

## **Community Initiatives Fund Background**

### **What is the Community Initiatives Fund?**

The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) was created by the provincial government to ensure that Saskatchewan communities received tangible benefits from casino profits. The CIF receives a portion of profits from the Regina and Moose Jaw casinos.

The CIF Community Grant Program provides project grants to community initiatives that enhance human development and community vitality, focusing on:

- (a) Development opportunities for children, youth and families
- (b) Increased positive activities for young people at the local level, including physical activity, arts and cultural activity.
- (c) Increased community leadership capacity, particularly leadership opportunities for youth; and
- (d) Inclusion of First Nations and Métis people as leaders in the planning and/or delivery of community activities.

### **Who manages the Community Initiatives Fund?**

The fund is managed by an independent government-appointed board of trustees. The Trustees all have extensive experience as community volunteers.

### **What grants programs are available?**

There are two main community grant programs supported through the CIF:

- CIF Community Grant Program
- Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program

#### *CIF Community Grant Program*

Annual and summer grants support community based projects. Annual grants are for projects taking place throughout the year. Summer grants assist community organizations in providing summer projects delivered between May and September. This program supports about 350 projects annually in areas of education, health, justice, social services, sport, culture and recreation.

#### *Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program*

This program provides grants that increase access to and assist in the development of sport, culture and recreation projects and leadership opportunities for First Nations and Métis people in 14 designated urban centers. Each urban centre has tailored the program to meet local needs.

### **Who Can Apply for CIF grants?**

The CIF provides grants to community-based and volunteer organizations.

### **How Are Grant Decisions Made?**

All grant decisions are made by the CIF board of trustees, who are community volunteers, based on advice from regional and local committees. This approach helps ensure CIF funds are responsive to community priorities.