK GIC	09-Dec-2025	<u>1,800,000</u>	3.75%
		<u>3,800,000</u>	
		<u>\$ 5,353,788</u>	

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

## SCHEDULE 3

**SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION****SCHEDULE OF FUTURE FUNDING CASH COMMITMENTS**

As at March 31, 2025

YEAR	SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION PROGRAMS	
2026	\$	3,346,784
2027		1,332,663
2028		175,331
	\$	<u>4,854,778</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements - Note 12)



**SHRF**

SASKATCHEWAN  
HEALTH RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION

#204-111 Research Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3R2  
1-639-398-8400  
info@shrf.ca  
shrf.ca



**SHRF**  
SASKATCHEWAN  
HEALTH RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION