



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan  
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**EFS SK PROGRAMS  
& SERVICES WORK  
IN 3 AREAS:**

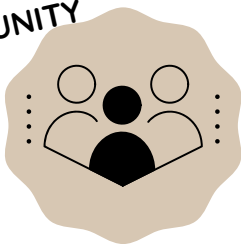
COURT



PRISON



COMMUNITY



**OUR VISION:**

EFS SK strives for a just community, advocating for the rights, freedoms and fair treatment of all women and girls involved in the justice system.

**OUR MISSION:**

We are a strong and sustainable organization that works with women 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.

**OUR VALUES:**

Women and girls involved in the justice system deserve compassion and respect and opportunities to realize their full human potential. We believe that women’s rights are human rights. We are guided by the truth and reconciliation calls to action. We focus on a holistic, client-centered approach. We believe in a just community. We strive to build and maintain a sustainable organization.

**2019-20 EFS SK  
Board of Directors**

- Chair** - Dolores Ebert
- Vice Chair** - Dr. Caroline Tait
- Secretary** - Alanna Carlson
- Treasurer** - Nan Lee
- Director** - Dr. Nancy Poon
- Director** - Dr. Sharon Acoose
- Director** - Veronique Loewen
- Director** - DeeAnn Mercier



EFS SK Board celebrating a birthday



## Message from the Board Chair

### Dolores Ebert

The fiscal year started with great expectations and promise with our new Executive Director and ended with a lockdown and major changes in service provision because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain a strong society committed to our vision and values.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to first of all give thanks to our Executive Director and her staff for their continuing commitment to the women we serve and their tireless efforts assisting women in their journeys, ensuring their human rights are respected and that our community is safe, secure and welcoming. The staff was fully engaged in our strategic plan review in October and are now working with our Executive Director to review and enhance our services.

As Chair, I also want to thank our Board of Directors for their tireless work this year. It has been a year of reflection and development. We completed our review of bylaws and they are before this Annual General Meeting for member confirmation. The Board engaged both in the initial strategic plan review and a further governance review of Board functioning and development. We continue to recruit new Board members and now have a recruitment plan in place that focuses on specific skills. A special thank you to retiring and former Board members. We will miss your contributions.

On behalf of the Board and EFS SK, thank you to our funders for not only their financial support but continuing support of our mandate and services. We initiated a new three-year capacity building project early in the fiscal year with funding from the Government of Canada, Department for Women and Gender Equality, to focus on building our capacity in the areas of Communications, Fundraising and Housing.

We have also become keenly aware this year that we must consider a better vehicle for the organization. Staff regularly visit every woman's prison in the region and, as a result many miles are driven and we need to ensure the safety of our staff. We will be actively seeking donors for this project in the coming year.

Our fundraising event in May was well supported by the community and we again thank all of you for your support. Our plan is to now develop a sustainable fundraising plan and we are hoping that the 40th anniversary of our Society in 2021 will be the initiating event of that plan.

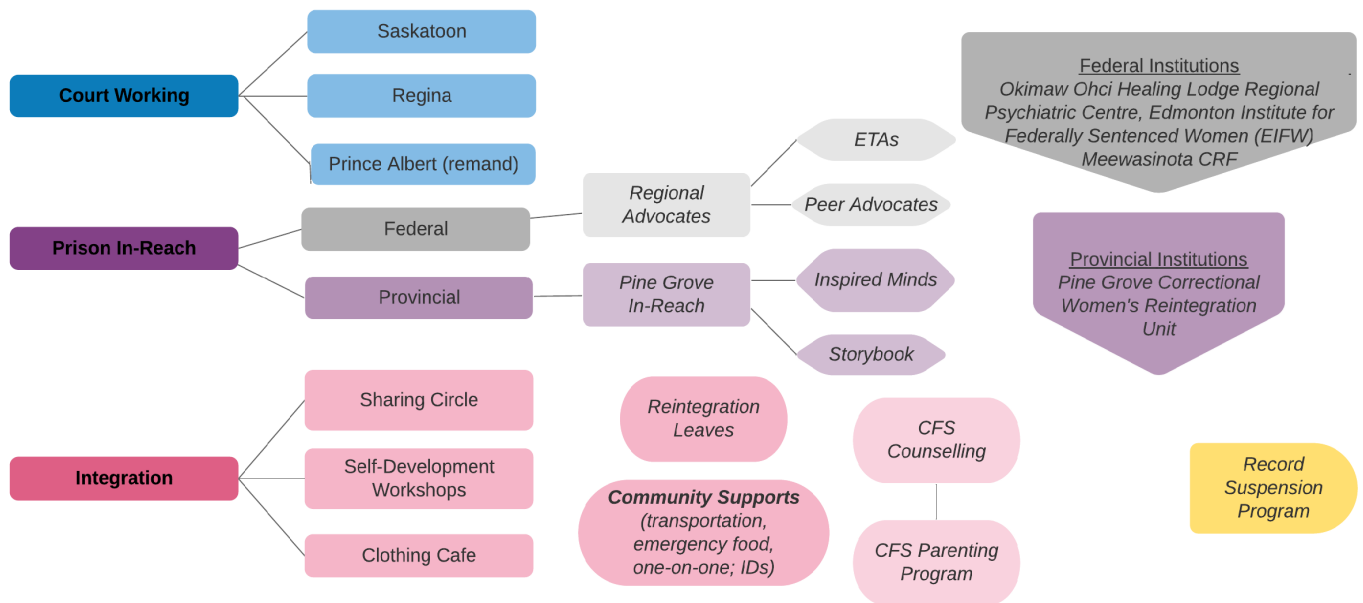
In conclusion, many thanks to our members and donors. You are crucial to our Society, ensuring not only that we can provide services that respect the human rights of our women, while keeping our communities safer and welcoming those in need. Keep safe, and we hope that EFS SK will soon be able to safely welcome all back into our offices.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dolores Ebert

# Programs & Services

EFS SK made some additions to the programs and services offered in community. After hearing from women in community, particularly those at the Women's Reintegration Unit (WRU), that having regularly scheduled drop-in workshops would be appreciated, our Integration worker worked hard to find workshops that would work for the women. Thanks to our sisters at EFry Edmonton, who lent us their programming. Starting in January, we began providing bi-monthly drop-in workshops on a variety of topics: Love Yourself First, Healthy Boundaries, Assertiveness and more. A 6-month schedule was made and shared. This allows us to provide meaningful, relevant and structured programming for the women we serve. We owe another huge thank you to our incredible volunteer, Laura Beach, who facilitated her third session of Inspired Minds with us. Our record suspension continues to grow, and we submitted our first 2 record suspensions in 2020, with 5 more ongoing.

## EFS SK Programs & Services



## Program Highlights



**120**  
Women  
attended  
Sharing Circle

Storybooks  
given at  
Christmas

**165**



**32**



Visits to Pinegrove  
Correctional Centre



**430**  
PHONE CALLS  
PER MONTH



## Message from the Executive Director Sandra Stack

My first year has been exciting and rewarding because many achievements, lessons and new developments have occurred. At this time, we are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, as our operations have gone through major transitions, I am happy to report that we have maintained good communications with our women, offering our supports and advocacy throughout the province. I am so proud of the resilience of our community and the excellent collaboration and teamwork that has occurred throughout this difficult time.

Thank you to Board President, Dolores Ebert, for her tireless commitment to the organization's health and governance. Thank you to Nan Lee, for her endless hours of time and commitment over the past six years. Nan as you move on from the board, it is with sincere gratitude that I pay tribute to you for your passion and dedication to the organization.

This year the Board and staff worked together to gain insight into what a sustainable foundation would look like for EFS SK by: undergoing Strategic planning and future development; submitting a funding proposal to open a Community Residential Facility in Saskatoon; hiring William Joseph to create a new logo and communications strategy; and planning an operations review for later this year.

Housing continues to be one of the most pressing issues for our women and until it can be addressed our women remain in either substandard housing or remain in custody because secure and safe housing is not available. Our regular prison in-reach visits, both provincially and federally, remain essential to ensure prisons abide by human rights legislation and that women are being fully respected. We continue to work closely with our national office, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS), and advocate for the systemic and individual rights of women prisoners in the region.

Our projects and programming remain essential and fundamental to the women we serve, and I would like to thank our funders for their generous and faithful support in these challenging times. Our organization made up of a small and mighty team of dedicated women who deserve great praise and recognition for their compassionate commitment to the women we serve. Our team advocates fearlessly for our women and girls both in community and within the justice system. I am looking forward to another successful and productive year, and optimistic that our new "normal" will generate a cohesive and smooth transition as we explore new opportunities, face our challenges and continue to be a cornerstone for women in the justice system.

# Staff & Students

I am honoured to have had this opportunity to work with the EFS SK! I have learned so much about social justice, social work, and Canada's prison and court systems. This practicum experience has dramatically changed the way I personally and professionally conduct myself around these topics, and this never could have happened without the guidance and expertise of the amazing EFS SK staff! I am forever grateful for this experience, and I cannot thank EFS SK enough!

- Danica Matthews, SW Student

## Staff Member Position

Sandra Stack	Executive Director
Jonna Reaume	Associate Executive Director/Social Worker
Patti Tait	Cultural Coordinator
Beverly Fullerton	Integration Worker
Bonny Braden	Court Worker Coordinator
Chelsea Roy	Saskatoon Court Worker
Marlene Hastings	Regina Court Worker
Jocelyn Trotchie	Receptionist
Gillian Gough	Regional Advocate/Federal Prison Lawyer
Jessie Buydens	Provincial Prison Lawyer
Keeley Phillips	Staff Lawyer (until July 2019)
Susan Shacter	Indigenous Court Worker (until July 2019)
Christie April	Community Worker (until March 2020)



EFS SK Team with Senator Kim Pate



Farewell dinner for Keeley & Susan

## Students

Cree Crain - SIIT, Mental Health & Wellness  
 Kaylee Adair - Sask. Polytech, Youth Care  
 Chelsea Roy - U of S, Indigenous Justice Program  
 Leah Albert - U of S, Indigenous Justice Program  
 Crystal Fineday - SIIT, Mental Health & Wellness

Christie April - FNUC, Social Work  
 Nicole Dawyduk - U of R, Social Work  
 Brooke Bighead - U of R, Social Work  
 Danica Matthews - UVic, Social Work

## 2019-20 Team Highlights

*Seeing a Crown Prosecutor suddenly change his mind by not pushing for a year's probation for a woman we've known for years. He reduced the penalty greatly so that she would only have to worry about a small fine for a charge she'd pleaded guilty to. It was such a relief to see this weight lifted off her shoulders as she struggled to keep her life on track with many positive supports in community.*

-Bonny

*Getting these ladies organized!*  
-Jocelyn

*I was able to go assist in a parole hearing.*  
-Mo

*All the incredible student's we've had this year! They were each fantastic and many have gone onto get hired in their respective fields. We've even been lucky enough to hire two of them. I'm so proud of the caliber of the students we get here, and for the dedication they show us!* -Jonna

## Provincial Prison In-Reach

Prior to COVID-19, our women's services team was providing bi-monthly in-reach visits at Pine Grove Correctional Centre (PGCC), including a Christmas visit with BINGO. We offered the Storybook Program and Inspired Minds. Primary areas of concern are: court processes/court questions, access to healthcare, disciplinary hearings, and segregation as punishment. Many women continue to express the need for mental health and addictions supports.



Our "elves" wrapping and mailing books for the Storybook program

## Federal Prison Advocacy

2019-20 has been a busy year for our federal regional advocates (RAs). We continue to have largely positive and reciprocal relationships with our two women's federal institutions in SK, the Regional Psychiatric Centre (RPC) and Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge (OOHL), with good communication between the prisons and our RAs. We have been able to continue to offer support and communicate over distance, after COVID-19 restrictions were put in place. All the recommendations made to OOHL were implemented. Here is some of what our Federal Regional Advocacy team has done:

- 1 Parole Prep Training session at OOHL
- Parole Hearing Support
  - 15 letters of support
  - 3 in-person hearings attended at OOHL; 1 at EIFW
- Coordinated regional meeting at OOHL, with sister societies Edmonton, Calgary, Manitoba; invited to attend Horse Dance & Ghost Dance
- RAs visited OOHL every 6 weeks until COVID-19; 2 Zoom meetings and 1 conference call post COVID
- Christmas parties at OOHL & RPC
- Starter kits provided for 30 federally sentenced women
- Visit from Regina Parole Office, Women's Offender Unit
- Weekly Escorted Temporary Absences (ETA) visits from 1 woman at RPC

# Legal Services & Court Working

Access to justice is often out of reach for women involved in the justice system, so the goal of EFS SK's legal services and court working program is to ensure that women are informed of their legal rights while they are incarcerated or in court. Empowering women to make their own choices about their legal matters and protect their rights strengthens them as individuals and society as a whole. Our court workers and lawyers provide education and information about the court process. Our long-standing court-working program helps hundreds of women each year obtain better outcomes in court.

## OBJECTIVES

- Provide women with education and information so they better understand court processes and can make informed decisions
- Connection to community supports such as housing, addictions treatment, mental and physical health treatments and specific programming so that women released on bail build stability in community which contributes to lower recidivism and improves public safety.

## WHO WE SERVE



Most of the women we work with identify as Indigenous or Metis between the ages of 20 and 50 years old. They often struggle with financial insecurity, and may be homeless or trying to obtain affordable housing. They may suffer from addictions and mental health issues. Many are mothers who are trying to raise their children alone or get their children back after apprehension by the Ministry of Social Services.

## WHERE WE WORK



Our 3 court workers have daily presence in Saskatoon and Regina court houses and a weekly presence in Prince Albert. We occasionally travel to support women in court in other communities across the province. Our 2 lawyers travel with us for in-reach visits at Okimaw Ohci and Pine Grove.

## COMMON QUESTIONS



Women are often seeking information about criminal law, family law, prison law, discipline hearings, human rights, immigration, appealing sentences and convictions, and residential tenancy issues.

## PARTNERSHIPS



We work with: the provincial Aboriginal Court Worker program in Saskatoon and Prince Albert; the Salvation Army court workers across the province; Mental Health Strategy resource teams; Domestic Violence court; John Howard Society & CLASSIC. We are the community partner for the Ministry of Corrections and Policing's Remand Initiative (since 2017).



## Lady Justice Awards Evening 2019

In May 2019, we held our Lady Justice Awards evening at Prairieland Park. We were honored to celebrate the achievements of three remarkable women: Jessie Buydens, Colleen Dell and Peggy Vermette. These women were recognized for their dedication and commitment to advocating for women in the justice system and creating healthier, safer and more vibrant communities. For the first time ever, we auctioned off unique, one-of-a-kind ribbon skirts crafted in our office by Jannica Hoskins and a group of creative volunteers. Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered their time and/or donated to our programs and services! It was incredible to see and feel the support in the room and we look forward to holding it again in the future!



Board members and staff gathered at Lady Justice Awards Evening (top); our ribbon skirt models smiling behind the scenes

## What else have we been busy with?



Our team with Elder Judy Pelly at the 2019 Rock Your Roots March for Indigenous Peoples Day



Chelsea and her daughter participating in the Face Behind the Mask workshop at Station 20 West

- YXE Connects
- Rock Your Roots - Walk for Reconciliation
- SHA Needle Clean-Up
- Community Plunge
- Westmount Community Fair
- Pride Parade
- Walking With our Sisters, Batoche
- MMIWG2S Walk
- Reconciliation Saskatoon Meetings
- Provincial Women's Election Forum (hosts)
- Saskatoon Safe Community Action Alliance Community Partner
- International Women's Day
- Take Back the Night
- Faceless Dolls Workshops (hosts)
- U of S Guest Speakers: Penology, Women & Gender Studies
- Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) member

# New Partnerships



In 2019 we began a partnership with CFS Saskatoon to offer free, drop-in counselling on Tuesdays on a weekly basis. In January 2020, CFS facilitator Jacinda Scott began offering Monday Mindful Parenting at Station 20 for our clients.



In 2019 we entered into a funding agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections and Policing to offer supports for women in community on Reintegration Leaves.

## New 2020 Logo



Thanks to William Joseph for being our creative guides in developing our new logo.

# THANKS!

We are so thankful for all the organizations, agencies, and individuals who have supported us this year, and helped us to meet the needs of the women we serve. Everything from offering time and services (like haircuts!), brand-new hygiene products that were gathered and donated to us, and to sending your gently used clothing and household items our way, we've been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of our friends, supporters and neighbours!

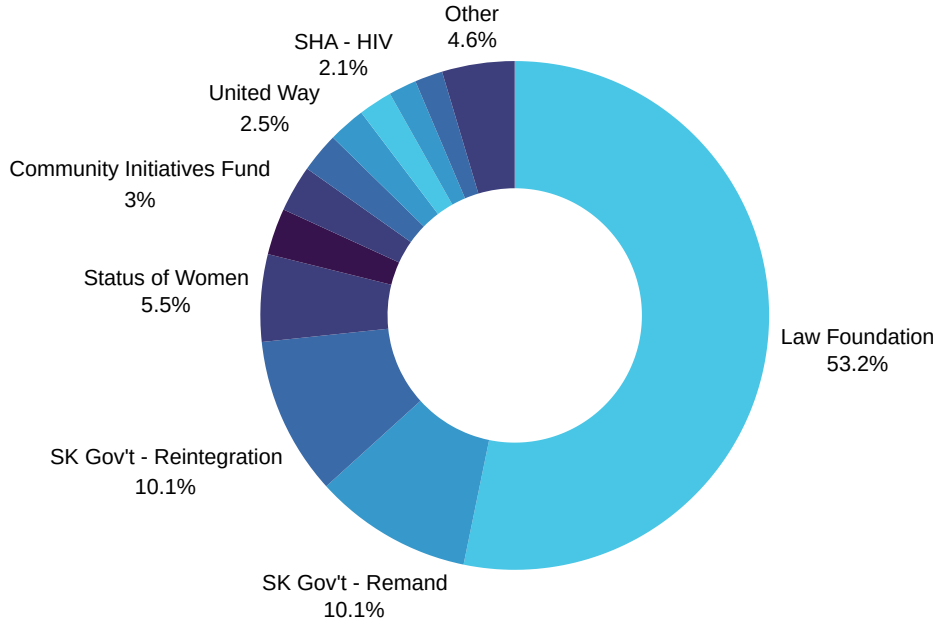


Top right: 100 Women Who Care Donation November 2019. Bottom right: Care packages donated at Xmas. Left: Clothing cafe donations for Clothing Cafe.

# 2019-20 Financial Snapshot

## 2019-20 Revenue

Revenue Breakdown by Grant/Funder



Total Revenue:  
**\$776,992**

Total Expenditures:  
**\$732,168**

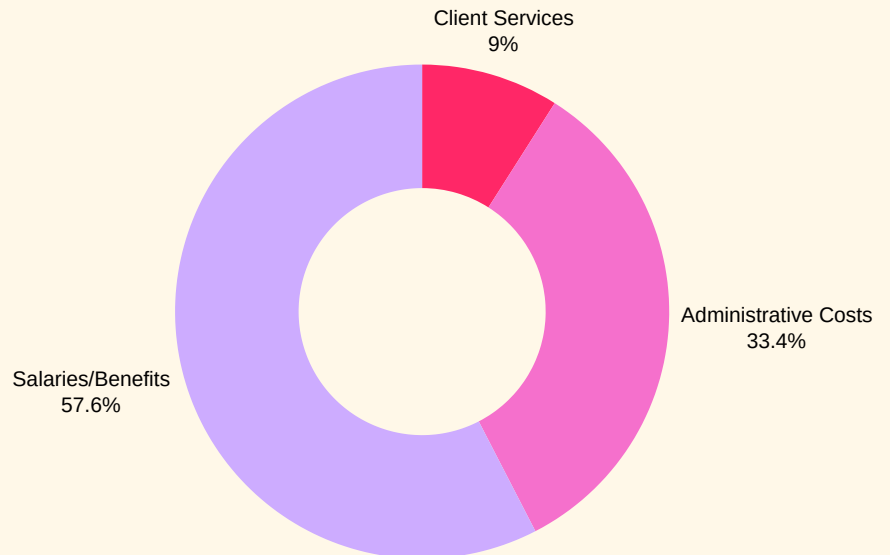
Special thanks to the **Law Foundation of Saskatchewan**, who continue to provide us with our core funding, ensuring women across the province get better access to legal information and are better aware of their rights and resources!

## 2019-20 Expenditures

**Client Services:** 9% of annual expenses; includes funds spent directly on client needs (transportation, release packages/clothing, starter kits, emergency food etc.)

**Salaries/Benefits:** at 57.6%, majority of annual expenses; includes contract services as well as training and seminars

**Administrative Costs:** 33.4% of annual expenses; includes office rent, professional fees, office supplies, insurance, telephone and computer support



# Thanks to our 2019-20 Funders!

EFS SK was able to provide services thanks, in part to the following funding partners:

- 100 Women Who Care Saskatoon
- Affinity Credit Union
- City of Saskatoon
- Cherry Insurance
- Community Initiatives Fund
- Dakota Dunes
- Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Corrections and Policing
- Individual Donors
- Law Foundation of Saskatchewan
- Muttart Foundation
- Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Amiskusees: Semaganis Worme Family Foundation
- Status of Women Canada
- United Way of Saskatoon & Area
- Verna & Lionel McGillivray Fund

