

**CITY OF YORKTON**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**  
**Monday, December 18, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
3. **PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - Regular Council Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2023
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
6. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MATTERS REFERRED**
  - Civic Recognition Awards Committee Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2023
7. **HEARING OF PETITIONS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND PRESENTATIONS**
  - Presentation – East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership – Introduction and Immigration Strategies for the City of Yorkton
8. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PETITIONS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND PRESENTATIONS**
9. **CORRESPONDENCE**
  - Chamber of Commerce – Letter received November 22, 2023 re: Follow-up to October 25 meeting
10. **BYLAWS**
11. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
  - Director of Recreation and Community Services
    - Active 55+ Community Conversation Update
  - Director of Legislation and Procedures (City Clerk)
    - Civic Recognition Awards – Announcement of 2023 Winners
12. **GIVING NOTICE OF MOTION**
13. **IN CAMERA SESSION**
  - 1 Other Item
14. **ADJOURNMENT**

# Committee Name – Civic Recognition Committee

## MINUTES

DATE SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

TIME  
4:00PM

LOCATION MEETING ROOM A

Present	Mayor Mitch Hipsley, Councillor Quinn Haider, Tom Seeley, Jessica Matsalla
Regrets	Tami Hall, Councillor Chris Wyatt
Recording	Cindy Gottschall – Executive Administrative Assistant
Call to order	4:01 p.m. by Jessica Matsalla
Adjourn	4:23 p.m.

### Approval of the agenda

Discussion	An agenda for the meeting of September 18, 2023 was circulated.
Motion R0001-2023	Moved by Councillor Quinn Haider that the agenda of September 18, 2023 be approved as presented. CARRIED

### Minutes of the November 7, 2022 Meeting

Discussion	Minutes from the November 7, 2022 meeting of the Committee were circulated electronically as part of the agenda package.
Motion R0002-2023	Moved by Mayor Hipsley that the minutes of November 7, 2022 be approved. CARRIED

### Appointment of Committee Chair Elections

Discussion – Chairperson nominations	Discussion on Chair and Co-Chair positions. Jessica Matsalla opened the floor for call for nominations for Chair person. Mayor Hipsley nominates Tom Seeley. Seeley accepts the nomination. Second and third calls for nominations are made by Matsalla, and then ceased after no other nominations.
	Tom Seeley is acclaimed as the Chair for 2023. The chair is passed to Tom Seeley by Jessica Matsalla – 4:04 p.m.
Discussion – Vice Chairperson nominations	Chair Tom Seeley opened the floor for call for nominations for CRA Vice chairperson. Councillor Quinn Haider nominated Tami Hall. Second and third calls for nominations are made by Seeley, and then ceased after no other nominations. Tom Seeley confirmed that Tami Hall, although having sent her regrets, is willing to let her name stand as Vice-chair person.
	Tami Hall is acclaimed as the Vice Chair for 2023.

### Recognition of 2022 and 2023 Recipients

Discussion	Discussion on whether we conduct a round of nominations for 2022 and 2023 recipients. Jessica Matsalla apologized that there was no Spring CRA Meeting as we had two (2) sessions of Queen’s Jubilee Medals. Consensus that we recognize 2023 CRA awards only.
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## Review and Approval of Call for Nominations Ad

Discussion	<p>Committee reviewed the proposed list of locations to send advertising to. Mayor Hipsley offered to talk about the call for nominations on his live weekly radio spot with GX94 and monthly with The Rock. Councillor Haider volunteered to look after sharing the ad with school groups.</p> <p>Suggestion to add a box on our nomination forms to include Where did you hear about this?</p> <p>The Committee agreed to continue one (1) more year of radio advertising, and review this next year to determine our future advertising plans.</p>
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## Awards Ceremony Plan

Discussion	<p>Discussion on a different location to hold the Awards Ceremony, and agreed that the cost of another facility is a consideration. Consensus to continue with the Awards Ceremony in Council Chambers prior to a Council Meeting, and to provide coffee and dainties in the lobby following the Ceremony.</p> <p>Councillor Haider suggested that we try again to present all three (3) Awards on one day prior to the Council Meeting.</p>
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## Budget

Discussion	<p>The Committee discussed arranging for a more detailed award with a photo and write up and include an engraved plate. Consensus that Mayor Hipsley work on designing the template concept for an 8 x 10 award, and then we would have the awards made at Frameworks.</p>
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## Next Meeting

The next Civic Recognition Awards Committee Meeting to be held on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. If advertising needs to be extended in to November, then the next CRA Meeting to be held November 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

## Adjournment

Motion R0004-2023	Moved by Mayor Mitch Hipsley that the meeting be adjourned at 4:23 p.m.
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Tom Seeley

CHAIRPERSON

Cindy Gottschall

RECORDING SECRETARY

From: [ecscip@ecscip.org](mailto:ecscip@ecscip.org)  
To: Amanda Dietz  
Subject: New Response Completed for Request to Appear Before Council Form  
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:37:56 PM

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hello,


Please note the following response to Request to Appear Before Council Form has been submitted at Friday November 3rd 2023 2:36 PM with reference number 2023-11-03-008.

- **First name:**  
Jummal
- **Last Name:**  
Umar
- **Committee/Organization name:**  
East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership (ECSIP)
- **Address:**  
Unit H, 132 Broadway St. West
- **City:**  
Yorkton
- **Province:**  
Saskatchewan
- **Postal code:**  
S3N 0M4
- **Name:**  
Jummal Umar and Edith Montesclaros
- **Title:**  
Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator
- **Daytime phone number:**  
306-641-4076
- **Email:**  
jumar@ecnwc.ca
- **Date of request:**  
11/3/2023
- **Date of council meeting that the presenter is wishing to attend:**  
12/18/2023
- **Topic being presented:**  
Immigration Strategies for the City of Yorkton
- **Description of request: (Clearly state what is being asked of Council. Provide detailed information about why the information is being presented and the importance to the community)**  
East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership (ECSIP) is the Local Immigration Partnership in East Central Saskatchewan. Local Immigration Partnerships promote the settlement and integration of immigrants and foster a more welcoming community where immigrants are fully engaged and integrated.  
  
The East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership (ECSIP) will like to introduce itself to the City's Council as well as engage with Council on matters that will promote economic development and population growth.  
  
ECSIP Power Point Presentation slides to follow.  
Thank you."  
  
(Please ignore the earlier request sent)

[This is an automated email notification -- please do not respond]



**EAST CENTRAL  
SASKATCHEWAN  
IMMIGRATION  
PARTNERSHIP**

A black computer monitor with a white screen. The screen displays a land acknowledgment statement in blue, italicized text. The monitor is centered on a white background.

*ECSIP acknowledges that  
we are on Treaty 4  
territory, the ancestral  
lands of the Cree,  
Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota,  
Nakota and the Métis  
Nation.*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

# ECSIP

IS THE

**LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)**

IN EAST CENTRAL SASKATCHEWAN.

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TO COORDINATE LOCAL COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS IN A COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP MODEL.

Funded by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) through the East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc.

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ECSIP activities is facilitated by the LIP Coordinator - **Jummai D. Umar**

**Contact information:**



Unit H 132 Broadway Street West, Yorkton, SK, Canada S3N 0M4.



(306)641-4076



[jumar@ecnwc.ca](mailto:jumar@ecnwc.ca)



[www.ecsaskip.ca](http://www.ecsaskip.ca)



<https://www.facebook.com/ecsaskip>





# How it started. . .

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- **East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc. (ECNWC Inc.)** provides **direct settlement services** to newcomer clients which goes a long way but is limited in its operations. Some gaps can only be resolved systemically.
- Feasibility study was conducted and the conclusion was there is a need for the community and stakeholders to be involved with finding solutions to the needs of newcomers, thus creation of the Local Immigration Partnership in the region
- Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) are **indirect settlement services** under Canada's Settlement Program that supports the development of local partnerships, capacity building and the sharing of best practices.
- **Indirect Services** seek to complement direct services by promoting capacity building, coordination and standardization of services across the Settlement programs to optimize client outcomes.
- LIPs have made notable achievements, particularly in the areas of research, information sharing, partnership building, and strategic planning. .

## Local Immigration Partnerships are Community Initiatives that...

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- Promote the settlement and integration of newcomers
- Build on the community's strengths
- Support community-level research and strategic planning
- Promote linkages between sectors
- Systematize local engagement of service providers and other institutions in newcomer integration processes
- Enhance collaboration, coordination and strategic planning at the community level
- Improve coordination of effective services that facilitate immigrant settlement and integration
- Foster a more welcoming community where immigrants are fully engaged and integrated.

LIPs (ECSIP)

A collective  
community  
response



# ECSIP

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## **VISION:**

To make East Central Saskatchewan a growing, prosperous and inclusive community for all residents.

## **MISSION:**

The East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership will educate, collaborate and partner for the integration and retention of new immigrants in East Central Saskatchewan.

# The main priorities of the ECSIP are to:

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- **Identify and eliminate gaps in programs and services for newcomers and immigrants;**
- **Consolidate community resources and coordinate the delivery of services and programs for newcomers;**
- **Provide employment-related supports through information Sharing to help address current labour shortages;**
- **Develop and implement a comprehensive and community-based strategic action plan to guide attraction, settlement and integration of immigrants and newcomers to East Central Saskatchewan;**
- **Increase the community's readiness for newcomers by promoting awareness about the benefits of diversity and providing opportunities for locals and newcomers to learn about and share with each other; and**
- **Evaluate and see which of the characteristics of a welcoming community need to be made a priority to ensure we are attracting and retaining immigrants in our communities throughout East Central Saskatchewan.**

# ECSIP Structure:

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## ECSIP ADVISORY COUNCIL:

- The ECSIP Advisory Council is a 15-member multi-sector council, comprised of key community stakeholders.
- Representation includes: all levels of government, settlement agencies, recreation services, safety sector, school boards, language providers, food security, employment, religious institutions, educational institutions, and an Indigenous organization.

## IMMIGRANT ADVISORY TABLE:

- The Immigrant Advisory Table (IAT) is a diverse and inclusive volunteer table with members representing a diversity of backgrounds, ages, cultures, languages, genders, education and varying stages of settlement.
- The diverse **IAT** guides the work of the Partnership Advisory Council through their **lived experiences**, knowledge and connections to the newcomer community.

# How we're addressing identified gaps. . .

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- How do we make our community attractive to immigrants?
- **How do we prevent immigrants from relocating?**
- **Our Solution – A welcoming Community!**

# 17 Characteristics of a welcoming community

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- **Employment opportunities**
- **Affordable and suitable housing**
- **Accessible and suitable health care**
- **Educational opportunities and training opportunities**
- **Available and accessible public transportation**
- **Positive attitudes towards immigrants, cultural diversity and the presence of newcomers in the community**
- **Fostering social capital and Active participation**
- **Presence of newcomer-serving agencies that can successfully meet the needs of newcomers (Settlement agencies etc.)**
- **Links between main actors working towards welcoming communities**
- **Presence of diverse religious organizations**
- **Social engagement opportunities**
- **Political participation opportunities**
- **Positive relationships with the police and the justice system**
- **Safety**
- **Opportunities for use of public space and recreational facilities**
- **Municipal features and services sensitive to the presence and needs of newcomers**
- **Favorable media coverage and representation**

Esses et al. (2010). Characteristics of a Welcoming Community



# ECSIP's engagement with Yorkton City Council: Immigration Strategy Committee

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- **Immigration is the way to get there** - There is a need to shift Canada's approach to immigration from a transactional and siloed approach to a relational and holistic approach that considers the interconnections with community development.
- Canada's aims to bring in almost half a million immigrants yearly. Yorkton's Official Community Plan states that Yorkton's population growth is **projected to grow from 18,471 currently to 36,000 by 2036. (page 47)**
- ❖ **Is the city of Yorkton ready to receive the influx of immigrants?**
- ❖ **What strategies are in place to attract more residents and retain them in the city of Yorkton?**
- ❖ **The City needs to adopt a Proactive, thoughtful, and intentional approach to grow its population.**
- ❖ **Effective settlement, integration and retention of newcomers is now an urgent policy priority for all levels of government.**
- ❖ **Immigration can meaningfully benefit both immigrants and rural communities.**
- ❖ **Immigration Strategy Committee is imperative!**

# ECSIP's engagement with Yorkton City Council : Friendly Neighbour Policy

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- From 'City of Yorkton 2020 strategic plan', it can be noted under 'community development' that it seeks to "foster a safe community that embraces cultural and social diversity".
- A "friendly neighbor policy" will help our community to be more receptive and accommodating of immigrants.
- It will show the City's commitment to her community members irrespective of where they come from as seen in other communities.
- **Some ways to apply friendly neighbor policy in the community are:**
  - **Get to know your neighbors:** Take the initiative to introduce yourself to your neighbors.
  - **Communicate:** Communication is key to building a sense of community.
  - **Be respectful:** Respect your neighbors' privacy and property.
  - **Be inclusive:** Embrace diversity and inclusivity in your community.
- **Can we have a friendly neighbor policy for the city of Yorkton?**

# Benefits of friendly Neighbour Policy

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- A friendly neighbor policy will create a strong sense of community and its benefits include and are not limited to:
  - **Improved mental health:** Being part of a community can help reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, which can lead to improved mental health.
  - **Increased social support:** A strong community can provide emotional and practical support during difficult times.
  - **Enhanced sense of belonging:** Being part of a community can give you a sense of belonging and identity, which can boost your self-esteem and confidence.
  - **Increased civic engagement:** A strong community can encourage people to get involved in local politics and social issues, leading to positive change.
  - **Improved quality of life:** A strong community can provide access to resources such as healthcare, education, and job opportunities, leading to an improved quality of life.
  - **Retention and growth:** People will feel safe and comfortable to attract more families and friends to the community.

# ECSIP's engagement with Yorkton City Council : Welcoming Week

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- [Welcoming Week](#) is an annual opportunity to **recognize and celebrate the people, places and values that help everyone feel welcome** and give them a sense of belonging in their local community, no matter where they come from.
- This year's Welcoming Week took place from **September 8 to 17**.
- ECSIP partnered with East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre to collaborate with some other organizations to bring activities to welcome newcomers and everyone.
- Welcoming Week is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of these activities. Successful integration is a two-way street: the more welcoming communities are, the more newcomers feel at home and contribute locally.
- **Can the city of Yorkton can make it a yearly city-wide activity?**



# ECSIP's engagement with Yorkton City Council : Immigration Strategy Committee

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In summary, we are requesting the following:

- An Immigration Strategy Committee be created.
- Adoption of a friendly neighbor policy.
- Yearly celebration of the welcoming week.

Thank you.



# **EAST CENTRAL SASKATCHEWAN IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP**

**From:** [Juanita Polegi](#)  
**To:** [Jessica Matsalla](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to Mayor and Council  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 3:13:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[Letter to Mayor and Council Nov 16..pdf](#)

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hello Jessica,  
Please find attached the Letter to the Mayor and Council dated Nov 16, 2023.  
Thank you for including this in the Council package.  
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**Juanita Polegi, ACE**  
Executive Director, Yorkton Chamber of Commerce  
[1-306-783-4368](tel:1-306-783-4368) | [jpolegi@yorktonchamber.com](mailto:jpolegi@yorktonchamber.com)  
[yorktonchamber.com](http://yorktonchamber.com)  
Box 1051, Yorkton, SK. S3N 2X3

**Check out our NEW website**



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# YORKTON

## CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

Junction #9 & #16 • P.O. Box 1051 Yorkton, Sask. S3N 2X3 • Phone: (306) 783-4368 Fax: (306) 786-6978  
Website: [www.yorktonchamber.com](http://www.yorktonchamber.com) • email: [info@yorktonchamber.com](mailto:info@yorktonchamber.com)

November 16, 2023

Mayor Mitch Hipsley and City Councillors

RE: Follow-up to October 25 meeting

Dear Mayor Hipsley and Councillors:

On behalf of the Policy Committee of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, thank you for meeting with us on October 25. We covered several topics and the Chamber had an opportunity to share some concerns and to learn more about some of the City's procedures.

As a result of the discussion, there are a number of items which the Chamber believes requires some follow-up:

1) Tenders:

- a. Adding a section on Community Benefit and Sustainability – As per the City of Regina, the Chamber recommends awarding some points on a Tender for the contributions a business makes to the community.
- b. Identifying “local” contractors – The Chamber recommends that “local” starts in the city and works outwards. A business that pays property taxes in the city is one that is more local than a business that is located within the region.
- c. Changes or cancellations to Tenders – The City must keep in mind that it costs time and money for contractors to prepare responses to Requests for Proposals and Tenders. When the city invokes its right to change or modify or even cancel Requests for Quotations, it does not instill confidence in the integrity of the City's bidding process.

2) Grain Millers Drive

- a. The City needs to continue to pressure the Ministry of Highways and the RM of Orkney to come to an agreement on the construction and maintenance of Grain Millers Drive. With the increase in heavy truck traffic, negotiations must continue at a brisk pace.

... Page 2

3) Closure of Deer Park Club House

- a. The Chamber was surprised to learn that the Deer Park Club House will be closed for the winter. The City is losing opportunities for revenue from catering and renting of the facility. Why have the doors been shut on a new facility with such potential? Is there an opportunity for the facility to be open for Saturday suppers and Sunday brunches?

The Chamber looks forward to updates on these and other concerns of the business community in the near future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Vanessa Andres in black ink, with the name "Vanessa Andres" printed in red text over the signature.

Vanessa Andres, President

<p>TITLE: <b>Active 55+ Community Conversation Update</b></p>	<p>DATE OF MEETING: <b>December 18, 2023</b></p> <p>REPORT DATE: December 13, 2023</p>
<p>CLEARANCES:</p>	<p>ATTACHMENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active 55+ Community Conversation Summary Report</li> <li>2. Inventory of Activities</li> </ol>
<p>Written by: Taylor Morrison, Director of Recreation &amp; Community Services <b>Taylor Morrison</b></p>	
<p>Reviewed by: Jessica Matsalla - City Clerk <b>Jessica Matsalla</b></p>	
<p>Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager <b>Lonnie Kaal</b></p>	

**BACKGROUND**

Over the past several months, there have been various conversations within the community regarding a lack of activities for Active 55+ residents. In response to these concerns coming from different avenues and community partners, the Recreation & Community Services department hosted a facilitated community conversation about social, cultural, and physical activities for Yorkton residents over age 55.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT**

The community conversation occurred on October 26, 2023. The event was planned for, and advertised as, a conversation with active residents of Yorkton over the age of 55, and was organized to accommodate a maximum of 100 attendees with pre-registration required. The session had 91 registered participants, with 82 in attendance.

The event was structured and facilitated by CJ Denyse Consulting, with the goal of engaging and fostering open conversation and discussion regarding Active 55+ programs and activities, current barriers, and opportunities for enhancement. Prior to the conversation, the consultants completed an environmental scan of the physical, social, and cultural activities currently offered within the community. This inventory of activities is attached to the report for reference, and was used to spark discussion within the groups during the Community Conversation. Five themes were used to inform the conversation:

1. **Comprehensiveness:** *What is missing, what is needed, and are there any barriers?*
2. **Connection:** *How would you like to connect to the City and community?*
3. **Collaboration:** *Who needs to work together, and how?*
4. **Contribution:** *What can you do to maintain and enhance activities?*
5. **Communication:** *How do people stay informed?*

Throughout the conversation, the commitment to participants was that all ideas and suggestions were welcome, and there were no wrong answers. The input being shared was important and valued, even if needing to be set aside as an idea or topic for a later time. While not directly connected to the five questions, the themes and topics were not unrelated to services within the city, and what may be considered important matters for individuals as to what contributes to a vibrant, health community. These topics included sustainability, schools/youth, taxes, health care, learning assistance/education, diversity, and bus service.

While the full summary document from the Community Conversation is attached to this report, there are a few specific points to mention from each of the five discussion questions:

### **Comprehensiveness**

It was identified that some activities were missing from the inventory, or that contact information may be incorrect. A perceived lack of activities specific to the Active 55+ community was evident and discussed, as was the desire of targeted activities for families, seniors, and youth.

Participants also identified barriers and/or challenges that prevent access to activities. Common themes here included cost, transportation, a lack of knowledge on who to connect with, hours of activities and complexity of registration among others.

### **Connection**

Participants were asked how they would like to interact with the City and the community to maintain and enhance activities now and in the future. Feedback received included maintaining effective two-way, face-to-face communications, website improvements, local TV and radio advertising, social media, and a general community awareness regarding Active 55+ activities.

### **Collaboration**

Participants were asked what other groups need to work together, and how should they work together, to enhance delivery of programs and services. There was alignment from many of the participants in terms of who and what groups needed to work together. Suggestions ranged from the individual level to organized groups and services clubs, government and related organizations, and private businesses.

### **Contribution**

Attendees were asked what they would be willing to do to enhance the activities available in Yorkton. General feedback included volunteering, paying membership fees, participating in activities, and helping to share and communicate activity information to others.

### **Communication**

Participants were asked what the best way to be informed about activities available in Yorkton is. Emerging themes included a multi-faceted approach, utilizing a Seniors Coordinator, enhancements to the City's website, an offering a City-Wide registration event specifically for Active 55+ residents.

Additional information on this discussion, along with further comments and context is included in the summary report.

The question now is, what's next? The discussion has been had, information and data provided and reviewed, and the community is eager to continue the momentum and build off of the success of the Community Conversation. Throughout the process, and further confirmed during the review of the data gathered from the discussion, a few action items have been identified that Recreation & Community Services department can look to implement. These include:

- Changes to branding and marketing to better identify Active 55+ programs and activities
- Review and development of specific webpages within the City's website that can house program and activity information
- Building and maintaining the inventory of activities, and making that available online
- Development of an Active 55+ City-Wide registration event
- Continued discussion with the Active 55+ community on their needs and wants to increase the delivery of "Lean To" activities.

The RCS department also partners with various community based organizations in the delivery of recreational, social, and cultural programs and services. The department will continue to work with these groups and organizations to share the data received from the Community Conversation so they too can be aware of the common themes, successes, and challenges that the Active 55+ demographic has identified. Further conversation and discussion with community members is planned for the near future to keep the momentum going.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no significant financial implications regarding the previously mentioned action items, aside from dedicating staff time to lead and coordinate their implementation. This will be shared between the Community, Culture, & Heritage, and Recreation Services divisions within the RCS department.

Any increase to program development and delivery will be considered following the Program Evaluation Tool developed in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. This resource will help determine how (or if) to provide a potential new or expanded type of recreation opportunity. Using this process will help rationalize decision making and also identify potential resources required to ensure that the opportunity is delivered in a quality and sustainable manner.

### **COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE**

The summary report from the Active 55+ Community Conversation provides significant background and context in regards to the discussion that occurred during the session. Many of the participants have reached out to the RCS department inquiring on what the next steps will be, and how they can stay informed on the process. The summary report can be added to the City's Plans, Reports, and Studies webpage so it can be accessed and viewed by the public. Additionally, an Active 55+ section with the Shape Your City platform can be created to engage with the public. Individuals will be able to ask questions and provide feedback directly with the City through this platform, and stay up to date on initiatives and actions sparked by the Community Conversation.

The RCS department will continue to promote programs and services online, on social media, and through local advertising in the paper, on TV, and on radio, in addition to utilizing communication methods identified during the Community Conversation. These communications will include information on the Shape Your City platform, and encourage residents to engage with the City there, in addition to calls, emails, and in person visits with staff at the administrative office.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/OCP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The delivery of comprehensive physical, social, and cultural activities speaks to the Community Development priority of the 2020 Strategic Plan which includes the objective that “Community engagement provides opportunity for all members of the community to be involved and supported”, and further that the City will “Develop and maintain facilities that offer a diverse range of sports and recreational opportunities for youth to seniors including, spray parks, playgrounds, bike trails, walking paths and organized sports.” The continued engagement of community members, organizations, and service providers also address City Council’s social priority of “Building social capital and engaging citizens and partners to improve the well-being and diversity of the community.”

## **OPTIONS**

1. That Council receive and file the Active 55+ Community Conversation update.
2. Other direction at the discretion of Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council receive and file the Active 55+ Community Conversation Update.**



**Summary Report:**

**Over Age 55 Community Conversation:**  
***Social, Cultural, and Physical Activities***

**Held on October 26, 2023**

**Reported submitted to:**

**Recreation and Community Services  
City of Yorkton**

**Submission Date: November 13, 2023**

**Prepared by:**

**Christina Denysek  
John Denysek**

**CJ DENYSEK CONSULTING  
Yorkton, Saskatchewan**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

*“Community is much more than belonging to something; its about doing something together that makes belonging matter.”*

*- Brian Solis*

The City of Yorkton has an age 50+ demographic that is 5,888 voices strong and represents 35.2% of the population.<sup>1</sup> When a group of citizens approached the City of Yorkton, Recreation & Community Services department to discuss activities, the City responded by planning and hosting a community conversation for active Yorkton residents over age 55 about social, cultural, and physical activities. 1.4% of this demographic was in attendance to provide input focused on 5 themes: *comprehensive, connection, collaboration, contribution, and communication.*

Input on the themes, is summarized as follows:

**Comprehensiveness:** *missing, needed and any barriers*

The Inventory of Activities, while comprehensive, did contain some incorrect information. Additionally, there was substantial information provided on activities that are available but missing from the inventory. Participants offered suggestions on additional activities they would be interested in. Many barriers were identified that prevented or reduced participation in activities. While not the only improvement suggested, generally improving communications would greatly enhance people’s access to activities.

**Connection:** *how would you like to connect to the City and community*

Participants want to connect and stay connected to the City and community. There is a need for a varied and multi-faceted approach that should enable communication to be two-way, allowing for input and feedback by members of the community.

**Collaboration:** *who needs to work together and how*

There was alignment by many of the participants in terms of who and what groups needed to work together. Suggestions ranged from the individual level to organized groups and service clubs, various levels of government and government organizations, private business as well as suggestions for a new representative Seniors’ Advisory/Liaison group/committee. In addition, commentary was provided on ways that collaboration could/should continue, be improved and/or initiated.

**Contribution:** *what can you do to maintain and enhance activities*

Comments made by participants would suggest that people are eager to contribute and play a role in supporting activities. While most of the suggestions are not new and already occurring, there was an indication that contributions could be enhanced and better focused.

**Communication:** *how do people stay informed*

Participants provided suggestions on ways to stay informed about activities in Yorkton. The input given demonstrated support for current communication methods and offered recommendations for

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<sup>1</sup> The City of Yorkton’s population data was utilized and can be found at <https://www.yorkton.ca/en/build-invest-and-grow/demographics-and-statistics.aspx#li-modal>

additional, new methods. It was clear that there is no agreement on a “one-size-fits-all” solution or approach and that it must be varied to include traditional methods and those more modern, embracing technology.

To keep the session on track and the discussion moving, a “parking lot” was utilized. The commitment to participants was that all ideas and suggestions were welcome and there were no wrong answers. The input was important and valuable even if needing to be set aside as an idea or topic for a later time. While not directly related to the 5 questions, the themes were not unrelated to services in the City and what may be within their purview of important matters for individuals and what contributes to a vibrant, healthy community. Topics included sustainability, schools/youth, taxes, health care, learning assistance/education, diversity, and bus service.

While not designed into the agenda as a separate question or specific topic for discussion, kudos and accolades to the City were noted by several participants. Positive feedback and acknowledgement were also noted through discussion of the five (5) specific questions.

Numerous apprehensions and concerns were voiced during the formal discussion period that on one hand have the potential to be wise counsel, delicate perception and/or keen insights. On the other hand, it should not be assumed to have agreement from all participants or that it would be supported by the majority. Of note, was concern for lack of diversity at the session, acknowledgment that this conversation was a positive start with a request for timely follow-up and feedback, and there would be strength in having a foundation based on prevention and well-being that is proactive. Finally, there was recognition that Yorkton offers a lot of activities and facilities, and there is an opportunity to utilize these more fully.

The Conversation event provides robust, and a sizable amount of, input for consideration. The input includes additional information that can be used to correct and enhance the Inventory of Activities, provides positive acknowledgement and constructive feedback for improvements, as well as offers ideas and suggestions that could be considered, researched, and further explored.

## REPORT CONTEXT AND CONTENT:

This report is provided as a result of the October 26<sup>th</sup> over age 55 community conversation that focused on gathering input and insights into social, cultural, and physical activities and are defined as follows:

Physical Activities: Promotes physical well-being while helping to delay the negative impacts of inactivity and aging.

Social Activities: Promotes mental well-being and social inclusion while helping to alleviate the negative impacts of social isolation.

Cultural Activities: Activities that embody or convey cultural expression. They may be physical and/or social activities as well.

The report contains information from two (2) sources:

- Documentation completed by the Table Hosts during the discussions.
- The voluntary Participant Survey.

The report is a summary of the input provided on 5 planned and pre-determined questions. The input has been presented in tables and aligned into broad themes.

In addition, a survey was made available to participants with a request for voluntary participation. The survey sought to capture demographic data about the participants and provide an opportunity for participants to offer any further input. The survey has only been referenced within the PARTICIPANTS section of the report to offer insight into the demographic that was represented in the session. The survey results have not been deeply analyzed however a brief review does not indicate input that is contrary to the input collected within the session. The Recreation & Community Services department is in possession of the survey data.

All information gathered from the session was considered valuable and has been included in the report. There was a considerable amount of input that was similar in nature, with the same context or a slight variation. In these situations, the information has been documented once, with context provided if there was variation or a different intent identified. It should be noted that this input was not weighted in any way to identify if it was a suggestion by one table or many, thus suggesting that more emphasis be placed on it. While tables were asked to identify their top 3 priorities, this was done primarily to enable a quick summary for “report out” purposes for the end of the session. It should be noted that establishing 3 priorities was done inconsistently. For this reason, priorities have not been identified within this report and if being used to inform actions, they should be used with prudence.

The documentation from the Table Hosts contains the detail of the input provided and captured during the conversation with participants. This is provided to the Recreation & Community Services department as supporting, detailed documentation that provides the foundation for this written summary.

A cautionary note is offered in that there was no indication in the responses if any of the suggestions would be well-supported or if it was a suggestion and/or idea by one or a few. The suggestions should be viewed as general suggestions with the need for more exploration prior to it being assumed that everyone is onboard and in favor of providing transportation, to cite an example.

## PARTICIPANTS:

The three (3) hour event was planned for, and advertised as, a conversation with active residents of Yorkton over the age of 55. It was organized to accommodate a maximum of 100, with advance registration required.

Registration data included names and telephone numbers and/or email addresses. Registration was maintained and managed by the Recreation & Community Services department, City of Yorkton.

The session garnered 91 registered participants, with 82 in attendance. Participants were asked to occupy tables of maximum 10 with a table host that acted as a steward of the process, discussion convener, and note taker.

The voluntary Participant Survey was completed by 62 people. The following demographic data was generated:

### ***GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS***

Female	70.9%	44
Male	29.03%	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>62</b>

### ***AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS***

<b>AGE Group</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b># of people</b>
55-60	10.00%	6
61-65	11.67%	7
66-70	30.00%	18
71-75	21.67%	13
76-80	13.33%	8
81-85	8.33%	5
85+	5.00%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>60</b>

**HOUSEHOLD INCOME LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Income Level</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b># of people</b>
\$0 - \$40,000	22.73%	10
\$40,000 - \$80,000	45.45%	20
\$80,000- \$125,000	25.00%	11
\$125,000 - \$200,000	6.82%	3
Over \$200,000	0%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>44</b>

**Data Limitations:**

It should be noted that not all survey participants chose to identify their age category or their household income level. Analysis was not done on the demographic data to establish representation and/or comparability to the City of Yorkton's broader demographics. As an example, we do not know if a 45.45% of participants with \$40,000 - \$80,000 household income is a comparable representation of the City of Yorkton's broader populations' household income level.

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL & PRESENTATION:**

Training and information were prepared and provided to the Table Hosts in advance of the session. This included Principles of Facilitation, the discussion questions with suggested conversation starters or prompts, a copy of the Inventory of Activities and recording sheets.

When participants arrived, their advance registration was verified, and they were given a paper copy of an Inventory of Activities. In addition to welcoming participants, a brief verbal background, accompanied by a visual PowerPoint, was provided.

Participants were provided with a brief overview of Yorkton's demographics, an explanation of the Inventory of Activities, including a description of how social, physical, and cultural activities were defined.

The discussion questions were introduced including the conversation process for the afternoon.

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

In advance of the session and in consultation with the Manager of Community, Culture and Heritage with the Recreation & Community Services department, City of Yorkton, there were five (5) questions that were developed that informed the purpose of the conversation. These questions were focused on broad components as follows:

1. **Comprehensiveness:** missing, needed and any barriers.
2. **Connection:** how would you like to connect to the City and community.
3. **Collaboration:** who needs to work together and how.
4. **Contribution:** what can you do to maintain and enhance activities.
5. **Communication:** how do people stay informed.

It was identified to participants that the questions would help to inform and provide input on understanding how to meet basic needs, what and how was needed to continue to learn, grow and make decisions, remain mobile, build, and maintain a social network and relationships as well as contributing in meaningful and fulfilling ways to the community.

## **COMPREHENSIVENESS:**

### ***Discussion Question:***

What physical, social and/or cultural activities are currently missing from the list AND/OR if you like to access an activity but are not – what is preventing you from accessing the activity?

Note: The question was not clear in terms of asking about missing activities. What is unclear in many of the responses is whether the activity is available but not documented on the “Active Activities in Yorkton” document that was provided, or if the activity is currently unavailable in Yorkton. It is possible that a noted “missing” activity is available and simply needs to be added to the inventory list.

### **Summary of emerging themes:**

#### **Missing Activities:**

Input provided regarding missing activities was aligned in themes as follows:

- Seniors and youth
- Facilities
- Activity Available but missing from inventory.
- Missing but not identified if available.
- Other Activities not specific to physical, social and/or cultural.
- Correction of Information offered.

#### **Barriers preventing access to activity:**

Participants identified barriers and/or challenges that prevent access to activities. The input was common in nature and themed as follows:

- Cost
- No appropriate location or venue and/or too many venues
- Transportation
- Parking
- Lack of knowledge of who to connect with
- Current available activities may be of interest and appropriate to many ages but there is a need for tailoring to Seniors.
- Communication
- Loss of a partner – now alone with no one to attend with
- Mobility
- Coordination of scheduling of activities
- A sense of belonging
- Hours of activities



- Complexity of registration
- Connectivity
- Need more informational sessions and “learn to” events.
- City is not receptive to change.

The full and complete input on **missing activities** is documented in the following table.

**Responses:**

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Missing:</b>	<b>Context or Comment:</b>
<b>Seniors and Youth</b>	Seniors teaching younger people	i.e., teaching youth to cook “traditional” dishes.  Currently there is no place to accommodate this.  Other example – teaching cursive writing.
	Seniors preserving history for youth	
<b>Facilities</b>	Common facilities that <b>include</b> seniors’ needs	City planning for new facilities in the future needs to ensure input from all demographics.
	Better use of existing facilities	
	Drop-in Centre or Seniors’ Space	Needs to ensure it is accessible/on one floor. Have someone present to coordinate & distribute information.  Needs to be self-sustaining.  If you have a place, activities can be planned such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floor curling</li> <li>• Carpet bowling</li> <li>• Line dancing</li> <li>• Computer/educational classes for seniors</li> <li>• Cooking classes</li> </ul> Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a workshop and pottery area.</li> <li>• Billiards</li> <li>• Darts</li> <li>• kitchen</li> </ul>
A coffee place	A place that is for come and go coffee – no pre-planning or arranging required.	

	Bike Trails/Lanes	Need to have winter trails. Crossing railway tracks is a concern, lanes start and stop; not continuous.  Different bikes may need different trails: e-bikes, road bikes, recumbent bikes, mountain bikes, fat (tire) bikes.
	Multi-Use trails/Pathways	These need to be connected and signage needed. Maps of trails needs to be readily available.  Older areas of the city have rough paths and sidewalks. Not wheelchair accessible.  Need for more benches, garbage cans and bathrooms on the paths.
	Deer Park	Could be used for tobogganing, snow shoeing.
	Club House	Noted but unsure of the context.
	Croki curl	Need a “learn to” and meet up opportunity. Can’t play alone as that is not enjoyable.
	Dog Park	
<b>Activity Available but missing from inventory</b>	Community Choir	Monday @ 7:00 p.m. Regional High School Choir Room (D3) Contacts include, Adelle Sawatzky (teacher at Regional), Dean & Gayla Peterson, Tim Linsley.
	“Learn to...” programming	Acknowledged availability of some but needs to be more.
	Yorkton & District Horticultural Society	Yorktonhort.ca
	Red Hat Society	No information offered and it was questioned.
	Cricket	There are small groups playing in the City.
	Bowling	
	Martial Arts	Need to add Kees to the list
	Regular Bridge (card game)	
	Painted Hand Casino	
	Yorkton Antique Auto Assoc.	
	Bird Watching	
	Genealogy	
	Yorkton Canoe/Kayak	
	Adult House League Hockey	2 games/week
	TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly)	
	Heritage Group	Archive access, supervised.
	“Forever in Motion” program	

<b>Missing but not identified if available</b>	Mall walking group	Promotes social & physical well-being and could branch into other activities.
	Dancing instruction	Specifically noted social dancing such as line dancing and two-stepping. Difficult if you have no partner.
	Entertainment – Music jams	Bring your own instrument.
	Book Club	
	Snow Shoeing	
	Walking Groups	Groups walks/hikes would be enjoyable.
	Kennel Club	
	Dog classes	
	Pet Associations	Good socializing groups.
	Tai Chi	
	Corn Hole	Bean bag toss game
	Horse Shoes – Horse Shoe pits	
	Lawn Bowling	
	Carpet Bowling	
	Botchy Ball	
	Crochet (may have been meaning croquet)	
	Urban Poling Club	
	Outdoor walking track	There are no long loops.
	Hiking	
	Snowmobiling	
	Pump Track (BMX)	
	Racquet ball	
	Volleyball	
	Cultural Tours to surrounding areas and towns	Could be done as day trips.
	Flour Mill tours for public	
	Floor Shuffle Board	
	Bicycle/Motorbike group meetings	
	Outdoor Cycling Club	
	Stationary Bike/Treadmill Club	
	Chess	
	Macrame	
	Paper toile	
	Painting classes	
Ping Pong		
Broomball		
Slow Pitch		
55+ Swim time at aquatic centre		
Lacrosse		
Floor Curling (not on an ice surface)		

<b>Other Activities not specific to physical, social and/or cultural</b>	Seniors' Coordinator	This would be a "common door" for all groups and the public to intersect.
	Regular newsletter	Needs to include events, dates, and details.
	Volunteerism	Suggested: Volunteer drivers; matching with people who need rides.
	Coordinated community volunteer schedule or calendar	
	Senior "Welcome Wagon"	Comment added "how do you find out who is in the community". No clarity if this is in the context of learning who is new to Yorkton or for newcomers to learn about the community. May be related to both.
	Technical and Technology classes.	Need one-on-one instruction at times.
<b>Correction of Information offered</b>	Quilting	Also available at Western Development Museum.

The full and complete input on **barriers and/or challenges** is documented in the following table.

#### Responses:

Numerous barriers and/or challenges were noted by participants. It was rare that a barrier was identified specifically to an activity and instead was offered as generic barriers that are often encountered. If a barrier and/or challenge was specifically associated to an activity, that has been noted.

<b>Barriers and/or Challenge:</b>	<b>Comment or Context (if any provided):</b>
<p><b>Cost</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prohibitive if making a long-term commitment.</li> <li>Needs to be consideration for a person/couples' income level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted on many activities that taking one class or attending a few times, might be affordable but if making a long-term commitment it was too expensive. Examples noted were tech classes, yoga, aquasizes.</li> <li>People have differing abilities to pay.</li> <li>City of Yorkton does not offer seniors a discount</li> </ul>
<b>No appropriate location or venue and/or too many venues</b>	Events referenced include cooking classes, horseshoe pits.

	<p>No access or limited access to a location or venue. (building locked)</p> <p>Some venues have accessibility challenges into the building and in the building (i.e., New Horizons).</p> <p>May be a cost to a location or venue which adds to the cost of the event which may be transferred to the participant.</p> <p>Activities are spread all around the city. There is no central location.</p>
<b>Transportation</b>	Limitation of the current transit system such as drop off points, timing of pickup and drop off.
<b>Parking</b>	Insufficient parking to ensure reasonable distance and accessibility.
<b>Lack of knowledge of who to connect with.</b>	People don't know who to contact for information, especially difficult for newcomers to the community.
<b>Current available activities may be of interest and appropriate to many ages but there is a need for tailoring to Seniors.</b>	May need different instruction, assistance, slower pace.
<b>Communication</b>	<p>No advance awareness of activity and hearing about it after-the-fact.</p> <p>Lack of advertising.</p> <p>Too much focus on one method of communication (i.e., digital, social media).</p> <p>No central hub or location to promote upcoming events.</p> <p>Have "open house".</p>
<b>Loss of a partner.</b>	Have no one to attend with and/or this may now create other challenges i.e., transportation, affordability.
<b>Mobility.</b>	Capacity to attend, participate.
<b>Coordination of scheduling of activities.</b>	There is none currently.
<b>A sense of belonging.</b>	Not all activities have a welcoming environment so that there is comfortableness in attending.
<b>Hours of activities.</b>	<p>This is ongoing trying to match people's availability, including their desired frequency.</p> <p>Many comments on the need for evening events, daytime events as well as too often and not often enough.</p>
<b>Complexity of registration.</b>	Who and where to register.
<b>Connectivity.</b>	How do like minded individuals/groups meet (i.e., dancing, crokicurl.)

<b>Need more informational sessions and “learn to” events.</b>	People may be interested in new activities but there needs to be more frequent information about them and “learn to” sessions.
<b>Risk to personal safety.</b>	i.e., crossing railway tracks, off-leash dogs on walking trails, Museum events are appreciated however there is no shade outside and lack of seating.
<b>City is not receptive to change.</b>	References made to the indoor walking track. Also, to general pricing and rates for activities and use of facilities.

**CONNECTION:*****Discussion Question:***

How would you like to interact with the City of Yorkton and the community to maintain and enhance activities now and in the future?

**Summary of emerging themes:**

The following themes were identified within the responses:

- Two-way Communication
- Website improvement
- Hub Centre/Seniors' Coordinator
- Print Media
- Posters
- Local TV & Radio
- Social Media
- Awareness
- Face-to-face communication
- City planning and development.
- Contact Information
- City Council meetings
- Cost

The themes and their context are addressed within the chart below.

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>How to interact:</b>	<b>Comment/Context:</b>
<b>Two-way Communication</b>	The City needs to commit to two-way communication.	
	Want follow-up with updates and/or progress.	
	Would like metrics/statistics as well as expectation of customer service.	
<b>Website</b>	Not user friendly and too complex. Needs to be improved.	
	Include a chat feature and/or a "share your voice" section.	Online activities/information can be hard to access.
	Include direct links to community partners' websites on the City page.	
	Calendar needs to be front and centre on the website and could	

	also use a 55+ icon on events in the community calendar.	
	Include a 55+ icon on the website	
	Have a tab on City's website for Seniors. Also do that for other demographic groups.	
	Should be better awareness of Recreation's Newsletter	There is a sense that people don't know about it.
<b>Hub Centre/Seniors' Coordinator</b>	Have a community centre building with a coordinator	Search for grant opportunities to fund a Seniors' Coordinator.
	This would allow for building a trusting relationship. Need someone who listens and follows up.	
	There is a need for one calendar.	Too many empty calendars i.e., City's and Tourism's.
	Consider the Hub or Centre being a membership organization, managed by a Board and then there is connection by the Board to the City.	
<b>Print Media</b>	Use local print media i.e., Yorkton This Week, Marketplace	
	Have a community information page in the newspaper that is ongoing and not just for special announcements.	
	Have an "Item of the Week" as a seniors' item feature in the City's weekly news.	
	Use print materials and provide to newcomers to the City.	
	Use "The Coffee Bean" seniors' section.	
	Consider mail-outs	
	Have a Seniors Bulletin	
	A comprehensive Leisure Guide	
<b>Posters</b>	Use bulletin boards at library, Fur, Fin & Feathers, the Board across from Sweet Wanders. Use other locations that are frequented by seniors.	
	Need to improve access to, and visibility, of posters. Bulletin board at Gallagher Centre?	



<b>Local TV &amp; Radio</b>	Make “on air” announcements.	
<b>Social media</b>	Facebook; needs to be advertised.	Concern raised that you can’t share Facebook pages.
<b>Awareness</b>	Consider sharing the inventory of activities in the newspaper.	
	Provide the inventory list with the tax notices.	
<b>Face-to-face Communication</b>	Need to provide background information before events such as the 55+ Conversation.	
	Have more frequent forums.	
	Have a 55+ Conversation once a year for planning and feedback to the City’s staff.	
	City representative should meet with Senior community members.	
	Consider a registration event for Senior’s like City-wide registration.	
<b>Planning &amp; developing</b>	Ensure input directly from the demographic groups.	Noted this especially important in facility planning and building as well as when program planning.
	Create a Seniors’ Committee that can act as an advisory and/or liaison group to the City.	With regular meetings, there can be discussion of issues and it can help to drive initiatives.
<b>Contact information</b>	Need up-to-date phone lists for the City and groups.	
<b>City Council Meetings</b>	Have a scheduled section of council meeting so they hear the voice of 35% of their population.	
<b>Costs</b>	Some of the financial aspects of planning make it difficult; could there be the potential for a subsidy for Seniors’ activities.	Financial support would enhance the opportunity.

## COLLABORATION:

### *Discussion Question:*

While the City plays a role in recreation and leisure services and providing a range of activities/facilities, what other groups need to work together and how should they work together?

### Summary of emerging themes:

There was alignment by many of the participants in terms of who and what groups needed to work together. In addition, commentary followed on suggested ways that collaboration could be improved and/or initiated. Suggestions ranged from the individual level to organized groups and service clubs, various levels of government and government organizations, private business as well as suggestions for a new group/committee. Noted groups were aligned into broad categories as follows:

- Municipal Organizations
- Institutions
- Other Recreational programs
- Other Associations
- Service Clubs
- Private Business
- Community-based Organizations/Programs
- Succession Planning
- Seniors Advisory Committee
- Volunteerism
- Grants and Funders
- Seniors Centre/Hub with a Coordinator
- Intergenerational

Details on the context and specifics of who was included in the categories, as well as comments on how to work together are in the table below.

<b>Theme related to what groups:</b>	<b>Who needs to work together:</b>	<b>How to work together:</b>
<b>Municipal Organizations</b>	Communities close to Yorkton (i.e., Springside)	Share programming. Libraries could connect regionally.
	R.M. s	Share contact lists
	Chamber of Commerce	Include a senior's representative.
	Health Authority	City and Health should work closer due to mutual interest in a healthy community.
	Yorkton Tribal Council	

	<p>City of Yorkton and citizens</p>	<p>Receive and hear input and feedback. The City should look to other communities to see what they are doing, review their models and identify if replication is possible (i.e., Moose Jaw, Melville).</p> <p>Continue to move initiatives forward (use third party if that assists).</p> <p>Could support cost-effective advertising. Some options are prohibitive due to cost.</p> <p>Be a conduit or liaison between events and organizations and business sector to ensure the city is prepared.</p> <p>Provide cost effective space for mentorship/workshops.</p>
	<p>Western Development Museum</p>	<p>Could work closer with other programs and services.</p>
	<p>Library</p>	<p>Works with many programs and activities supporting them.</p> <p>More partnering with private businesses to offer free or sponsored classes.</p>
	<p>Arts Council</p>	<p>More interaction and collaboration with others (i.e., Library)</p>
<p><b>Institutions</b></p>	<p>Schools</p>	<p>Include Seniors in their activities, access seniors as volunteers, mentorship both ways.</p> <p>Make use of gym space.</p>
	<p>Health/Hospital</p>	<p>Need to coordinate and collaborate on health, healthy lifestyle and prevention services, access to services.</p>
	<p>College</p>	<p>Partner on learning and growth programs, classes.</p>

	Churches, including the Ministerial Association	Work collaboratively together. Promote programming. Make their facilities available for programming.
<b>Other Recreational programs</b>	Yorkton District Nursing Home	Open programs to others and the broader community
	Private and Personal care homes	
	Independent Living apartments	
<b>Other Associations</b>	Retired Teachers Association	Could provide feedback on what is needed for Seniors' programs
<b>Service Clubs</b>	Lions	Potential to subsidize programming and provide sponsorship to help with affordability for participants.  Could volunteer to provide transportation for those in need.
	Kinsmen	
	Kinettes	
	Knights of Columbus	
<b>Private Business</b>	Banks	Offer free classes (i.e., financial literacy), provide sponsorship for programs/classes. Advertise activities and events.
	General private businesses (i.e., McDonalds, Grocery stores, Tim Hortons, Grumpy's).	
<b>Community-based Organizations/Programs</b>	SIGN (Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbors)	
	New Horizons	Building challenges limit accessibility.
	East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre	Provide information and connection to activities and programs for new residents of the community.
<b>Succession Planning</b>	Groups, those in Executive positions of the Programs and associations Boards.	Need to work together to plan for succession of executive and volunteers.  Potential to share Executives.  Lack of capacity in many groups (i.e., the Legion)
<b>Seniors Advisory Committee</b>	A seniors' steering committee could be developed	Could act as a liaison and advisory to other groups and organizations.

		<p>A liaison to the City on priorities and receives information on progress.</p> <p>The committee could disseminate information and receive information as a central advisory hub.</p> <p>Could apply for grants and be the oversight organization.</p>
<b>Volunteerism</b>	Sports groups and City	Could promote volunteer recruitment and opportunities for meaningful volunteerism.
<b>Grants and Funders</b>	Organizations applying for grants and receiving grants	Grant requirements often need partnerships and collaborative approaches. Initiate and sustain these.
<b>Seniors Centre/Hub with a Coordinator</b>		<p>Could be the liaison and conduit to link others together.</p> <p>Could offer volunteer opportunity for many including youth.</p> <p>Could also be a place for equipment storage. Some activities could be enhanced with equipment.</p>
<b>Intergenerational</b>	Seniors and young people	<p>Mentorship of each other.</p> <p>Build stronger, trusting relationships between the generations.</p> <p>Help to build acceptance and understanding.</p>

**CONTRIBUTION:*****Discussion Question:***

What are you willing to do to enhance the activities available in Yorkton?

**Summary of emerging themes:**

Participants were thoughtful in their responses, including generous commentary on what they would be willing to do. Themes included:

- Volunteering
- Membership fees
- Support to others
- Participate
- Communication
- Activity focused – specifics related directly to activities.

Caution should be used if acting on these. There was no indication in the responses if any of the suggestions would be a well-supported willingness or if it was a suggestion and/or idea by one or a few. The suggestions should be viewed as general suggestions with the need for more exploration prior to it being assumed that everyone is onboard and in favor of providing transportation, to use an example.

The following table provides detail and context to the input provided.

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Willing to do:</b>	<b>Comment or Context:</b>
<b>Volunteering</b>	Transportation	A volunteer registry would be helpful – should identify skills and expertise. Host a volunteer night that is inclusive of all demographics. Needs to be volunteer promotion (could be done by a coordinator position within a community hub).
	Donate “time”	People will volunteer; they need to feel respected, worthy and listened to.  People will often volunteer if specifically asked and they understand the work and time commitment.
	Sit on a Seniors’ Committee	
<b>Membership fees</b>		There was limited context provided other than a mention.
<b>Support others</b>	Help with accessibility	

	Provide encouragement	
	“Shoulder tapping”	Asking for specific expertise and/or align the request to a specific project.
	Mentorship	
	Willing to teach others	
	Promote “invite a friend” opportunities	Often the need to make others feel welcome and overcome their hesitations.
	Groups should consider a “social” aspect to their activity. (i.e., Supper get-together)	
<b>Participate</b>	Sign up and participate	If no interest activity can’t continue.
	Recruit others to attend	
	Attend forums for discussion	
	Be a community champion/advocate	
<b>Communication</b>	Share information	
	Speak to the “why”	Why do people join – improve, connect, fun.
	Could announce within organizations or groups that you belong to	Need to support each other and cross-promote activities. Break down the silos.
	Word-of-Mouth	We need to take pride in what we have and talk it up.
	Use social media	
	Post in businesses	
	Make phone calls	
	Engage across generations	Need education and knowledge on how to effectively do this.
<b>Activity focused</b>	Teach cooking	
	Lead exercise classes	
	Provide tech support	
	Clean up after events	

## COMMUNICATION:

### *Discussion Question:*

What is the best way to be informed about activities available in Yorkton?

### *Summary of emerging themes:*

- Multi-faceted approach
- Seniors' Coordinator
- City's website
- City-wide registration for Seniors

The multi-faceted approach was an interesting category with many suggestions that ranged from do more to do less. What was evidently clear is that a multi-faceted approach is supported as there is not one method that is considered as a "one-size-fits-all" solution.

The table below provides context and comments on the themes, including the suggestions that were wrapped into each of the themes.

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Ways to be informed:</b>	<b>Comment/Context:</b>
<b>Multi-faceted approach</b>	Use bulletin boards	Need information in places that seniors frequent (i.e., churches, pharmacies, banks)
	Online information	i.e., monthly calendar
	Social media	
	Radio	
	TV	
	Newspapers	Include a "seniors' section"
	By sharing through other organizations	i.e., churches, use Chamber of Commerce, Yorkton Tourism Information Centre
	Create an email/text blast group	
	Have a Recreation & Community Services Newsletter	
	Use brochures	
	Use advertising on bus/van	
	Consider robo-calls	
	Use restaurant table signs highlighting events and registration	
	Have a 55+ section in the Yorkton Leisure Guide	
	Create a "City of Yorkton" App	



<b>Seniors' Coordinator</b>	Could be a central hub for providing information to, and for distribution	
	Create a Seniors' 50+ Club Directory	
	Have a Call Centre	
<b>City's website</b>	Needs work	Noted that it is complex and difficult to find information.
<b>City-Wide Registration for Seniors</b>	Similar event to what is held for families and youth activities.	Should have free transportation, consider asking businesses to sponsor snacks for a "social area."

## PARKING LOT:

To keep the session on track and the discussion moving, a session parking lot was utilized. The intent of this was to ensure that all input and topics were captured even if not pertaining directly to the discussion. It was identified to participants of the potential for there to be time limitations of the session and thus not have the opportunity to discuss all topics and/or issues. Time limitations should not undervalue or dismiss a subject matter. To not lose valuable comment, a “parking lot” was utilized.

The commitment to participants was that all ideas and suggestions were welcome and there were no wrong answers. The input was important and valuable even if needing to be set aside as an idea for a later time.

The following items were identified:

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Concern:</b>	<b>Comment or Context:</b>
<b>Sustainability</b>	When things are started it is often uncertain if there is the ability to maintain and sustain.	Noted that volunteers get exhausted, same people do the work, the executive bodies of committees are overtaxed.
	The Bentley, Yorkton Crossing and Aspen Bluffs indicate their openness to members of the community participating in their activities; will this be sustained?	Is this a management or corporate direction? Will this continue to occur if there is a change in management.  There was also a concern that residents of these establishments may not be able to access activities in the broader community.
<b>Schools/Youth</b>	How do we cross the generations and involve the youth and schools?	How do we get seniors in schools?
<b>Taxes</b>	What services are we paying for?	
<b>Health care</b>	There is a need for doctors and a hospital.	
<b>Learning assistance/education</b>	People need help with complicated telephone connections, banking, other government agencies, avoiding scams.	
<b>Diversity is lacking</b>	Need to ensure representation of diverse groups.	
<b>Bus Service</b>	Considerable concerns raised	This has also been noted as a barrier and concern in other questions.

## **KUDOS AND ACCOLADES:**

The conversation with active Yorkton residents over age 55 did not have a formal question regarding positive initiatives or accolades to acknowledge what was appreciated and/or going well. In addition, there was not a formalized time included on the agenda for any conversation of this nature.

Having noted the above, through the discussion of the other questions, special note was made of a few initiatives that participants wanted to acknowledge.

These were as follows:

- During the winters of COVID, it was noted that the walkways within the parks were shoveled and cleared to allow for more outdoor activity. While this started during COVID, it has continued, and residents are enjoying the opportunity to walk safely during the winter months.
- Culture Week(s) in the Park was cited as a positive and enjoyable initiative.
- Free use of facilities during the month of January was appreciated.

Noting these initiatives in this section should not be misconstrued and that these are the only positive resources and actions that the City of Yorkton has underway. Positive feedback and acknowledgement were also noted through discussion of the five (5) specific questions and can be found in those sections of the report.

## **APPREHENSION & CONCERNS:**

Open conversation and discussion can oftentimes impart information that is not aligned to or part of the sought-after input. Dismissing this as irrelevant and non-contributory could mean that we may miss wise counsel, delicate perception and/or keen insights. Numerous apprehensions and concerns were voiced during the formal discussion periods. Commitment was made to participants at the start of the session that all ideas and suggestions were welcome, there were no wrong answers, and every voice was important. These are provided as part of the record of input and feedback.

The following were noted either within table discussions and/or as a personal comment/question/concern to the co-facilitators during the session.

- There was acknowledgment in the notes that this conversation was a positive start, however having it during the day was a barrier for those that may still be employed.
- Participants want timely follow-up and want to know what plans and/or actions come because of the discussion. It was specifically referenced that a lull of a year is not considered “timely”.
- There is a need for timely feedback and follow-up.
- It was noted and flagged that there was an underrepresentation of those that may be underserved i.e., homeless, those with dementia, those isolated and confined within their homes.
- There was a comment that small towns are better at managing and addressing multigenerational needs than Yorkton is.
- There is a need for more promotion for tourism on what Yorkton has to offer. There is a perception that there is nothing here for anyone. In addition, it was suggested that the city should be more involved and/or lead the promotion of events.
- While this discussion and the work of the city is important, there is a need to engage in an “aging in place” strategy and a need for a broader commitment to health and well-being that would have a foundation based on prevention and proactive services.
- It was acknowledged that Yorkton offers a lot of activities and facilities, and the opportunity is to utilize these more fully. It was stated that “we don’t need to build new stuff.”

This input should not be assumed to have agreement from all participants or that it would be supported by the majority.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS:**

The Conversation event provides considerable and robust input for consideration. The input offers additional information that can be used to correct and enhance the Inventory of Activities, provides positive acknowledgement and constructive feedback for improvements, as well as offers ideas and suggestions that could be considered, researched, and further explored.

Of note, and previously reported, is that many participants indicated that the Conversation was a good initiative and starting point and were looking forward to further follow up, including action and feedback.



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# ACTIVE ACTIVITIES IN YORKTON

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	GROUP
55+ sports & activities		SK Senior's Fitness Assoc. - Pkld Valley District
Aquacise	Access Communications Water Park	City of Yorkton
Badminton	Gloria Hayden Centre	City of Yorkton
Baseball/Softball	variety of outdoor diamonds	City of Yorkton
Basketball	Gloria Hayden Centre	City of Yorkton
Billiards/Pool	94 Russell Dr.	Revera's The Bentley- Yorkton
Billiards/Pool	Yorkton bars with pool tables	Yorkton Pool League
Cards - Bridge	Yorkton Public Library	Yorkton Duplicate Bridge Club
Cards - Crib	Yorkton Public Library	Community members
Cards - Kaiser	Yorkton Public Library	Community members
Crokiurl	Silver Heights Park	City of Yorkton
Crokiurl	Heritage Heights Park	City of Yorkton
Cross Country Skiing	Deer Park Golf Course	Yorkton Cross Country Ski Club
Curling	Curling Rink - Gallagher Centre	Yorkton Curling Club
Dancing - Hip Hop	175 Gladstone Ave S	Extravadance
Dancing - Scottish	2nd Ave. N.	Yorkton Scottish Country Dancers
Dancing - Social	82 First Ave. N.	Dance Innovations
Dancing - Social & Pattern	New Horizon's Seniors Centre	New Horizon's Seniors
Dancing - Square Dancing	Masonic Hall	Park Swingers Square & Round Dance
Dancing - Ukrainian	Victory Church	Troyanda Ukrainian Dance
Dancing - Ukrainian	St. Mary's Cultural Centre	Yorkton Kalyna Ukrainian Dance
Darts - soft tip	Bunkers	Yorkton Darts League
Disc Golf	Patrick Park	Parkland Association Disc Golf
Disc Golf	Rodney Ridge	Parkland Association Disc Golf
Fitness Classes	216 Smith St	Anytime Fitness
Fitness Classes (55+)	Yorkton Public Library	City of Yorkton
Fitness Classes	27B Second Ave. North	Pumphouse Athletic Club
Fitness Classes	25 Myrtle Ave	Inner Cycle Spin
Fitness Classes	33D Seventh Ave S.	Jannalee Physiotherapy
Fitness Classes	641 Broadway St W	Crossfit Function
Fitness Classes	92 Myrtle Ave.	CrossFit Novus
Gardening	home or community gardens	Yorkton & District Horticultural Society
Golf	York Lake	York Lake Golf & Country Club
Golf	Deer Park	Deer Park Golf Course
Hockey	Gallagher Centre & Kinsmen Arena	Yorkton Old Relics
Hockey	Gallagher Centre & Kinsmen Arena	Yorkton Grinders
Hockey	Gallagher Centre & Kinsmen Arena	JJ's
Kayaking	York Lake	Yorkton Canoe-Kayak Club
Martial Arts	295 Broadway St. W.	Yorkton Martial Arts
Pickleball	variety of indoor & outdoor settings	Pickleball Yorkton
Racquet Ball	Gloria Hayden Centre	City of Yorkton

Shuffleboard	94 Russell Dr.	Revera's The Bentley- Yorkton
Skateboarding	Skateboard Park	City of Yorkton
Skating	indoor & outdoor options	City of Yorkton
Soccer	Gallagher Centre & Logan Green	Yorkton United FC
Squash	Gloria Hayden Centre	City of Yorkton
Swimming	Access Communications Water Park	City of Yorkton
Tennis	Gallagher Centre	City of Yorkton
Volleyball	Gloria Hayden Centre	City of Yorkton
Walking Track	Gallagher Centre	City of Yorkton
Walking Track	Gloria Hayden Centre	City of Yorkton
Walking Trails	variety of outdoor trails	City of Yorkton
Yoga - Chair	Yorkton Public Library	City of Yorkton
Yoga	New Horizon's Seniors Centre	New Horizon's Seniors
Yoga	Godfery Dean Centre	City of Yorkton
Yoga	Private Studios	



# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN YORKTON

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	GROUP
Art creation - Open Studio Time	29 Betts Ave.	Blue Drip
Band & Jazz Music	Yorkton Regional High School	Yorkton Community Concert Band & All that Jazz
Bird Watching		Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Assoc.
Board Game Night	Yorkton Public Library	3rd party but contact the Library
Book Club	29 Smith St. E.	St. Andrew's United Church
Car Club		Rolling Thunder Cruisers
Card Playing	Yorkton Public Library	3rd party but contact the Library
Churches/Places of Worship		City of Yorkton Website
Community Need		Canadian Federation of University Women
Community Need		Yorkton Lions Club
Community Need		Kinsmen Club of Yorkton
Community Need		Kinette Club of Yorkton
Community Theater		Yorkton Paper Bag Players
Crafting	27 Alderwood Place	Aspen Bluffs Villa
Crafting	94 Russell Dr.	Revera's The Bentley- Yorkton
Film Awards	49 Smith St. E.	Yorkton Film Festival
Genealogy Research	Yorkton Public Library	4th party but contact the Library
Photography		Yorkton Photography Guild
Quilting	St. Andrews Church	York Colony Quilter's Guild
Shows/Performances	Godfery Dean Centre	City of Yorkton
Shows/Performances	Painted Hand Casino	SIGA Casinos
Shows/Performances	Anne Portnuff Theatre	Yorkton Arts Council
Shows/Performances	pArtners Gallery	Yorkton Library/ Yorkton Art Council
Shows/Performances	Yorkton Western Dev. Museum	Western Development Museum
Shows/Performances	49 Smith St. E.	Yorkton Arts Council
Social Club	387B Parkview Rd.	Royal Cdn. Legion - Yorkton
Speaking		TreasureChest Toastmasters
Special Events	Hwy. #9 South	Tourism Yorkton
Special Events	Hwy. #9 South	Yorkton Chamber of Commerce
Technology Classes	Yorkton Public Library	3rd party but contact the Library
Theatre	165 Broadway St W.	Free My Muse Theatre Company
Volunteering	variety of needs	
Willing to expand	27 Alderwood Place	Aspen Bluffs Villa
Willing to expand	94 Russell Dr.	Revera's The Bentley- Yorkton
Willing to expand	348 Morrison Dr	Aspira Yorkton Crossing
Writing		Parkland Writer's Alliance

<b>TITLE: Civic Recognition Awards – Announcement of 2023 Winners</b>	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> December 18, 2023
	<b>REPORT DATE:</b> December 12, 2023
<b>CLEARANCES:</b> None.	<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information Outline for Nominators</li> <li>2. Adult Recipient – Kristin Weber</li> <li>3. Youth Recipient – Avery Bond</li> <li>4. Group Recipient – Boys and Girls Club</li> </ol>
Written by: Jessica Matsalla - City Clerk <p align="center"><b>Jessica Matsalla</b></p>	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager <p align="center"><b>Lonnie Kaal</b></p>	

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

2023 marks the fifth occurrence of the annual Civic Recognition Awards (CRA’s). (In 2022, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medals were awarded instead of the CRA’s.) The CRA’s recognize recipients in three categories, ‘Adult,’ ‘Youth’ and ‘Group’, who have given selfless support, and made contributions for the betterment of the City of Yorkton. An outline of what we ask nominators to share in their submissions is in Attachment 1 of this report. The Civic Recognition Awards Committee adjudicated submissions for the 2023 on November 27, and have made recommendations for Council on award recipients.

The Civic Recognition Awards Committee is very happy to recommend to City Council, the following recipients for 2023 CRA’s. Attachments with the full details on the recommended recipients’ nominations are attached.

- Adult Category: Kristin Weber
- Youth Category: Avery Bond
- Group Category Recipient: Boys and Girls Club of Yorkton

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT**

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A small amount is budgeted each year for advertising and purchase of awards and plaques. The majority of the budget is spent on advertising. The expense of running the awards is approximately \$2,000.

**COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE**

Winners will be announced through the City’s social media accounts, web News page, as well as in the local newspaper.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/OCP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Yorkton Legacy Co-op has again agreed to sponsor these awards, and has graciously donated three, \$100 gift cards that are given to each recipient at the time of the award. We would like to thank the Yorkton Legacy Co-op for their ongoing support, and helping us to reward those citizens giving back to our community.

We would like to thank the members of the Committee that were involved in the planning, promotion and adjudication process. The volunteer members of the CRA Committee, themselves are real-life examples of how to contribute to the betterment of and investment in their community. As a whole, our Committee volunteers (city-wide) enhance our ability as elected officials, and administration to engage with the community in many ways; a key component in our decision making processes.

The Award Recipients for 2023, will be formally celebrated and given their awards at a ceremony prior to the January 29, 2024 Council meeting.

**OPTIONS:**

1. That Council approve the Civic Recognition Awards Committee’s selection of the 2023 Civic Recognition Award Winners as follows:

Adult Category:	Kristin Weber
Youth Category:	Avery Bond
Group Category:	Boys and Girls Club of Yorkton

And furthermore, recognize the efforts of all those who invest their time, skills, and effort into making the City of Yorkton a better community.

2. That Council provide other direction.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **That Council approve the Civic Recognition Awards Committee’s selection of the 2023 Civic Recognition Award Winners as follows:**

<b>Adult Category:</b>	<b>Kristin Weber</b>
<b>Youth Category:</b>	<b>Avery Bond</b>
<b>Group Category:</b>	<b>Boys and Girls Club of Yorkton</b>

**And furthermore, recognize the efforts of all those who invest their time, skills, and effort into making the City of Yorkton a better community.**

## Attachment 1

### Information Outline for Nominators

#### **Adult Civic Recognition Award Presentation**

Please provide a letter (not to exceed 1000 words) outlining the nominee's lifetime or current year service through their involvements as follows:

- participation in clubs, associations or volunteer organizations;
- any notable act or accomplishment in support of community service;
- any notable accomplishment or in his/her profession; and
- how the nominee has served as an ambassador for the community of Yorkton.

Please attach the letter to the nomination form.

#### **Youth Civic Recognition Award Presentation**

Please provide a letter (not to exceed 1000 words) outlining the Nominee's:

- civic involvements and interests in clubs, associations or volunteer organizations;
- any notable act or accomplishment in support of community service;
- any notable accomplishments during his/her high school education term in Yorkton; and
- how the nominee has served as an ambassador for the community of Yorkton.

Please attach the letter to the nomination form.

#### **Group Civic Recognition Award Presentation**

Please provide a letter (not to exceed 1000 words) outlining the Nominees':

- civic involvements and/or partnerships with clubs, associations or volunteer organizations;
- any notable act or accomplishment in support of community service;
- any notable accomplishments through service and/or events the group has conducted in or for Yorkton; and
- how the nominees have served as ambassadors for the community of Yorkton.

## Attachment 2

CRA Nominations 2023 – Adult Category – Kristin Weber

(There were two separate nomination forms, and information has been included from both)

From Jodi Bjornerud

Kristin has spent many years being involved in activities benefitting others on both a personal and professional level within the community.

For several years now she has been a parent volunteer at her children's school, taking on the role of hot lunch coordinator for the building. She's been a volunteer for other school activities as well over the years.

Kristin has been a dance teacher for over 25 years and business owner for 15 years, running her Dance business, Extravadance Studio, with locations in Yorkton, Canora and Preeceville over the years. Kristin has worked hard to provide a wide range of experiences for all dancers who are a part of her studio, from running workshops within her building, bringing in experienced dance instructors and choreographers to share their expertise with the youth, to trips to Disneyland, Disneyworld, and an upcoming 2024 trip to New York, giving those dancers experiences to last a lifetime. Kristin is always looking for opportunities to increase a wealth of dance knowledge not only for herself, but she also incorporates a Teacher Training Program within her studio, allowing dancers who aspire to assist or instruct classes, the opportunity to develop the skills and tools necessary to be competent, well respected role models for the younger dancers in the studio. During the struggles of Covid, Kristin was determined to continue to provide opportunities for kids to be involved in activity, running online dance classes so that her students and staff continued to feel the sense of belonging and a level of normalcy during such a difficult stretch of time. In addition to her dance studio, she is the owner and operator of Extravadance Wear, a local dancewear store, providing a wide area of dance communities in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba, a location to purchase a large selection of dancewear items. Kristin has operated Yorkton Kids Summer Camp, a daily camp that has run throughout the summers for 6 years now. Every summer it brings in dozens of kids for 8 weeks of games, crafts and outdoor activities. Local youth are hired to operate the daily activities, providing those individuals valuable experiences that benefit them in their career endeavors.

Kristin is the first to spearhead any function that will help support others. She began running the Kids Helping Kids Christmas concert on a yearly basis, inviting all youth community members to showcase their talents in an afternoon of Christmas cheer. Donations from this event are given to local charities. Leading up to this seasonal activity, she runs a yearly toy drive and food drive within her dance studio, with all donations going to help others in the community including collecting items for Paws and Claws. As part of the Christmas season, she puts together a yearly Christmas Cheer Squad, with dancers from her studio traveling to nursing homes to provide entertainment for the residents with various dance numbers as well as singing.

She is an organizer for the yearly project Stockings for Seniors. Since getting on board with this 4 years ago, she has been responsible for the expansion of the project, delivering over 500 gifts on a yearly basis, to seniors in local and surrounding area nursing homes at Christmas.

Kristin is a strong supporter of community activities, and is always willing to gather and coordinate groups to help out and participate in a wide array of activities. These range from being a regular participant in the Exhibition parade and Santa parade with her dancers, facilitating groups to run canteens and booths at various community events, being a contributor to many local fundraisers, providing donations to hockey teams, nursery schools, and many other groups within the city. Being a business owner herself, Kristin has always been a strong advocate for supporting other businesses and local events and most often goes above and beyond to help others out in any capacity. She's the first to feel compassion for those she knows and doesn't hesitate to share that with those she has never met. When a local apartment building burned down last winter, within half a day she had spread the word that donations would be collected at her dance studio to help those families who lost their homes and all belongings, with the end result being a massive collection of items, filling several trailers, helping those who were left with nothing as well providing items to other community establishments.

Kristin doesn't hesitate to step up and contribute to any project she feels passionate about, and that list is extensive. She's the first to be on the phone or sending emails to get others involved and telling people how important it is to contribute in one way or another, to many worthwhile causes. Kristin's dedication, compassion and love of working with others to foster success and confidence, is insurmountable.

#### From Lindsay Magnusson

Kristin organizes, collects and delivers over 500 stockings of seniors in their Christmas program that gives back to the Yorkton and surrounding areas senior population. She has created the kids helping kids Christmas concert where local children are given the opportunity to show their talent while bringing Christmas cheer to everyone. They accept non-perishable food, items, and cash donations to give to a non-profit organization and families that are less fortunate over the holiday season.

Whenever she is given the chance to give back to the community, she does.

She runs a successful dance studio that focuses on bringing the love of dance to every child that walks through the door and welcomes them all like family. She runs her business like a family. All kids are treated with love and respect.

She volunteers at her children's school to help with hot lunches and with cook 500 hotdogs without thinking.

She puts together one of the largest haunted houses in Yorkton to bring Halloween fun to all.

Giving back to the community is Kristin's number one focus.

She also has volunteered with paws and claws animal rescue. She collects toys and pet food at her business every year to give to less fortunate children and the animal rescues.

### Attachment 3

CRA Nominations 2023 – Youth Category – A.Bond

From Roby Sharp

Dear Youth Civic Recognition Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate Avery Bond for the Youth Civil Recognition Award in recognition of her exceptional contributions to our community and her unwavering commitment to creating a positive and inclusive environment at the Yorkton Regional High School.

Avery Bond is not just one of the nicest individuals you will ever meet; she is also an inspirational leader who has had a profound impact on her peers and the school community. As the elected president of the Yorkton Regional High School, Avery's passion for student government is evident in her dedication and tireless efforts to make a difference. Her leadership skills have not only earned her the trust and respect of her fellow students but have also made her an exemplary role model in our school.

Avery's involvement in a wide range of activities, such as cheerleading, basketball, figure skating, soccer, and cross country, highlights her commitment to personal growth and her willingness to explore diverse interests. Her versatility and dedication to these pursuits demonstrate her determination to excel in every aspect of her life.

Avery's true strength, however, lies in her ability to spread positivity and kindness throughout the halls of the Yorkton Regional High School. Her innate ability to treat all students with respect and empathy has created an atmosphere of inclusivity and acceptance, which is truly remarkable and invaluable.

One of the most notable achievements of Avery's high school journey was her representation of the Yorkton Regional High School at the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in St. John, New Brunswick. In a national gathering of student leaders, Avery not only represented our school but also shone as a leader among leaders. Her contributions to the conference undoubtedly left an indelible mark and set an example for all attendees.

Within our school, Avery has been an essential part of our social media presence. She has also actively collaborated with teachers to organize events that benefit our community. One of her significant initiatives involved coordinating the annual benefit hockey game in Yorkton last year, which showcased her dedication to making a positive impact outside the school walls. Avery has also organized projects like the Hunger Games, collecting non-perishable food items for the needy, and played a crucial role in organizing a Thanksgiving feast for all students at the YRHS, demonstrating her commitment to community service.

Avery's contributions extend even further, as she has been instrumental in organizing monthly "minute to win it" events at our school, designed to make our high school a more enjoyable and engaging place to attend. These events have brought joy and a sense of togetherness to our school, thanks to Avery's leadership.

What truly sets Avery apart is her unwavering determination and resilience in the face of adversity. Despite facing dire health issues for the past few years, including extended hospitalizations and being kept alive with a feeding tube, Avery has not let these challenges deter her spirit. Her ability to maintain an incredible attitude throughout these hardships is a testament to her strength of character and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place.

Avery's dedication extends beyond her personal journey. She is now volunteering to mentor young people who have been diagnosed with similar health issues as herself, providing them with a guiding light and a source of inspiration. Her generosity in sharing her experiences to help others is truly commendable.

In conclusion, Avery Bond is an exceptional young woman who has made a significant impact on our school and community. Her leadership, dedication, and unwavering kindness are qualities that make her the ideal candidate for the Youth Civil Recognition Award. Avery's commitment to making a difference, even in the face of adversity, is a shining example of the positive influence our youth can have on society.

I wholeheartedly recommend Avery Bond for this prestigious recognition and believe that her accomplishments and character make her a deserving recipient of the Youth Civil Recognition Award.

Thank you for considering Avery Bond for this well-deserved honor.



#### Attachment 4

CRA Nomination 2023 – Group – Boys and Girls Club Yorkton

From Carly O'Donnell

BGC Yorkton has been a pillar in this community for a long time. Many businesses and organizations have donated and sponsored this club over the years. They have programs such as Clothes For Bros which gives clothes to those in need, The Outlet; a place for teens to come spend their time, get proper meals/snacks, learn how to cook and do art, etc. Halloween shop where kids who can't get a costume can have one, day camps which are vital for some youth during the summer, a leadership group teaching kids how to be responsible and effective leaders and gym nights promoting all kids to be active and giving them a chance to do so. They do endless fundraisers to support the kids. BGC is most times a first place to sponsor. They've spent so much of their time giving back to the community I truly believe it should be recognized all that they do. Every day the club makes a difference in children's lives and sometimes is the only safe place they can go. Many children who attend also end up becoming employees and furthering the impact of the club. That is something to be commended.