



2024

Annual Report



A Dedication to Ashley Krestianson

In 1994 beautiful eight-year old Ashley Krestianson lost her way and, tragically, her life. While wandering with her twin sister Lindsay, Ashley took a shortcut and never returned home.

The massive search for Ashley spawned the development of several community-based search and rescue organizations – all with one goal – to help the RCMP find missing persons. The RCMP realized they needed to train these volunteers to help with searches, and met with representatives from those fledgling community-based search and rescue organizations. From those initial meetings, Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers (SARSAV) came into existence as the umbrella organization for member-chapters and individual search and rescue volunteers in the province. Under the direction of the RCMP, search and rescue volunteers received training, which has grown and evolved over the decades into national standards for search and rescue professionals, paid and unpaid, across the country.

About Us

Search and Rescue Regina Inc. is a member-chapter of Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers (SARSAV).

Mission

To support the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Regina Police Service, or designated authority in their efforts to locate missing persons or assist in other related emergencies.

Vision

Search and Rescue Regina will transform into a leading search and rescue organization in the service of our community.

What we do

Our trained ground search and rescue volunteer members help others in need in our community by giving their time to train, be activated on missing person missions, and provide safety information to the community. We are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

How we do it

Police agencies request SARSAV's professional SAR volunteers through the Provincial Emergency Communications Center by a text message. The Professional SAR Responders from SARSAV chapters closest to the search are then deployed to the search area. SARSAV assigns a Search Manager to work in unified command with Municipal Police and RCMP. Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency is also deployed to many searches. SPSA, RCMP, Municipal Police and SARSAV work closely together on Ground SAR missions in Saskatchewan.



President's Message

Our theme for 2024 was teamwork.

Our vision is to transform into a leading search and rescue organization in the service of our community and province.

This past year we collaborated with our search activation partners to update our 2024 strategic plan. We implemented best-practice training in partnership with other search and rescue chapter members. Our board conducted an equipment needs assessment and began to purchase equipment with the support of individuals and businesses. It was an incredible year where the positive impact of the whole was far greater than the sum of its parts.

I am passionate about search and rescue and its impact on families. I am humbled to have served as SAR Regina's President during its 30th anniversary year. I am very proud of our board, our members and our greater SAR community. Through teamwork we have and will continue to excel.

Thank you for enabling us to bring them home!

Respectfully yours,
Sean Hauglum
President

Strategic Plan

	Model Inclusion and Cultural Respect	Build Community Awareness and Partnerships	Recruit, Retain, Equip and Train Members	Modernize Equipment and Leverage New Technologies	Support Member Accessibility and Organizational Financial Sustainability
Problem/ Opportunity	The SAR Regina membership should be diverse in terms of race, age and gender balance.	Lack of awareness of SAR by other agencies and with the general public.	SAR Regina has many members, but fewer than half regularly participate.	In order to train for activations, including rapid light disaster response, SARR needs to train in a command-centre style setting, and needs a means to transport that equipment.	While the organization is financially sound, limited volunteer time is spent fundraising instead of training.
Objectives	1. SAR Regina's membership will become more racially diverse, and age and gender balanced. 2. SAR Regina will broaden its outreach and participate in/support community events hosted by various ethnic groups. 3. SAR Regina members will learn about and respect First Nation culture and protocols (ie. present tobacco to Chief and Council) and engage with urban Indigenous persons/communities living in Regina.	4. AdventureSmart Trainers deliver courses in the community. 5. SAR Regina will build rapport with public emergency agencies (know who to call). 6. SAR Regina will participate in community events that are organized by or important to our partners with specific emphasis on Indigenous victims and families/friends of Indigenous murdered or missing persons.	7. Be exceptional ground searchers. 8. Enhance the SAR Regina recruitment process to attract fully committed, very active members. 9. SAR Regina members will be fully capable to be deployed on urban and rural searches. 10. SAR Support members WITH SPECIFIC SKILLS to provide support to help run the business side of the Non Profit Corporation (website, administration, fundraising, etc.) 11. Build a culture of collaboration and trust between members through intentional team building.	12. Scope out equipment requirements, access list of provincially available assets (SARSAV, SPSA), secure funding for the identified items, develop standard operating procedures and implement.	13. Secure federal Registered Charity status and implement donor management procedures. 14. Secure grants and corporate sponsorships. 15. Explore hosting an anchor fundraising event.
Success Measures	Equity Diversity Inclusion (EDI): # of diverse members, and age and gender balance Absence of racism, ableism, agism, misogyny, sexism, genderism.	# AdventureSmart Trainers/ programs delivered # of members trained in cultural awareness/attending cultural events # volunteers active at targeted community events	Member retention, member recruitment and member participation (# of hours to chapter/on searches) Percentage of PECC-eligible members who activate to every callout Two Regina Search Managers and one GSAR Instructor within 3 years	Policy manual developed and circulated to existing members. All PECC-eligible members are proficient in ground searching skills and the use of equipment and technologies.	Registered Charity status secured and implemented within six months. Funds secured through grants, foundations, and corporations.

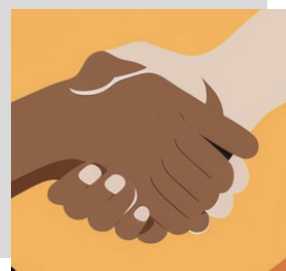


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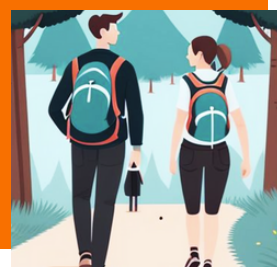
Partnered

File Hills Tribal Council
Regina Police Service
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency
STARS Air Ambulance
Other SAR chapters!



Acquired New Equipment

Telescoping mast antenna, comms, helicopter landing kit, supplemental first aid equipment: hypothermia, tourniquet, modular bandages, triage tags, litter basket, Automated External Defibrillator



Recruited & Retained

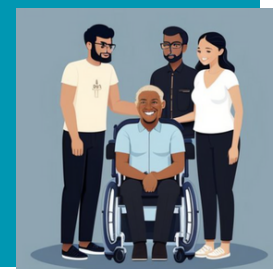
26 Total Members
4 Team Leaders
20 Ground Searchers
2 Support Members
4 AdventureSmart Trainers



Supported Community

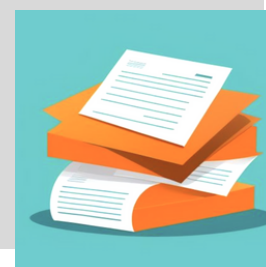
200 Hours
11 Events

Polar Plunge, RPS Round Dance
Missing Persons Week, RCMP Heritage Centre Awakening, Tipi Raising and Sisters in Spirit Vigil
Tamra Keepness Memorial BBQ, YQR
Emergency Exercises, Treaty 4 Gathering, National Truth and Reconciliation Day



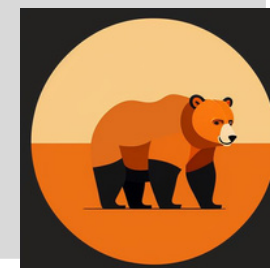
Initiated

Applied for Canada Revenue Agency
Registered Charity Status
Completed capital equipment needs assessment



Trained

1317 Hours
20 Training Events
2 Special SARSAV Training Events
Various navigation and comms tools, Command Centre set-up, Hypothermia, STARS helicopter landing, Near Water, Bear aware, Stop the Bleed, Triage and more



Connected

1300 website visitors
1814 Facebook Followers
399 Instagram Followers
16,456 Facebook Reach
943 Instagram Reach



Activated

4 Missing Persons Searches
1 Evidence Search



1

Model Inclusion and Cultural Respect

We worked collaboratively with the Southern Saskatchewan First Nations SAR team to seek input into our plans and provide training for the mutual benefit of both of our organizations' members. Attended several First Nations led or supported community events.

Achieved gender balance on our Board of Directors

Learned about First Nations culture and protocols

Attended:

- RCMP Heritage Centre Place of Reflection/Medicine Wheel – Spring awakening
- RPS Round Dance
- RCMP Heritage Centre Place of Reflection Committee new teaching and learning tipi installation
- Learning Tipi
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day: Orange Shirt Day walk and BBQ hosted by EDIN
- Sisters in Spirit Annual Vigil



Photo: RCMP Heritage Centre Awakening of the Medicine Wheel

2

Build Community Awareness and Partnerships

In January, we once again collaborated with our community partners from the File Hills Tribal Council, Regina Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, and Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers to update our strategic plan, which our 2024 operating budget was based on.

Attended:

- Missing Persons Week – ceremony and candlelight vigil
- Polar Plunge for Special Olympics
- Tamra Keepness Community BBQ
- YQR Airport Mock Terrorism Emergency Exercise
- Treaty 4 Gathering
- Regina Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Delivered an AdventureSmart Hug-A-Tree presentation to children at the City of Regina Adapted Sensory Program.

A Message from the Regina Police Service:

"On behalf of the members of the Cultural and Community Diversity Unit, I wanted to thank yourself and the volunteers from SARR for assisting us in our annual round dance. The need for more volunteers was something added this year, and we couldn't have monitored all those areas without the assistance of your organization. Please pass along our gratitude to those who donated their time to assist in our event. Thank you so much for arranging the volunteers!!



Photo: January 2024 Strategic Planning Session

3

Recruit, Retain, Equip and Train Members

To support the missing and their families, it's essential that our members make a firm and long-term commitment to continuously train to improve their skills. During 2024, SAR Regina revised our recruitment process. Potential recruits must now attend a recruitment information session and field training prior to being accepted into Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) training, which is a prerequisite to be able to be activated on searches. This new process makes our time and financial commitments very clear, which will ensure that we attract and retain highly committed members who actively participate in training and search activations.

Offered Member Training

- Compass, Map and GPS
- New SAR Technologies
- Using GIS for SAR
- Fire Starting with items from our SAR pack
- Outdoor Hypothermia in freezing temperatures
- Mock Searches
- STARS Night Landing Zone
- Stop the Bleed®
- Standard First Aid
- Near Water (shoreline and in-pool)
- Bear Aware
- Triage



Photo: February STARS Air Ambulance Night Landing Zone Training

Recruit, Retain, Equip and Train Members

Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers

SARSAV works with stakeholders to establish memorandums of understanding, service contracts and provincial training standards for all professional SAR volunteers.

Last year, SARSAV supported SAR Regina by providing instructors for two Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) 40-hour training sessions and Disaster Assistance Response Training in Regina.

SARSAV also hosted a Multi-Jurisdictional Search Exercise at Fowler Lake. August 2 to 4th SARSAV teams from across Saskatchewan met for a weekend of training, presentations, guest speakers, and exercises that included Onion Lake First Nation, Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA), Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency and Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan.

In response to the May 17, 2024, amendments to the occupational health and safety provisions of The Saskatchewan Employment Act that came into force requiring all provincially-regulated Saskatchewan workplaces to have a violence policy and prevention plan in place, SARSAV introduced new policies, procedures, and mandatory training. SAR Regina members completed the Enough Already online course.



Photo: SAR Regina members at SARSAV Multi-Jurisdictional Search Exercise

4

Support Member Accessibility and Organizational Financial Sustainability

As a provincially registered Non-Profit Corporation, SAR Regina receives no government funding. We raise what we need, and use those funds to purchase equipment and provide our members with training opportunities. Over the years our members have volunteered at fundraising events, sold lottery tickets, and sold items. 2024 was pivotal for SAR Regina as we explored new revenue streams.

Applied for charitable registration through the Government of Canada. Awaiting approval.

Secured funds from Andy Crooks, André Piasta, Cabela's, Cache Tactical, Esri Canada, SaskEnergy, SaskTel Pioneers, Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), and the RCMP General Mess.

Generated funds by selling Tickcoins, emergency whistles, seeds, ice melter, and shirts.

Volunteered at Seedy Saturday and the Pilot Butte Rodeo.



Photo: May Near Water Training sponsored by SaskEnergy

5

Modernize Equipment and Leverage New Technologies

SAR involves two aspects – search and rescue – both needing different equipment and skills. It's essential that every professional SAR volunteer be proficient in the use equipment to navigate and communicate with other team members during training and activations. Then once an individual is found, professional SAR volunteers must be able to provide prolonged first aid and safely extract the subject. By purchasing and training on the equipment, when the call comes to activate, our members are prepared.

Prepared a comprehensive equipment needs assessment.

Produced new Member and Director Handbooks

Acquired Equipment:

- Telescoping mast antenna
- GPS units, radios, walkie-talkies in sturdy transport cases
- Marshalling wands, LED road flares/emergency beacons
- Supplemental first aid kit items including CTOMS Heat Loss Prevention Kit (HeLP) (hypothermia kit), combat tourniquet, modular bandages, triage tags, and more.
- Litter basket and Automated external defibrillator (AED)
- Personal Protection Equipment for a specific evidence search activation



Photo: New AED Unit sponsored by CPKC

Accountability

SAR Regina operates in Saskatchewan under *The Non-profit Corporations Act* and is governed by the SARR Constitution and Bylaws, which identify the organization's name, purpose, membership composition, fees and meetings, duties of officers and wind-up procedures. These documents are publicly available on our website.

According to the Constitution:

The Corporation shall be a Non-Profit Membership Corporation as defined by *The Non-Profit Corporation Act* of the Province of Saskatchewan.

The objectives of Search and Rescue Regina Inc. shall be as follows:

- To support the search and rescue efforts of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Regina Police Service (RPS) or other agencies by providing personnel who are trained and capable of properly performing SAR or other requested duties.
- To respond to any incident or accident which involves one or more people deemed to be lost, not arrived at destination or not seen during a period of time as to be deemed an emergency with local authorities.
- To be organized and developed as necessary to provide a service during or after an emergency.
- To cooperate with other SAR agencies to provide improved levels of SAR service when it is within the capability of the rescue team to undertake the mission safely.

- To support law enforcement and/or other emergency services agencies in activities sanctioned by the Board of Directors.

The SAR Regina organization and its members serve and are accountable to a number of community stakeholders including:

- The Missing and Families of The Missing
- Agencies Having Jurisdiction on every activation
- Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada and Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers
- Other first responders and health professionals
- Our greater community

Leadership

- SAR Regina is a small volunteer-run organization and thus has an operational Board of Directors. We are ground searchers. We are administrators.
- The volunteer Board of Directors and no member of the Board receives compensation to perform their Board duties.
- In addition to demonstrating a base of compassion for The Missing, the Board of Directors actively recruits to bring a wide range of specific competencies and professional expertise to the organization.
- They are elected to the Board at the Annual General Meeting.

Leadership



Our Volunteer Board of Directors

- Sean Hauglum, President
- Mohammed Quraishi, Director
- Louise Yates, Secretary
- Marius Berger, Director (Equipment)
- Dr. Crystal Giesbrecht, Director (Membership)
- Dawna Henderson, Director (Community)
- Colin Matechuk, Director (Fundraising)

Resigned

- Shelly Lambert (May)
- Darren Horsman (September)

Policy Committee

- Marius Berger, Tanya Gebhardt, and Louise Yates
- Reviewer to the Committee, Andy Crooks

Ways to Get Involved



Become a professional ground search and rescue volunteer.

Become a support team member and provide professional expertise – fundraising, accounting, marketing, information technology, etc.

Donate to purchase equipment or provide member training.

Purchase our saleable items such as T-shirts, Tickcoins, emergency whistles, ice melter, and more.

Follow, like and share us on social media.

Visit our website to learn more, searchandrescueregina.org

Search and Rescue Pledge

Without regard for my personal comfort or self advancement, to the best of my abilities and the limits of my physical and psychological endurance, I solemnly pledge to make every effort to return to safety those victims of disaster entrusted to my care by the assignment of the mission to which I have consented.

These things I shall do:
'That others may live!'



Bring them
Home

Search and Rescue Regina Inc.
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searchandrescueregina.org