



Elizabeth Fry

Society of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

2020/2021

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 Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan



Table of Contents

Land acknowledgement, Vision, Mission and Valuespg.3

Message from the Board Chair.....pg.4

Board Members.....pg.5

Message from the Executive Director.....pg.6

Operational team & students.....pg.7

Staff Highlights.....pg.8

COVID 19 Pandemic.....pg.9

Programs & Services.....pg.10

Community action and engagement.....pg.11

Funding partners.....pg.12



Land acknowledgement, Vision, Mission and Values

Cᵒᵣ! Tansi! Tawnshi! Edlanat'e! Aba washded!

Many of the problems we encounter in our work with the justice system have direct roots in the long history of colonialism in North America. With that in mind, we acknowledge that our Saskatoon office is located in Treaty 6 territory – the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, and Métis nations.

We hope that this recognition inspires you to look further into the treaty system and the long and vibrant history of traditional Indigenous lands. For our part, we consider how we can better treat each other and fulfill the spirit of the Treaty 6 agreement.

We are a strong and sustainable organization that:

- Works with women and girls before, during and after involvement with the justice system to provide legal assistance, access to information and programming, and support for community integration.
- Advocates for the human rights, dignity and self-worth of all women and girls.

1. Women and girls involved in the justice system deserve compassion and respect and opportunities to realize their full human potential.
2. We believe that women's rights are human rights.
3. We are guided by the truth and reconciliation calls to action.
4. We focus on a holistic client-centered approach.
5. We believe in a just community.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan strives for a just community, advocating for the rights, freedoms, and fair treatment of all women and girls involved with the justice system.

Message from the Board Chair



2020-2021 was unlike any other for EFS SK. Not only did the pandemic continue, but the year was marked by significant rejuvenation in the Board and Staff. We are very pleased that Kayleigh Lafontaine is leading the organization as the Executive Director. In a few short months, Kayleigh has created a strong team. We closed this year energized about revisiting our strategic plan to ensure that we know and are meeting the needs of our clients.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank our staff for being flexible and patient during all the uncertainty and change last year. Many staff took on new roles and responsibilities to ensure that we continued to assist women in need while we filled staff positions. In particular, I'd like to thank Patti Tait for acting as our interim Executive Director.

Efforts to recruit new board members this year were very successful. The Board is comprised of thoughtful and fierce women with a diverse set of skills who are committed to EFS SK's mandate. While the new board members bring new ideas and fresh eyes to EFS SK, it is important to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many long-term board members who have or will soon be retiring from the Board including Nancy Poon, Caroline Tait, and Alanna Carlson. Their commitment to EFS SK will certainly be missed.

On behalf of EFS SK, I would also like to thank our funders and donors for their continued financial support and commitment to our mandate. COVID-19 challenged us to develop new ways to fulfill our mandate. We are very grateful that our funders understand the challenges we faced and worked with us to alter our approaches and priorities in response.

In conclusion, please let me thank you for your continued support. We have begun to welcome women into our offices and have returned to institutions. This essential work is only possible because of your ongoing commitment to ensuring that the inherent dignity and rights of our clients are respected.

Kind Regards,

Patricia Farnese



Patti Tait

Special Thank you to Patti Tait who served as our Interim Executive Director for over half of the year. On top of the added responsibilities she continued her work as a CAEFS Regional Advocate, supporting federal clients through the pandemic. Patti is our Cultural Coordinator, however she has been so much more through this year, we appreciate her love and guidance and all that she has contributed to our local and national Elizabeth Fry Societies.

Board Members

Member	Position
Patricia Farnese Jamesy Patrick	Board Chair Co-Chair
Alanna Carlson	Secretary/Chair of Governance Committee
Elke Churchman, BA, LLB	Member at Large
Nancy Poon	Member at Large
DeeAnn Mercier	Member at Large/ Chair of Housing Committee
Amanda Dodge	Member at Large
Pat Walker	Member at Large
Talia Pfeferle	Member at Large



Special Thank you
to Dr. Caroline Tait
who provided
leadership through
many changes on
our board and
operational team
this year (retired
april 2021)

Message from the Executive Director



It is with much gratitude and honor that I write this letter as the new Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan (EFS SK). This privilege is beyond what I imagined when I joined the team at EFS SK in October 2020.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Patti Tait who provided her leadership and guidance while our organization sailed the many challenges that arose in our 2020-2021 fiscal year. Having long standing board and operational team members change in a short period of time while we navigated a global pandemic, Patti stepped up and filled the role of interim Executive Director while continuing to provide support as the cultural coordinator of EFS SK. Through the COVID pandemic Patti was able to attend Okimaw Ochi Healing lodge as a CAEFS Regional Advocate approximately 7 times throughout the year.

The COVID pandemic combined with operational changes created a formidable team; thank you to the staff and students of EFS SK who transitioned through the many changes, the ebb's and flows of the pandemic restrictions and did so with ease and grace. The staff of this organization continue to show their fierce dedication to uplifting and supporting women, girls and LGBTQ2S+ people who are at risk.

As individuals and an organization, we are committed to continued learning through the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

A special thank you to Judy Pelly who continued to lead our Wednesday Sharing Circle when restrictions allowed, Judy's knowledge and presence has proven to be fundamental in the growth of those who attend our circles. Thank you to Jackie Jensen at Twig and Squirrel who allowed us to utilize the back yard when we had to pivot to an outdoor fire (in the winter) due to the COVID restrictions.

The hardest part of this last year has been the inability to attend our in-prison services, we saw an increase in institutional concerns and an alarming rate of institutional deaths. COVID also impacted the judicial courts by delaying trials which increased the amount of time our clients were sitting on remand. These are only some of the reasons why our programming and services are needed now more than ever.

I would like to recognize and thank all our funders and donors, for your understanding and continued support through this last year. Most notably The Law foundation of Saskatchewan which funds The Ground-breaking Justice project, which is comprised of Women's Legal Services, a Parole Preparation program, a Record Suspension program, a Court working program and the Gladue Writing program. A special thank you to the Government of Saskatchewan for funding our Reintegration services and the continued support from Status of Women Canada for capacity building targeted at communications, fundraising and a capacity for a social enterprise.

Most importantly I would like to acknowledge our clients, you are the heart of our organization. I continue to see such resilience, power, and strength through meeting each one of you. I reflect on where this organization has been and where it strives to go.

All my relations,

Kayleigh Lafontaine



Operational team

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Kayleigh Lafontaine | Integration Worker/ Executive Director |
| Patti Tait | Interim ED
Cultural Advisor/CAEFS Regional Advocate |
| Sydney Wouters | Social Worker |
| Chelsea Roy | Court Worker |
| Jocelyn Trotchie | Receptionist/
Community Outreach Worker |
| Marlene (Mo) Hastings | Court/Outreach Worker |
| Gillian Gough | CAEFS Regional Advocate/
Federal Prison Lawyer |
| Jessie Buydens | Provincial Prison Lawyer |



Students

- Brooke Elizabeth
- Danica Matthews
- Kate Kopeck
- Melissa Ackerman
- Sarah White
- Celeste Foriter
- Joanna Winichuk

Thank you

Jonna Reaume
Beverly Fullerton
Bonny Braden
Sandra Stack



They Call It a Healing Lodge, but Where is the Healing?

A research report about Indigenous women, Identity, and Incarceration Programming

by The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan & Alicia Clifford, Ph.D. Student McMaster University



Thank you to Alicia Clifford for her dedication to elevating the voices of incarcerated women. Contact EFS SK for a copy of her research report.

Staff Highlights

Going into my new position so that I can become more personable with the women on a one-to-one basis and help them to fulfill daily needs - Jocelyn



Starting with E Fry in July 2020 and getting to work with strong women - Sydney

Coming back to the office after the covid provincial lock down because than we could assist the clients in community again - Chelsea



COVID 19 Pandemic

As we navigated the global restrictions EFS SK staff pivoted from working remotely, to working half time in the office to working in the office with no client access. These changes came a readily pace, however our team continued to change and adapt to best serve the clients in new and unique ways.



Staff vigil, remembering women who have died while incarcerated as well as those who passed after being released with little to no resources.



Prisoner Justice day 2020



Clothing cafe in the park



Outdoor sharing circle



At Christmas EFS SK Staff made approx 300 gift bags for individuals incarcerated at Pinegrove Correctional Centre, Women's Reintegration Unit, Meewasinota, the Regional Psychiatric centre and Okimaw Ochi Healing lodge. Due to the fact that we could not attend OOH for our annual Christmas supper we sent Christmas hampers for each of the 12 houses.

Programs & Services

Clothing Cafes transitioned to every 3 months, shifting and changing with the COVID restrictions and regulations.

Thank you to CFS Saskatoon for their partnership on bringing Mindful Parenting and Parenting with Resilience to our clients virtually.

Councilling on Tuesdays continued to run until Dec 2020.



10 starter kits sent to women in Federal institutions.

Institutional visits to Okimaw Ochi Healing lodge and the Women's Reintegration Unit continued to happen when restrictions allowed.

EFS SK was able to purchase a new (to us) vehicle through our core donations, this allows us safer travel to institutions as well as aid in transporting our clients after incarceration back to their communities.



109 storybooks recorded by incarcerated mothers and sent to their children in various locations across the prairies.



Community Action and Engagement

Canadian
Aboriginal AIDS
Network

Saskatoon Police
Advisory Committee
on Diversity

Justice League-
Anti Racism
network

Canadian
Association of
Elizabeth Fry
Societies

Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction
Partnership

Needle pick up
at PHR

Saskatoon
Mental Health
Strategy

Womentership

EFS SK staff and clients picking medicine in August 2020

Volunteering
with other
agencies

Saskatoon
Interagency
response to
COVID

Pathway to
Pimachisowin
Network





2020-2021 Funding partners

Elizabeth Fry
Society of Saskatchewan



LawFoundation
OF SASKATCHEWAN



CAEFS



AMISKUSEES:
SEMAGANIS WORME
FAMILY FOUNDATION



**Community
Initiatives Fund**



United Way
Saskatoon & Area



City of
Saskatoon



**Saskatoon
Community
Foundation**



**Government
of
Saskatchewan**



**Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada**

**Women and Gender
Equality Canada**