Fort Saskatchewan Families First Society



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#thisisourvillage



Land Acknowledgement

Families First Society acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 land; the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Cree, Blackfoot, Nêhiyaw, Dene, Anishinaabe, Nakota Sioux, Metis, and Niitsitapi peoples, whose histories, languages, cultures and traditions continue to influence our vibrant community. As the original caretakers, Indigenous peoples welcomed newcomers with hospitality and generosity, seeking to walk well with one another.

We honour the courage and strength of Indigenous people, as well as their remarkable endurance in the face of governments and systems that have acted to marginalize, exclude and extinguish their culture and legacy.

We commit to fostering a space where all people feel safe, valued, heard and empowered. We commit to hear truth and to the process of reconciliation. We commit to the struggle against the systems of oppression that have impacted the Indigenous peoples of this land, and that have denied their rights of self-determination. We seek to build healthy relationships that have a foundation of love and respect, and be steadfast in our efforts to prevent violence against Indigenous women and girls. We will strive to build a future that is rooted in respect, inclusion and understanding as we acknowledge the past and the ongoing journey of reconciliation.





Message from the Board of Directors

To Our Village from the Families First Board of Directors

Reflecting on the year from April 2024 to March of 2025, changes and adjustments were impactful on how Families First continues to serve families and individuals in Fort Saskatchewan and Sturgeon Region.

We had significant changes in leadership as Darryl Burry assumed the role of executive director in June 2024 after the departure of Jaqueline Dagneau. Other long-term staff departures due to retirements and career moves resulted in a restructuring of the leadership guiding and managing the staff providing programs, supports and services.

As a board, we identify the strategic direction and provide oversight of how Families First is meeting the needs of the community. The Board recently updated our society Bylaws, implementing a membership avenue and introducing term limits on Executive and Board members.

Under the direction of Darryl, the staff teams have refocused on the core needs and values that have long been the foundation of Families First. The Board is grateful for everything the staff do; without their dedication, Families First could not serve individual, children, youth and families in the communities as we do.

The Board is also keenly aware of the need to support positive relationships with our volunteers, funders, donors and sponsors. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your participation in Our Village through volunteering, donating items or funds, partnering with us on projects or with families, approval of grants, joining us in our events, activities and programs, or making positive referrals to our programs. We are so fortunate that you are part of Our Village.

With gratitude,

Karen Sliwkanich, Board Chair

On behalf of the Families First Society

Board of Directors





Message from the Executive Director

To Our Village,

Since 1998, the Fort Saskatchewan Families First Society has been providing help and hope to the residents of Fort Saskatchewan and the Sturgeon Region. What began as a focus on providing prevention and early intervention care and support for families with young children, has grown into the Families First of today, which provides critical supports for the Region. This has occurred while living out the mission which calls us to help create a resilient and healthy community for tomorrow through improving the lives of children, youth and families today.

Over this past year, we have supported over 900 households by way of our early childhood development play programs, in-home supports, parent/caregiver education classes, family violence prevention programs, system navigation, mental health supports, and through the Holiday toy (Cramthe-Van) and winter coat programs. Through each of these programs and services our vision remains the same, which is for strong, safe and healthy future generations.

This past year, we have developed and launched a new website; engaged a new client-management system; created Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Decolonization (DEID), Policy and Social committees; restructured our leadership team; shifted spaces within the building to better support for our everchanging operations; upgraded our Dow Discovery and outdoor spaces (thanks to the United Way Engineering Day of Caring); and so much more.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will be able to capture a glimpse of the work that has taken place this past year. This has only been possible thanks to the incredible team here at Families First who have journeyed with each client through a trauma-informed, individualized and compassionate approach.

I also want to acknowledge our wonderful team of volunteers who have provided critical support to our operations, from meal preparation, facility/product organization, grounds keeping and so much more. In addition, our donors enable us to continue to do the work that we do on a daily basis – we could not do what we do with your support!

To our Board of Directors, I would like to thank-you for your on-going support, encouragement and direction. Your dedication to Families First is extraordinary and is deeply appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank-you, our Village, for taking the time to learn more about Families First and for your support of our operations here in Fort Saskatchewan and the Sturgeon Region.

Sincerely,

Darryl Burry
Executive Director





Meet the Team

Our Leadership Team:

Darryl Burry – Executive Director

Samantha Motowylo – Manager of Community & Support Services

Sheila Abromaitis – Program & Training Manager

Alma Allen – Office Administrator









Board of Directors:

Karen Sliwkanich – Board Chair Shirley Cockburn – Vice-Chair Doug Rees – Treasurer Joanne Dewart – Secretary Khadra Hassan – Director













Families First Society MISSION, VISION, VALUES

Our Mission:

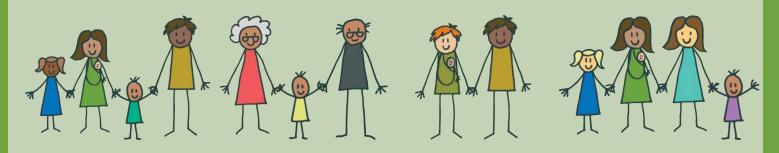
Through improving the lives of our children, youth and families today, we help create a resilient and healthy community for tomorrow.

Our Vision:

Safe, strong, healthy future generations.

Core Values:

Family, Hope, Health, Integrity, Kindness





WHAT WE DO...

Family Resource Network







Adult Literacy



Family Violence Prevention Program





Steadfast Connector



Mental Health Supports









Family Resource Network

Families First is honored to serve as the HUB and provide three Spokes for the Fort Saskatchewan and Sturgeon Region Family Resource Network (FRN). Along with our two spoke partners (BGC Fort Saskatchewan and Creating Hope Society), we provide prevention and early intervention support to families throughout the Region.





HUB

The role of the HUB is to be the first point of contact for families looking for support. From intake to community referrals, the HUB provides support and resources to the community.

Acting as the glue that connects all of the FRN services together, the HUB supports by way of community engagement, system navigation, follow-up care, coordination of services and manages the service waitlist for all FRN spokes.

Number of individuals supported this past year: 277
Community Events attended: 32
External Referrals made: 189











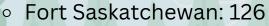




Early Childhood Development

Our Early Childhood Development spoke provides universal programming for families with children 0-6 years of age. From drop-in play programs to developmental tools and screenings, our ECD team supports parents/caregivers to deepen their understanding of childhood development, attachment theory, and access the supports and services that they may need.

New families supported this year: 205 Children engaged in programs: 244 Program participants: 451



o Gibbons/Bon Accord: 56

Redwater / Sturgeon County: 77

Morinville/Legal: 75

o Other: 117













Home Visitation

The Home Visitation program provides targeted, in-home support for families with children aged 0–6 years. Our staff travel throughout the region to meet families where they are—literally and emotionally—partnering with them to set and achieve personalized family goals. Central to our approach is fostering healthy, secure relationships between caregivers and their children.

Home Visitors offer education, encouragement, and practical tools to support positive parent-child attachment and family well-being. The program incorporates developmental screenings to ensure children are meeting key milestones, and assessments to identify and address concerns related to mental health or family violence.

Integrated within this program is Health For Two, a prenatal support program meant to guide and empower expecting caregivers. Through education, referrals, and meaningful connections, we help lay the foundation for a healthy pregnancy and early parenting journey. Above all, our Home Visitors create a safe, non-judgmental space where caregivers can share their challenges and receive direct support, resources, and referrals to navigate life's complexities.



In this reporting period:

356 in person visits 153 virtual visits











Parent/Caregiver Education (Family Wellness)

Family Wellness provides intensive supports to parents/caregivers with children age 0-18 years, by way of both individualized (in-home) supports and group education. These families are navigating complex challenges requiring intensive support services and system navigation.

Programs that ran this past year:

Dragonfly Support Group (monthly); Parent Connect (2 sessions); Circle of Security Parenting (2 sessions); Youth Connection Events (3 events)

Individuals supported this year through programs: 192

• Fort Saskatchewan: 117

• Gibbons / Bon Accord: 23

• Morinville / Legal: 7

Sturgeon County:12

Other: 33

In this reporting period:

201 in person visits 108 virtual visits













FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) provides long-term support to individuals impacted by domestic violence in Fort Saskatchewan, the Sturgeon Region and Lamont area. The program includes both individual and group supports, risk assessments, safety planning, education, advocacy, court accompaniment and referrals to other community resources.

There were 191 individuals who connected with the FVPP this past year – either for themselves or for a loved one.

The FVPP provided 130 referrals to partner agencies this past year.

The FVPP program conducted an intake and provide direct one-on-one support to 41 individuals this past year with 10 individuals participating in one of the support groups.

The Family Violence Prevention Working Group members (Fort Saskatchewan RCMP, Fort Saskatchewan FCSS, Central Alberta Regional Victims Serving Society, Saffron Sexual Assault Centre, Sturgeon FCS, Strathcona FCS, and A Safe Place) not only make themselves available for individual consult as needed, but collectively meet every month to network, discuss family violence awareness initiatives and discuss the trends and barriers impacting families in our communities. That's over 30 hours of partner collaboration and relationship building. We extend sincere gratitude to our Family Violence Prevention Working Group members.











FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

D.A.W.N.

Our weekly DAWN support group (*Discovery, Affirmation, Wellness, New Beginnings*) is for women experiencing domestic violence and provides education, emotional literacy, support, goal planning and peer support. Some of the foundational topics covered through the program include boundaries, healthy relationships, self-compassion, self-esteem, personal vision, values and gratitude. The information provided, along with the shared knowledge gained from the lived experience of the participants and the facilitators empower the participants to begin transitioning into a life free from abuse.

Senior's Circle

This bi-weekly support group follows the same curriculum as the DAWN program but with a focus on women in the later stages of life. An identifiable difference between Senior's Circle and DAWN surrounds the themes of loneliness and building connections, which looks different following the child-bearing years of life.

Healing Homes

Healing Homes are two second-stage housing units for families rebuilding following domestic violence. Residents can stay in the unit for up to two (2) years while receiving wrap-around support from the FVPP.

Healing Homes is designed to be a safe sanctuary where the residents can focus on their healing journey, in a safe and undisclosed location, where all the necessities have been provided for the residents.







STEADFAST CONNECTOR

The Steadfast Connector provides trauma-informed support to the residents of Fort Saskatchewan experiencing complex and urgent needs. Many of the individuals accessing this service present with multiple high-priority challenges (housing, employment, income support, mental health support, etc.) and require assistance navigating systems and completing complex forms (i.e. AISH, Income Support, Alberta Works, etc.). Appointments are available during business hours, and after-hours are available by appointment when needed.

Individuals supported this year: 271





Success Stories:

A youth, estranged from his mother, but living with his grandmother, did not have access to his birth certificate or photographs. The youth needed these documents to finalize his school funding. The Steadfast Connector supported the youth in completing an emergency fund application. This connection allowed the individual to gain access to necessary documents which led to his school funding being approved.

A young man needed support with his AISH appeal. The Steadfast Connector connected with the individual, reviewed his AISH application as well as the denial letter. The AISH decision was ultimately over turned by the board due to the strength of the client and the advocacy of the Steadfast Connector. The young man was granted regular payments and also received eight (8) months of retroactive pay.

A grandmother came to Families First to get information on how to become the guardian of her grandchild following the passing of her daughter. The Steadfast Connector supported the grandmother to complete a Parent-Guardianship order through the courts (as an emergency bypass family court docket). The grandmother was able to gain guardianship of the minor.



ADULT LITERACY (CALP)

Parent-Child Mother Goose

PCMG (Parent Child Mother Goose) is a 10-week registered program where trained facilitators gather in a circle with parents/caregivers and their children (prenatal to 36 months) to learn rhymes, songs and stories which are delivered orally. The pace is slow, repetition is essential, conversation is encouraged, and the program is intentially designed for the current group of parents/caregivers.

Total number of program participants this past year: 43

Number of program hours: 180





ADULT LITERACY (CALP)

Building a Better You

Building a Better You (BBY) focuses on developing awareness about oneself in regard to boundaries, resiliency, understanding emotions, anger, stress, anxiety and depression, self-esteem and communication. This program assists participants develop understanding and skills in the areas of emotional regulation, coping with challenges, and relating to others.

Total number of program participants this past year: 24

Number of program hours: 75





ADULT LITERACY (CALP)

Community Kitchens

Community Kitchens provides participants the opportunity to plan, budget and prepare three meals, which they can then take home for their family. Participants collaboratively develop a menu, create a grocery list adjusting quantities based on family size, and a budget. If the budget is over, they will decide to change a recipe to stay within budget.

Total number of program participants this past year: 8

Number of program hours: 15





MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Our Mental Health program strives to fill in gaps to other services in community. In addition, when barriers are identified (long waitlist or financial constraints), our mental health program provides timely and free services to those most vulnerable.

From regular one-on-one sessions with a therapist, to group classes and psychoeducation, our therapeutic team provide quality care, not only to our Village, but also to our dedicated team of employees by way of case consultations and debriefs.

Clients Served: 50

Groups Clients supported: 46

Hours of Psychoeducation Provided: 107 hours

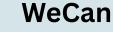








WECANFood Basket Society



28 households 167 boxes





161 families 484 children









30 families











EVENTS





































EVENTS

Families First were the recipients of the United Way's Engineering Day of Caring 2024





FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Financial Statements Year Ending March 31, 2025

FORT SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES FIRST SOCIETY Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2025

		2025		2024
REVENUES				
Grants	\$	1,053,043	\$	1,059,809
Donations		117,938		181,669
Fundraising		379		56,332
		1,171,360		1,297,810
EXPENSES				
Human resources (Note 7)		1,010,897		978,607
Program delivery		131,470		164,280
Administration		78,581		50,215
Amortization		42,078		44,262
Occupancy costs		29,377		27,407
Interest on long term debt		20,775		20,957
Development and fundraising	7	194		12,690
		1,313,372		1,298,418
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	-	(142,012)		(608)
OTHER INCOME				
Gain on disposal of capital assets		11,139		•
Interest income		8,124		8,818
		19,263		8,818
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$	(122,749)	S	8,210

FORT SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES FIRST SOCIETY

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2024 Balance		Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses		Inter-fund transfers		2025 Balance	
Operating fund	\$	146,144	\$	(99,880)	\$	(2,886)	\$	43,378
Invested in capital assets		166,121		(22,869)		2,886		146,138
Internally restricted funds	62,420		ř -			-		62,420
	\$	374,685	\$	(122,749)	\$		\$	251,936
		2023 Balance	rev	Excess of renues over expenses		Inter-fund transfers		2024 Balance
Operating fund	\$	124,735	\$	21,409	\$		\$	146,144
Invested in capital assets		179,320		(13,199)				166,121
Internally restricted funds	-	62,420		.*:				62,420
	s	366,475	S	8,210	\$		\$	374,685

FORT SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES FIRST SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2025

		2025	2024
ASSETS			
CURRENT Cash and cash equivalent (Note 2) Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses	\$	811,818 5,000 8,558	\$ 927,068 218 5,268
		825,376	932,554
RESTRICTED CASH (Note 2)		143,703	145,959
DEPOSITS		2,000	2,000
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)	_	484,485	528,081
	s	1,455,564	\$ 1,608,594
Accounts payable and accrued charges (Note 5) Government remittances payable Deferred revenue (Note 6) Current portion of long term debt (Note 9) DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 8) LONG TERM DEBT (Note 9)	\$ 	112,194 15,439 593,945 12,351 733,929 177,930 291,769	\$ 119,468 13,68 592,848 5,428 731,416 198,658 303,838 1,233,908
COMMITMENTS (Note 10) NET ASSETS Operating fund Invested in capital assets Internally restricted funds	_	43,378 146,138 62,420 251,936	146,144 166,121 62,420 374,685
	_	201,000	074,000

FORT SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES FIRST SOCIETY

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended March 31, 2025

A	2025		2024	
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash receipts from grants, fundraising and donors		151,363	\$	1,193,238
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(1,	261,320)		(1,211,889)
Interest received		8,124		8,818
Interest paid	_	(20,775)		(20,957)
Cash flow used by operating activities		122,608)		(30,790)
INVESTING ACTIVITY				
Proceeds on disposal of capital assets	_	12,500		
FINANCING ACTIVITY				
Repayment of long term debt	_	(5,142)		(4,993)
DECREASE IN CASH FLOW	(115,250)		(35,783)
Cash - beginning of year		927,068		962,851
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$	811,818	\$	927,068





VOLUNTEERS

We are so deeply thankful for all of the individuals, businesses and groups that have supported us throughout the year! We could not do what we do without you!







Roberta McLeod Abigail Ellingson Shirley Dayahan Margaret Booker Ken Booker Gale Laskey Michele Nixon Patti Lamoureux Jennifer Parker Laurie Robins Meriam Pepin Glenmore Xavier Labonte Lochlan Mcelrea Nicole Manzulenko **Amber Pennell**

> Robinhood Dow Sherritt

Fort Sask. Community Corrections
Fort Black Society

These individuals/groups provided over **615** volunteer hours this past year!











FRIENDS

AbEx Pharmacy Abigail Ellingson Angila Chase

Ashley Charlton

ATCO Gas - EPIC

AltaGas Ltd. Ann Ferguson April Kliachik

Arrow Transportation Systems

Barb Baker Barb Bundt Barbara Spence Barry Bennett

Kyle & Renee Billiald Bernadette Godlien Birgit & Len Blizzard

Bob and Helen Rowe **Boonstra Consulting**

Bradley Lewis Cameron Dental

Catholic Parish of our Lady of the Angels

Catholic Women's League

Carey Rostotski Corry Truax Craig Blackmore

Dana & Jason Fournier

Daniel Gulseth David Tonsaker Diane Achtymichuk Don & Heather Boonstra

Donna Morneau Doug Rees

Fort Black Community Association Fort Saskatchewan Acupuncture Fort Saskatchewan Alliance Church Fort Saskatchewan Chamber of

Commerce

Council

Fort Saskatchewan Community Baptist Church

Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre Fort Saskatchewan Downtown Business

Fort Saskatchewan Royal Purple Lodge

Fraser Cameron

Gary & Susan Johanson

Gerry Layton

Givens LLP Chartered

Professional Accountants

Heather Menzies Home Hardware Isolde Long

Janel Smith-Duguid

Jessica Miller Jill Gaumont Joanne Dewart Jody Cook John Boonstra Karen Fischer

Karen Rivard

Karen Sliwkanich

Kayla Pich Khadra Hassan Kim Heatherington Kimberly Fehr

Linda Schneider Lois Aitken

MacKenzie Investments

Margaret Booker Mark Lackey

St. George's TLC ladies group

Mary McCartney Matthew Blatz Melissa Saretsky Melissa Trockstad Michelle Lamoureux Mikayla Quinlan Mike Hankirk

Mr. Mikes Steakhouse

Nancy Kornicki

Nicole Rasmussen-Plandowski

Nora Belanger

North West Redwater Partnership Panago Pizza Fort Saskatchewan

Partridge Hill Community Club

Paul Pankiw

Pembina Pipeline

Robert & Marsha Paradis

Pledgeling Foundation

Risa Coverdale

Robert Burkholder

Robert Kellington Robertson Plumbing

Roger Christianson

Ryan Gabert Samantha Hunt Sarah Thompson

Scott Melnyk Shelley Carter-Schofield

Shirley Cockburn Shoppers Drug Mart

SouthPointe School Employees

Susan Bischof Strike Group Suzanne Dubois

Switzer Financial Services

Ted and Kelsey Fellows

Teresa Woytkiw The Barn Door

The Space Yoga, Wellness,

Meditation

Town of Bon Accord Town of Gibbons Town of Legal Town of Morinville Town of Redwater Tyler Butler

Watco

Win Ferguson Parent Teacher

Association





Funders / Supporters



Government























































PARTNERS























Alexander First Nation





























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FORT SASKATCHEWAN

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