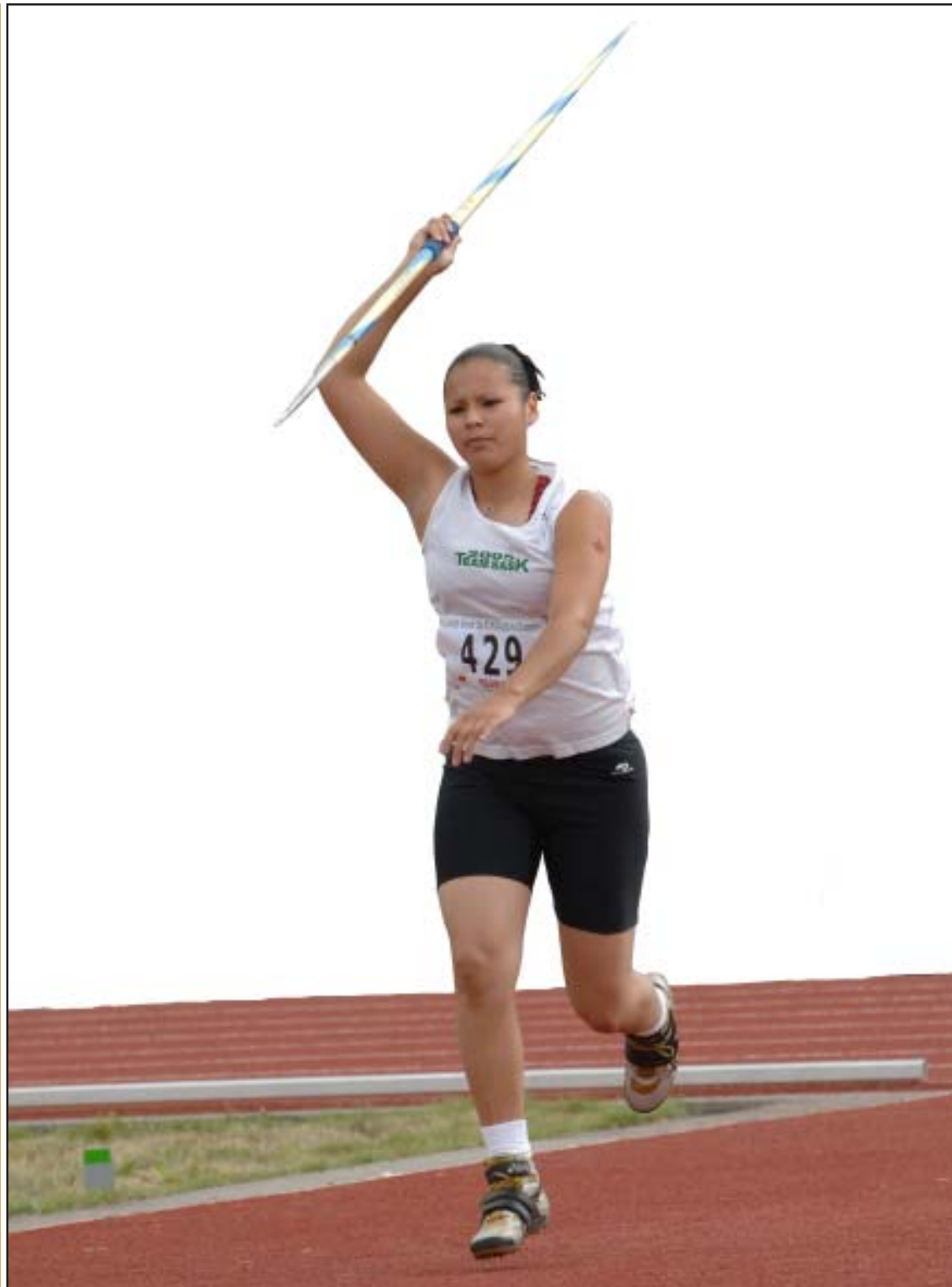


Aboriginal Sport Development

A FOUR-YEAR STRATEGY



**“Building a Foundation
for the Future”**

JUNE 2008

SPORT
**IT'S MORE
THAN A
GAME**
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SASK SPORT INC
A Federation of Provincial Sport Governing Bodies

INTRODUCTION

The Sask Sport Inc. Four-Year Strategy for Aboriginal Sport Development “Building a Foundation for the Future” provides a solid ground for the future of Aboriginal Sport in Saskatchewan. The strategy recognizes, encourages, and builds upon the necessary relationships among critical stakeholders, and also addresses broader community issues related to sustained sport development.

Aboriginal people and their communities are faced with various social and economic issues that adversely affect children, youth and families. Often, these issues create

barriers to sport development and participation. We must endeavor to work with individuals, communities, and agencies to ensure that the attributes of sport are recognized and woven into a community's fabric and development initiatives. In some instances, sport must lead the way, while in others, sport is one of many contributors to change; each situation is unique. Our responsibility is to ensure that sport development contributes in a way that provides the greatest means of strengthening Saskatchewan's Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal people accounted for 14.9% of the total population of Saskatchewan in 2006. This is the second highest proportion of Aboriginal people within Canada's provinces, after Manitoba at 15.5%. Nationally, 3.8% of the population identified themselves as Aboriginal persons in 2006.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The province of Saskatchewan has led, and will continue to lead, in Aboriginal sport development. In 1996, Sask Sport Inc., working in concert with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS), identified Aboriginal sport development as a priority within its strategy document “A Game Plan for Sport in Saskatchewan.” The plan served to integrate the Aboriginal agenda within the strategies, plans, and programs of many of the volunteer-run Provincial Sport Governing Bodies (PSGBs). As a result, PSGB boards and program volunteers gained a heightened awareness of the unique needs of Aboriginal people and the importance of serving this population group for the future success of this province.

An Aboriginal Sport Strategy launched in 2000 allocated resources and consultative support to sport programs

aligned with the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). Aboriginal athletes received enhanced coaching and training opportunities in preparation for the 2006 and 2008 NAIG. Through the Aboriginal Sport Strategy, the volunteer system that has successfully maintained mainstream sport participation is now also mobilized in support of the Aboriginal community.

Most recently, Sask Sport Inc. has formalized the Aboriginal Services Unit. The Unit is advised by a committee of Aboriginal sport leaders and volunteer representatives of FSIN, MNS, northern communities, and members at large from the First Nations, Métis, and non-status Indian communities. This document serves as the guiding strategy for the work of the Unit and its partners over the next four years.

In Canada, the Aboriginal population has grown more quickly than the non-Aboriginal population. Between 1996 and 2006, the number of Aboriginal people increased by 45%, nearly six times higher than the 8% rate of growth for the non-Aboriginal population over the same period.

ABORIGINAL SPORT DEVELOPMENT - CRITICAL TO BUILDING HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

Healthy communities are important for all Saskatchewan people and sport plays a critical role in creating healthy communities. Positive sport programming and participation contributes to the physical, emotional, and mental development of children, youth, and adults. Furthermore, the volunteerism associated with amateur sport programming contributes to the overall community capacity and leadership development. There are also economic benefits to sport, including reduced costs attributed to decreased gang activity, vandalism, and substance abuse, and increased economic activity attributed to tournaments, facility rentals, equipment purchases, and employment.

Aboriginal people and communities in particular stand to benefit greatly from increased sport participation. However, despite sport system advancement over the

past decade, the playing field between Aboriginal and mainstream participation remains uneven. Although many barriers to participation are similar for Aboriginal and mainstream participants alike, these barriers are amplified within the Aboriginal community due to cultural disconnect, a lack of cultural sensitivity within the mainstream system, and economic disparities.

A study commissioned by the Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, reveals a significant discrepancy between participation rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and youth. Aboriginal male (57.8%) and female (44.4%) children and youth have lower participation in coached sport activities compared to non-Aboriginal male (84.6%) and female (64.5%) children and youth. The low participation rate is due in large part to the barriers experienced by the Aboriginal population.

The National Policy on Aboriginal Participation in Sport calls for immediate action to reduce the number of widely recognized barriers to participation.



Barriers to Aboriginal Peoples' Participation in Sport

Awareness: Understanding of the benefits of sport and health risks associated with inactivity

Economic circumstance: Inability to afford the cost of registration fees, equipment and competition travel associated with sport.

Cultural insensitivity: Insensitivity to the cultures and traditions of Aboriginal Peoples.

Coaching capacity: Lack of Aboriginal coaches and/or non-Aboriginal coaches who are sensitive to Aboriginal cultures.

Distance: Remote communities with relatively small populations and logistics of travel to access programs, facilities, expertise and equipment.

Jurisdiction: The debate over government responsibility for financially supporting the delivery of sport programs in Aboriginal communities and in urban Aboriginal centres, as well as individual departments seeking horizontal cooperation on issues that cross a variety of departmental mandates.

Racism: Can alienate many Aboriginal Peoples by causing fear, anxiety and mistrust, ultimately serving as a barrier to their full participation.

Sport infrastructure: Insufficient access to adequate sport or recreation infrastructure.

BUILDING ON THE MOMENTUM

Although the work required to bring Aboriginal sport participation up to mainstream levels presents challenges, we can celebrate and build upon the success of the past decade. Our previous success is attributed to the commitment of Aboriginal agencies such as the FSIN and the MNS for their diligence in pressing the issue. The Government of Saskatchewan has also contributed by facilitating policy initiatives within Saskatchewan and in partnership with Sport Canada, the Population Health Agency of Canada, and other provincial and territorial governments. In addition, Sask Sport Inc., along with its global partners SaskCulture Inc. and the Saskatchewan Recreation and Parks Association Inc., has continued to play a facilitative role with all stakeholders to ensure that the issues of Aboriginal communities remains a priority.

These partners, as well as volunteer-based community organizations and individual leaders, have developed an

array of initiatives and programs for Aboriginal sport development. A list of programs is provided in Appendix A. Funding support provided by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, the Government of Canada, and First Nations and Métis agencies has enabled these programs to exist, grow, and evolve based on the needs of communities.

Sustaining and building upon our initial success and stakeholder relationships is critical for Aboriginal sport development. This strategy is predicated on the ongoing interest of committed stakeholders.

The magnitude of this issue is too great to undertake single-handedly – we must continue to engage the individuals, agencies, and communities who are committed to ensuring that Aboriginal people can benefit from the many positive attributes of sport participation.

The past decade has seen a large increase in Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population. Between 1996 and 2006, the population grew by 28%. During this same period, the non-Aboriginal population of the province decreased by 6%.

THE IMPACT OF THE SASKATCHEWAN LOTTERIES TRUST FUND ON ABORIGINAL SPORT DEVELOPMENT

The Aboriginal population is younger than the non-Aboriginal population. The median age of the Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan was 22 years in 2006, the youngest in Canada after Nunavut. The median age of Saskatchewan's non-Aboriginal population was 41 years in 2006. Since the inception of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund in the 1970's, lottery funding has been a significant source of financial support for the volunteer-driven, non-profit sport, culture, and

recreation organizations in Saskatchewan. Over the past four decades, the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation has also become the primary source of funding for sport, culture, and recreation initiatives in the province. Today, the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund invests approximately \$5 million annually to support Aboriginal sport, culture, and recreation development throughout the province.

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A CALL TO ACTION

The Sask Sport Inc. Four-Year Strategy for Aboriginal Sport Development "Building a Foundation for the Future" is a call to action. The strategy seeks to further mobilize a successful volunteer sport system in support of the Aboriginal community. It recognizes that this mobilization must occur in partnership with Aboriginal organizations and communities and in concert with the Government of Saskatchewan, global partners, and other primary stakeholders. The focus of the strategy is to build capacity within the Aboriginal community and draw upon the strengths of the mainstream system, with the ultimate goal of securing a foundation for future Aboriginal sport initiatives.



A VISION FOR ABORIGINAL SPORT

Our vision is clear and simple:

“Aboriginal people participate in sport to the extent of their interest and abilities.”

OUR MANDATE

- Inform, educate, and support partners, delivery agents, and participants;
- Provide programs that meet the unique needs of Aboriginal people and fill gaps within the mainstream systems;
- Advocate for the unique needs of Aboriginal people in a sport context;
- Facilitate bridges between systems and provide a gateway for mainstream interest in the Aboriginal community;
- Inform stakeholders in matters pertaining to Aboriginal sport and community development; and
- Provide a voice for Saskatchewan at national and inter-jurisdictional tables.

ASSUMPTIONS

Our strategy is based on the following assumptions:

- Extensive community development and capacity building is required before wide scale success can be achieved to increase Aboriginal participation in sport;
- Sport development within Aboriginal communities benefits the entire sport system;
- High performance Aboriginal sport development must be integrated with mainstream high performance systems, while also ensuring sensitivity to the unique needs of Aboriginal participants; and
- Saskatchewan is and should continue to be served by one sport system that is inclusive to the needs of all participants.

OUR APPROACH

To deliver upon our strategy, Sask Sport will:

- Engage and consult with key stakeholders on division activities;
- Facilitate the strengthening of one sport system through the involvement of Aboriginal interests within planning and policy development;
- Seek to align programs and services to ensure collaboration and avoid duplication;
- Monitor systems and programs for proper integration;
- Evaluate programs and measure outcomes; and
- Allocate resources to initiatives that provide the greatest leverage for improved capacity and participation.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following organizations are identified as primary stakeholders within Aboriginal sport development. These agencies have the greatest potential to support and influence Aboriginal sport development in Saskatchewan:

Government of Saskatchewan
Sport Canada
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
Tribal Councils
First Nations Communities
Métis Communities
District Associations for Sport, Culture and Recreation
Provincial Sport Governing Bodies
Sport, Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan
Municipalities (UACGP)
Saskatchewan Games Council
Coaches Association of Saskatchewan
Northern Community and Schools Recreation Coordinator Program
Aboriginal Sport Circle of Canada

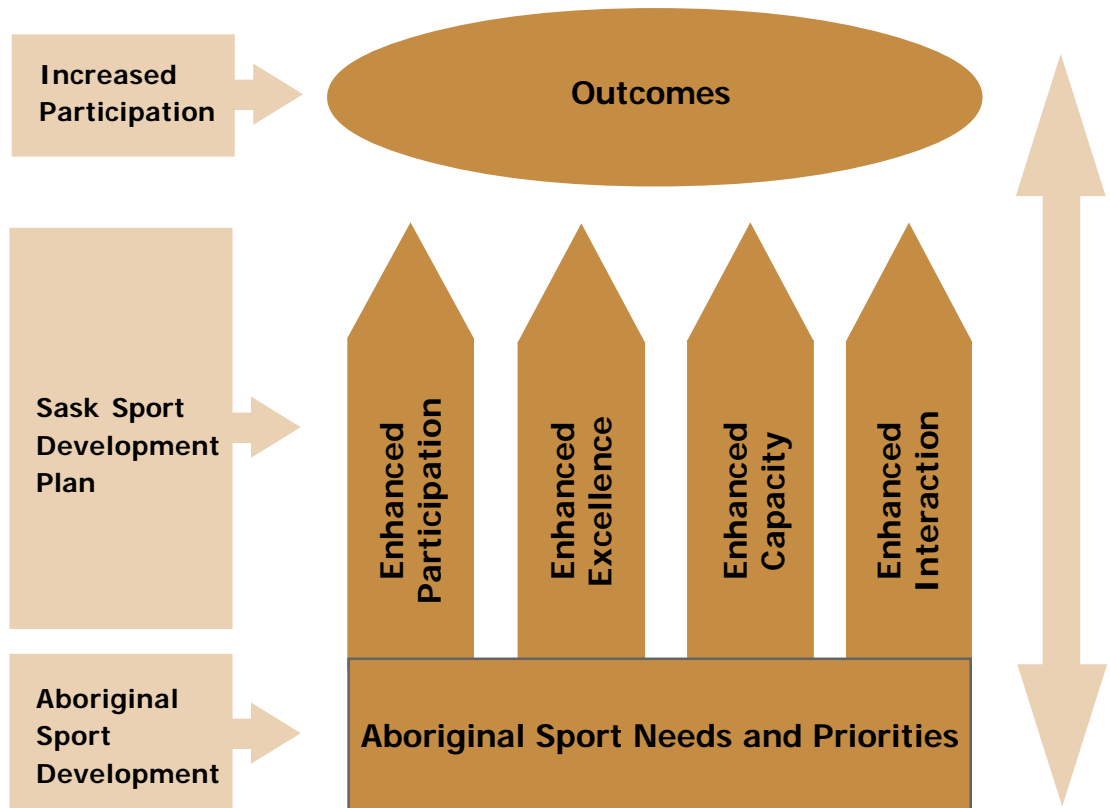
The following organizations and agencies may also be involved in the initiatives and programs within the Aboriginal Sport Strategy:

KidSport™ Saskatchewan
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan
First Nations University of Canada
Saskatchewan *in motion*
Gabriel Dumont Institute
SaskCulture Inc.
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.
Community Organizations



PLANNING MODEL

The Aboriginal Sport Strategy is aligned with the Sask Sport Inc. Forward Plans. The following model demonstrates that the needs and priorities of Aboriginal People inform Sask Sport Inc. planning within the context of the four sport development pillars: Enhanced Participation, Enhanced Excellence, Enhanced Capacity and Enhanced Interaction. The desired outcome or end point of the Forward Plans is consistent with the vision for Aboriginal Sport – Increased Participation. The two-sided arrow on the right demonstrates the evaluative process used to ensure that plans and initiatives are adjusted on an ongoing basis.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Aboriginal Sport Strategy is divided into three primary thrusts which align with the four pillars of the Sask Sport Inc. Forward Plans. Each strategic thrust is supported by a series of desired outcomes. Sask Sport Inc. action plans support the attainment of the stated outcomes.

1.0 Facilitate Integration and Build Internal Capacity

- 1.1 The Aboriginal strategy is integrated with provincial strategies, but remains distinct.
- 1.2 All Sask Sport Inc. staff regards Aboriginal sport development as integral and part of provincial sport development.
- 1.3 Sask Sport Inc. communications are inclusive of messages pertaining to Aboriginal sport.
- 1.4 Aboriginal sport initiatives receive the same corporate considerations as non-Aboriginal sport initiatives.
- 1.5 Sask Sport Inc. staff has clear direction with an expectation of measurable results.
- 1.6 Sask Sport Inc. staff has a customer service ethic with regard to Aboriginal service inquires. Relationships within the Aboriginal community are valued and nurtured.

2.0 Increase Participation through the Mainstream Sport System and Aboriginal Community Capacity Building

- 2.1 The mainstream sport system (i.e. PSGBs, Districts, etc.) accommodates and respects Aboriginal sport interests.
- 2.2 System-wide implementation of Long Term Athlete Development will benefit Aboriginal sport development.
- 2.3 Aboriginal sport leaders are known, supported, and provided with mentoring to support their success.
- 2.4 Aboriginal leaders are highly sought and receive support for involvement in broader community governance roles.
- 2.5 Aboriginal communities understand the value of participation and encourage all children and youth to get involved at introductory levels.
- 2.6 Schools are a sustainable mechanism to deliver participation opportunities to Aboriginal children and youth.
- 2.7 Organizations and communities with the greatest potential for successful programs are identified and supported.
- 2.8 Consultative support continues to be provided to Aboriginal initiatives.
- 2.9 The participation of Aboriginal girls and women is encouraged and sustained.
- 2.10 Cultural and recreational programming is encouraged for those who choose not to pursue competitive sport.

3.0 Sustain Participation through Appropriate and Targeted Excellence Programming

- 3.1 PSGBs and service delivery partners involved in the Aboriginal Excellence program successfully service the sport needs of Aboriginal people.
- 3.2 Successful sport programs and best practices are identified and promoted.
- 3.3 All certified coaches are provided with education through the Aboriginal coaching manual.
- 3.4 Elite Aboriginal athletes are identified and provided with ongoing support, such as financial assistance, to maintain involvement in their sport.
- 3.5 Elite Aboriginal coaches and officials are provided with advanced training and mentorship opportunities.
- 3.6 Aboriginal games programs evolve to become a valued opportunity for developing Aboriginal athletes and showcasing Aboriginal culture and traditions.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The Sask Sport Inc. Four-Year Strategy for Aboriginal Sport Development “Building a Foundation for the Future” provides a solid ground for the future of Aboriginal Sport in Saskatchewan. Aligned with the four pillars of the Sask Sport Inc. Forward Plans and the Canadian Sport Policy, the strategy puts forth three strategic thrusts: (1) facilitate integration and internal capacity, (2) increase participation through the mainstream sport system and Aboriginal community capacity building, and (3) sustain participation through appropriate and targeted excellence programming.

Upon release of the strategy, Sask Sport has initiated actions within each of the outcome statements provided within. Stakeholders and partners are already engaged in many of the stated initiatives.

The Aboriginal Sport Strategy is a call to action. The collective action and impact of all stakeholders will be greater than the sum of individual contributions; we must work together to enable a healthy foundation for the future of Aboriginal sport in Saskatchewan.



APPENDIX A

Summary of Aboriginal Programs and Initiatives Funded by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund

(Note: the programs listed are inclusive of sport, culture, and recreation initiatives, as these programs serve to build community capacity for greater participation in all three contexts.)

Community Grant Program (CGP)

The Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program supports sport, culture, and recreation activities. All allocations are made on a per capita basis with a higher rate for northern communities. The volunteer-driven Community Grant Program is co-managed by Sask Sport Inc., SaskCulture Inc., and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. Annual funding from the Community Grant Program is available to all communities in Saskatchewan including First Nations and northern communities.

Annual Funding FSIN

The lottery system provides approximately \$194,200 annually in core funding to the FSIN. The annual funding grant is designed to allow FSIN to address their unique needs within various priority areas. The focus of the grant is to enable direct support for sport, culture, and recreation initiatives, and to encourage linkages between the FSIN and the rest of the Lottery-funded system.

Aboriginal Community Sport Development (Aboriginal Participation Bi-lateral)

The Aboriginal Community Sport Development Program (ACSDP) is designed to increase the development of new sport opportunities for children and youth within the Aboriginal community, specifically in urban, rural, on-reserve, isolated, and northern communities. Through ACSDP, a community sport initiative grant program will provide support for equipment, league fees, facility access, volunteer development and other costs related to sport. The program will target Aboriginal children and youth ages five to fourteen.

Tribal Council Coordinator Program

The Tribal Council Coordinator Program provides funding to assist with employment and travel costs for a coordinator in each Tribal Council/First Nations Games Team throughout the province. The program aims to: increase the number of volunteers; increase participation opportunities; provide training opportunities; link existing agencies and resources; provide developmental, educational, and consultative support; and promote the benefits of participation.

First Nations Games Program

The lottery system provides approximately \$75,000 annually in funding (via the Saskatchewan Games Council) to the host community of the Saskatchewan First Nations Winter/Summer Games program. The annual funding grant is designed to assist and support the host community in its coordination of the First Nations Winter/Summer Game Program.

Métis Recreation Development Grant

The purpose of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. (S.P.R.A.) Métis Recreation Development Grant Program is to assist active S.P.R.A. members to develop recreation programs in the member's community. This grant focuses on the development of recreation opportunities for Métis people in Saskatchewan.

First Nations Members Recreation Grant

The S.P.R.A. First Nations Members Recreation Grant is provided to First Nations members of the S.P.R.A. The grant focuses solely on the development of recreation opportunities for the First Nations people of Saskatchewan.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park (SaskCulture Inc.)

As directed in the Lottery Agreement, Wanuskewin Heritage Park receives funds of \$100,000 annually. Wanuskewin is a specific example of an organization that supports the economic and social objectives of the province in order to benefit all Saskatchewan people, including First Nations and Métis people.

Artist in Residence

Through the Culture Section Trust, this program provides local, regional, and provincial organizations with a portion of the funds required to host an artist-in-residence in a community from six months to two years. These artists work within the community to assist in the development of their particular art form. The Saskatchewan Arts Board promotes, adjudicates, and evaluates the program through a contractual arrangement with SaskCulture Inc.

Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant

The Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership (AACL) Grant program aims to develop Aboriginal arts and culture leadership at the individual, group, and community levels. Through the AACL program, cultural opportunities are created that enhance skill development, personal growth, and positive lifestyles. The AACL program also increases the number of Aboriginal people who possess the skills and training to work with and support cultural programming. In addition, the program develops the organizations and cultural leadership needed to assess community needs, to build community linkages, and to effectively plan and implement cultural programs.

Capacity Building Grant

The Capacity Building Grant (CBG) program aims to build the capacity of organizations to respond to emerging needs in the cultural community and to support new initiatives/opportunities outside the current operations of the applicant. The intent of the CBG program is to complement rather than replace or duplicate existing support to culture; therefore, the program is particularly targeted to areas not already funded by conventional support systems.

Métis Cultural Development Fund (SaskCulture Inc.)

SaskCulture Inc. provides an administrative contract to the Gabriel Dumont Institute to deliver a community grant program. The program supports activities that preserve, strengthen, and transmit Métis culture and tradition. An emphasis is placed on children, building cultural leadership skills, transferring knowledge between generations, skill development, mentorship, and having fun. The activities of the community program encourage gathering, sharing, learning, celebrating, and developing Métis culture.

Festivals (SaskCulture Inc.)

The Festivals Grant Program provides operational funding to non-profit organizations hosting cultural festivals in Saskatchewan. While the operational funds provided by the grant are only a small portion of the budget of these events, the support is essential to enable the festivals to have a base of operation in place that can attract corporate sponsorship as well as grant dollars from other sources. Specific Aboriginal festivals funded through the grant include the Back to Batoche Festival and the John Arcand Fiddle Festival.

Gallery Grants (SaskCulture Inc.)

The Gallery Grant program provides operational support to art galleries throughout the province. The Saskatchewan Arts Board promotes, adjudicates, and evaluates the program through a contractual arrangement with SaskCulture Inc. Tribe and Sekewewak are two designated Aboriginal, artist-run centers that receive support through this program.

Multicultural Initiatives Fund (SaskCulture Inc.)

The Multicultural Initiatives Fund supports multicultural, First Nations and Métis initiatives and activities that pertain to cultural identity, intercultural understanding, and issues of social justice and harmony. The program supports both new and ongoing activities. Community groups, First Nations bands and Métis groups are eligible to apply.

Métis Community Sport Grants

Through the Sport Section Trust, the lottery system provides approximately \$72,100 annually in funding to eligible Métis community organizations. The funding assists Métis organizations to address their unique community needs in the development of amateur sport programming. The grant also encourages linkages between these organizations and the rest of the Lottery-funded system.

Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program

The purpose of the Urban Aboriginal Community Grant program is to increase access to and assist in the development of sport, culture, and recreation programs and leadership opportunities for First Nations and Métis people in designated urban centers. Fourteen communities participate in the program based on their high incidence of urban Aboriginal population. The program is annually and jointly funded by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) in the amount of \$810,000 (Lotteries \$190,000; CIF – Urban \$515,000; CIF – Leadership \$105,000).

Provincial Sport Governing Bodies – Targeted

Sask Sport Inc., through the Sport Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, provides core funding to PSGBs and multi-sport organizations for Aboriginal sport development. PSGBs and multi-sport organizations that are part of a government eligibility list are eligible to apply.

Provincial Sport Governing Bodies – Membership Assistance Program

Sask Sport Inc. provides funding through the Membership Assistance Program to enable PSGBs to allocate funds directly to their respective clubs, leagues, or other affiliated members. The funding is designed to increase the number of sport participants and the quality of sport development in Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal Sport Development Grant

Sask Sport Inc. provides funding to PSGBs to assist with the creation of a sport environment that enables Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan to experience and enjoy involvement in sport to the extent of their abilities and interests. The funding also aims to increase the number of athletes who perform consistently and successfully at elite levels of competition.

Aboriginal Excellence (Aboriginal Participation Bi-lateral)

Aboriginal Excellence strives to increase participation and leadership opportunities for Aboriginal athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers. The program aims to develop and prepare athletes for the North American Indigenous Games, the Canada Games, and for other provincial teams through talent identification, training programs, competition opportunities, and coaching advancement.

Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts

The Urban Youth Sport Initiative supports coordinators in municipalities that have a large number of youth at risk. The success of the program in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert has led to the extension of the program to include another community in 2008-09. The Urban Youth Sport Initiative provides municipalities with the financial support needed to employ a coordinator in the district, with the goal of developing sport programming specifically for youth at risk.

KidSport™

The Sport Section Trust provides approximately \$280,000 annually in funding to support the KidSport™ program. The mission of KidSport™ Saskatchewan is to increase the accessibility to sport opportunities for financially disadvantaged children so that these children may achieve mental, physical, social, and personal development through participation in community sport programs. Approximately 80% of KidSport™ participants (children and youth) are Aboriginal.

Provincial Cultural Organizations

SaskCulture Inc. allocates funds to eligible Provincial Cultural Organizations (PCOs) that serve the arts, heritage, multicultural and cultural industries. Grants currently support the annual operations of PCOs as well as approximately 500 associated provincial, regional, and local groups through project and member funding. The diverse cultural organizations in the province are part of a tremendous cultural infrastructure that empowers Saskatchewan's cultural community to deliver a wide selection of activities and services throughout the province. Many PCOs have funding programs that offer grants related to the organization's particular cultural discipline.

Aboriginal Coaches and Officials Program (Aboriginal Participation Bi-lateral)

The Aboriginal Coaches and Officials Program is committed to increasing the number of qualified Aboriginal coaches and officials in Saskatchewan. The program helps to create and enhance a dynamic, leading edge sport environment that enables Aboriginal people to experience and enjoy sport.

Northern District for Sport, Culture and Recreation (NDSCR)

The lottery system provides approximately \$639,500 annually in core funding to the NDSCR. The annual funding is designed to allow the organization to address their unique needs within various priority areas. The focus of the annual grant is to enable direct support for sport, culture, and recreation initiatives, and to encourage linkages between the organizations and the rest of the lottery-funded system. The NDSCR has a direct impact on northern communities, many of which have a large First Nations and Métis population.

Northern Community and Schools Recreation Coordinator Program

This project provides funding of \$35,000 per year per community to support the employment of a recreation coordinator. Approximately 24 northern schools receive funding for this program. The purpose of the Northern Communities and School Recreation Coordinator Program (NC&SRCP) is to enhance the quality of life in northern communities through the provision of community based sport, culture, and recreation programs after school, in the evenings, on weekends, and at community and school special events. Community School Recreation Coordinators facilitate the delivery of sport, culture, and recreation programs, establish the school as a major asset of the community, and work in partnership with other community based organizations that provide sport, culture and recreation programs, services and facilities. The lottery funded amount for this program is approximately \$930,000 annually (which includes a leadership component). Annual applications are accepted through the NDSCR.

Northern Games and Cultural Festival

The NDSCR provides an annual allocation of funding for the Northern Games and Cultural Festival to the festival's host community. The funding assists the community to stage the northern Saskatchewan event, which is held every four years. The initiative receives an estimated funding of \$70,000 annually through the lottery system.