

News Release For immediate release – June 18, 2024

Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club supports Indigenous cultural education

In June of 2021 the Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club entered a Memorandum of Understanding with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, committing funding and ongoing assistance for a new school facility to replace the existing St. Frances Cree Bilingual School, slated to open for the 2025-26 school year. The Club's support aims to enhance Indigenous performing arts programming at the new school and promote reclamation and revitalization of Indigenous language and culture for youth in Saskatoon. At an event held on June 18, 2024, the Club presented GSCS with the third of five \$20,000 payments committed in the MOU, the first two payments having been presented in September of 2022 and May of 2023.

In their remarks to those in attendance, Club Co-chairs Peggy Clark and Betty Ann Arscott noted that over recent years the Club has made a major effort to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and its commitment to the new school has really deepened its resolve to respond to those calls.

The Club's commitment in the MOU involves not only funds, but an ongoing working relationship with the students, educators and administrators at the school, reflecting its understanding that these kinds of relationships are what reconciliation is about.

"Artistic expressions of culture and heritage bring people together," said Diane Boyko, Board of Education chair for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. "The support of the Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club will help equip the new school to give students comfort and confidence in expressing who they are as Indigenous people. We're very thankful to have partners like Nutana Rotary."

For additional information, and photograph for use by media, contact:

Jim Gillis, Director of Service Projects and St. Frances Working Committee for Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana 306-270-5541 or jimgillis@sasktel.net.