

# 2021 Social Policy Research Centre

Annual Report  
2020 – 2021

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK  
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA



SOCIAL  
POLICY  
RESEARCH  
CENTRE  
**SPRC**



University  
of Regina



Faculty of  
**SOCIAL**  
WORK

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# DIRECTOR'S GREETINGS



While COVID-19 has brought us another interesting year with most of us continuing to work from home, isolated from colleagues and students, we have had many exciting developments at the SPRC in the last year. In the fall, we were sad to say goodbye to Courtney Stange, our Research Administrator as she left for another position at the university. We were thrilled to welcome Hannah Nguyen as our new Research Administrator. Hannah comes to us with a wealth of research knowledge, and we have been so grateful to have her. Our Research Administrators are truly the nucleus of our centre, and I want to give my deepest thank you to Hannah for her work with the SPRC.

Despite the pandemic, the SPRC had a very successful year of virtual Lunch & Learns showcasing the research of Faculty, community members, and students. We were especially thrilled to see attendance from across campus and the broader Saskatchewan community. We look forward to continuing this series virtually in the fall and hope to eventually return to in-person events as well. We also hosted a successful panel event for students on research ethics. Despite all of the challenges presented by the global pandemic, our Research Associates have continued to be incredibly busy, conducting research safely, publishing articles and reports, and securing grants.

In the upcoming year, we aim to consider a few changes. We are currently revisiting our membership criteria and are hoping to bring on more students and former faculty members as Centre Affiliates. Additionally, we plan to revisit the Centre's name this summer to consider alternatives that better reflect the diversity of our Faculty's research. Once we have made these important changes, we will work to develop our own strategic plan to align with the Faculty of Social Work's forthcoming strategic plan. We look forward to continuing our work with the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies to collaborate on ways to support research and research dissemination in our faculty. We will also be welcoming a number of new Faculty members to the FSW this summer and look forward to supporting their research through the SPRC. I am excited to see what the next year brings and wish everyone continued health and well-being.

**DR. KARA FLETCHER**

# about us

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), housed within the Faculty of Social Work (FSW), supports social work research that addresses issues faced by vulnerable, marginalized and oppressed groups. Our community-engaged research utilizes both Indigenous and Western research approaches with specific attention to social action that will inform changes in policy, practice, and education for a sustainable future.



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**W O R K**

# research principles

To facilitate social policy and practice research that promotes social justice and fosters individual, family and community development

To support social justice and equity research that focuses on marginalized and oppressed groups

To support research that focuses on community engagement and research-to-action through informing changes in policy and practice

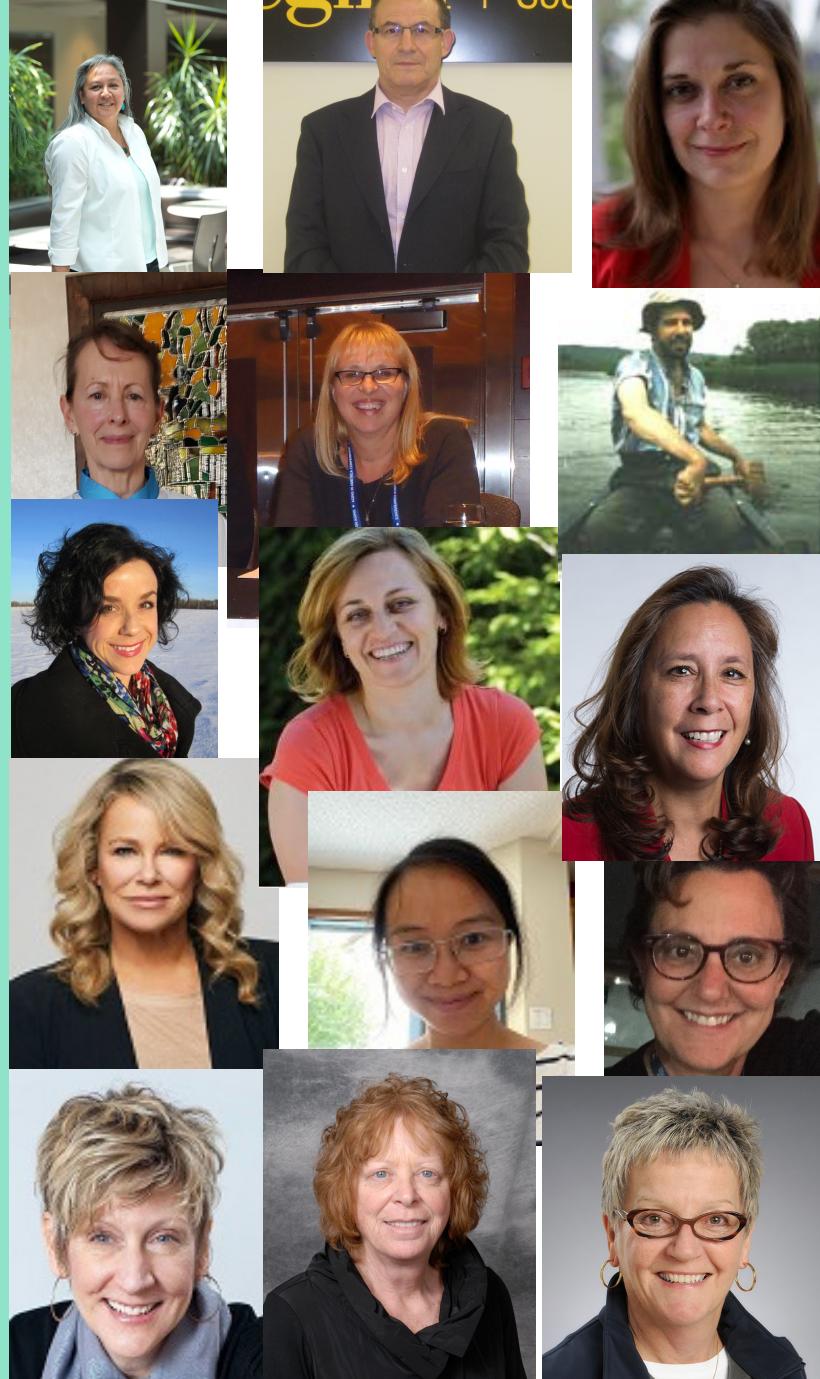
# who we are

## Director

Dr. Kara Fletcher

## Research Administrator

Hannah Nguyen



## Research Associates

Dr. Lise Milne	Dr. Darlene Chalmers
Dr. Raven Sinclair	Dr. Amanda Gebhard
Dr. Randy Johner	Dr. Ailsa Watkinson
Dr. Fritz Pino	Dr. Gabriela Novotna
Dr. Nuelle Novik	Dr. Miguel Sanchez
Dr. Bonnie Jeffery	Dr. Michele Sorensen
Dr. Cathy Roke	Dr. Doug Durst
Dr. Charles Gyan	Dr. Funke Oba

## visit us



[www.uregina.ca/socialwork/sprc/](http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/sprc/)



@ UofR\_SPRC

## our research assistants

Natassia D'Sena  
Ashley Balsom  
Soumya Shukla  
Kristen Pawliw  
Katya MacDonald  
Priscilla Gardipy  
Hanah Molloy  
Priscila Ferreira da Silva  
Erin McLeod  
Taylot Hill

Arinade Olaniyi  
Samantha Zerafa  
Bosede Akinola  
Stacey McHenry  
Danielle Chartier  
Cody Fogg  
Pamela Reimer  
Lin Ge  
Peta Gay Watson-Jones  
Donna Dumitrescu

Amanda Mihalicz  
Ritu Patel  
Uwakwe Kalu  
Gary Mah  
Alberta Muembo  
Rayna Fisher  
Olufemi Ajiboye  
Jacqueline Anderson  
Julian Wotherspoon  
Chantelle Priel

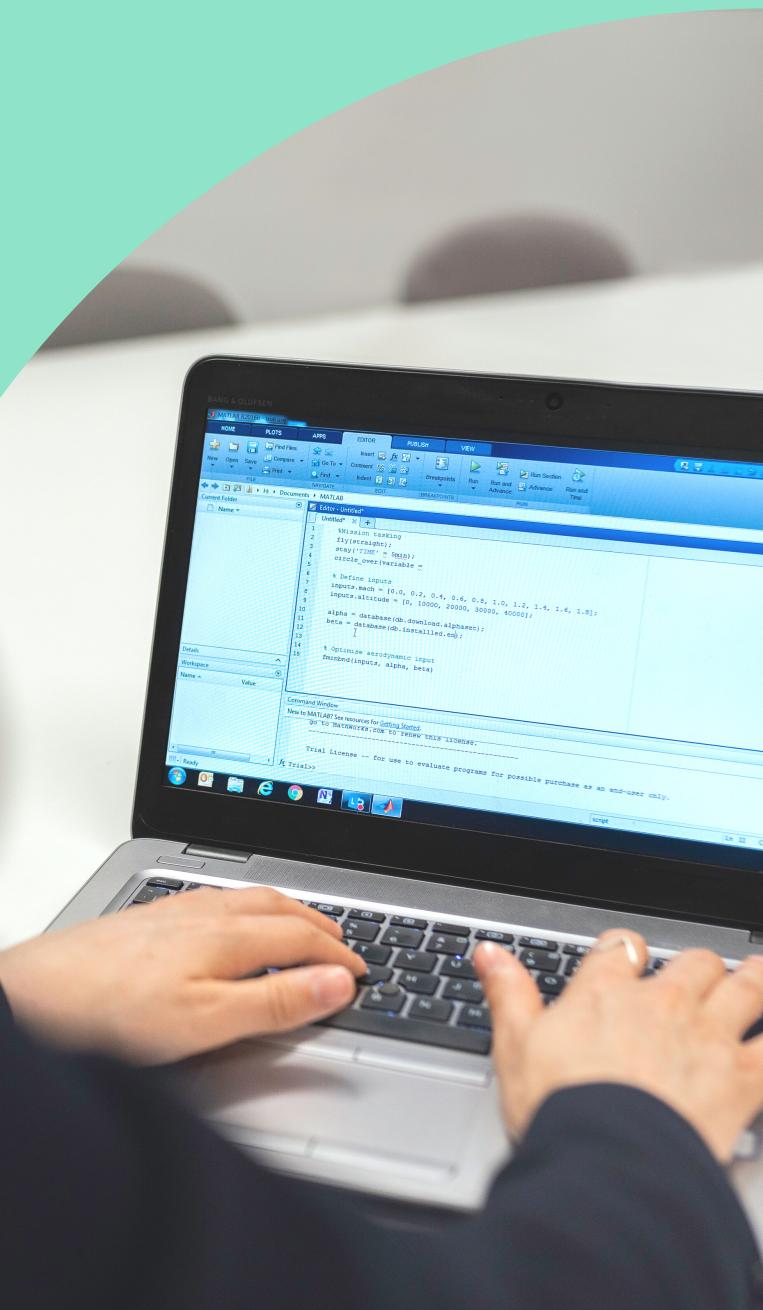
# 2020-2021 at a Glance

**\$2,533,935**

## Combined New Research Dollars

## Key Challenges

## Shift to work-from-home setup Research restrictions due to Covid-19



20

## newly funded projects

39

peer-review publications  
and book chapters

30

research assistant  
hired and trained

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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The SPRC has four main components outlined in our foundation document to evaluate our performance. The following four components encompass the requirements of the University of Regina's policy on annual reporting for faculty-based research centres.

## Level of Research Activity

## Impacts on Scholarship

**Research Funding:  
Grants & Contracts**

**Research publications,  
presentations, and  
workshops**

## Impacts on Research Capacity

## Impacts on Society, Practice, and Policy

**Research opportunities for students & development of innovative teaching tools**

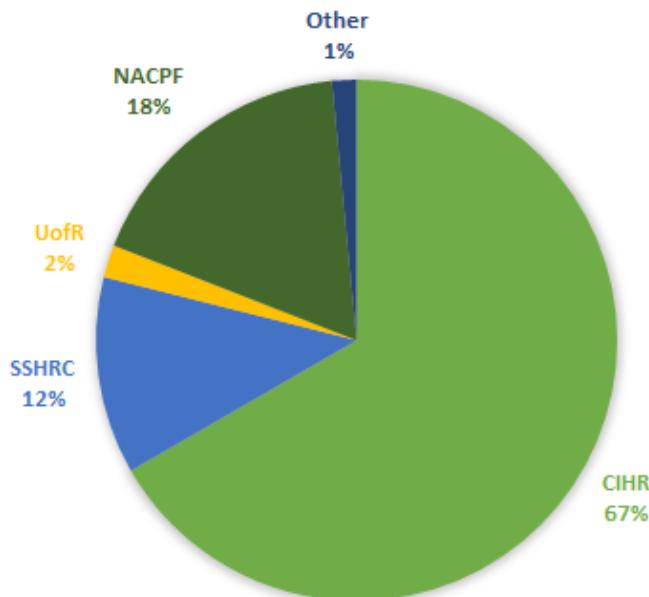
**Partnerships,  
projects, and media coverage**

# Level of Research Activity

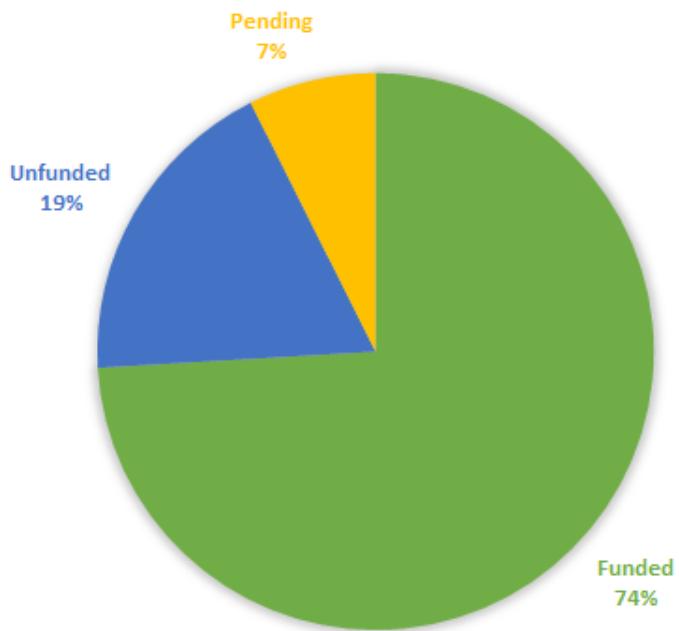
01

**MAY 1, 2020 - APRIL 30, 2021\***

**\$2,5333,935**  
**NEW RESEARCH DOLLARS**



**27**  
**APPLICATIONS**



**18**  
**ONGOING/RECENTLY COMPLETED GRANTS**

(\*) We exercise voluntary reporting of research activities. Our data may not capture the full number of grant applications submitted. We continue to encourage our Research Associates to share all research activities with us so we can continue to support them.

# RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant Description	\$	Location
Fletcher, K. (PI). <i>The Impact of COVID-19 on Intimate Relationships</i> . Mitacs Globalink Award. 2021	<b>12-week research assistant support</b>	
Fletcher, K. (PI), Milne, L., & Novotna, G. (Co-Is). <i>Stories to Tell: A Pilot Podcast Project for Youth with Lived Experience of Crystal Meth Use in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan</i> . SSHRC Insight Development Grant. 2020 – 2022	<b>\$74,935</b>	<b>SPRC</b>
Fletcher, K. (Co-I). <i>COVID-19 and Frontline Healthcare Workers: knowledge synthesis and dissemination</i> . RBC Training fellowship, Centre for Research on Children and Families, McGill University.	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>McGill U</b>
Milne, L. (PI) & Fletcher, K. (Co-I). <i>Supporting Workers to Build Resilience in Trauma-Impacted Children: A Saskatchewan Pilot Study in a Residential Program</i> . SSHRC Insight Development Grant. 2020 – 2022	<b>\$54,452</b>	<b>SPRC</b>
Milne, L. (Co-PI). <i>Translating knowledge for child welfare organizations across the Canadian Prairies: Managing the impacts of COVID-19 on the mental health of children, families, and workers</i> . CIHR Knowledge Synthesis Grant: COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity in Mental Health and Substance Use. 2020 – 2022	<b>\$47,342</b>	<b>SPRC</b>

# RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant Description	\$	Location
Milne, L. (Saskatchewan Representative). <i>Data Development for Canadian Child Welfare Information System (Technical Reports) – Saskatchewan</i> . Public Health Agency of Canada. Jan 2021 – March 2021	\$29,000	Public Health
Sinclair, R (Lead). <i>Northern Prairie Spirit Youth Cultural Continuity</i> . National Crime Prevention Strategy, Public Safety Canada	\$400,000	SPRC
Gebhard, A. (PI), Pino, F. (Co-I). <i>School Settlement Work during COVID-19: A Community-Based Appreciative Inquiry</i> . SSHRC Individual Partnership Engage Grants (PEG) COVID-19 Special Initiative	\$21,998	SPRC
Gebhard, A. (PI). <i>Critical and Anti-oppressive Research on School Bullying and Violence: A Scoping Review</i> . University of Regina President's Seed Grant	\$5,000	SPRC
Gebhard, A. (PI), Pino, F. (Co-I). <i>Existing and Exacerbated Educational Inequities for Newcomer Students in COVID-19: School Settlement Workers Respond</i> . Community Research and Action Fund (CRA Fund) - University of Regina	\$4,000	SPRC
Pino, F. (PI). Paths to Inclusion: Social Support Needs of 2SLGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Members of the University of Regina. 2SLGBTQ+ Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity Research Microgrant University of Regina. 2021-2022	\$4,850	SPRC

# RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant Description	\$	Location
Pino, F. (PI). <i>Understanding the Needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Residents of Regina's Heritage Neighborhood.</i> Community Research and Action Fund (CRA Fund) – University of Regina	\$4,000	SPRC
Pino, F. (Co-I). <i>Mental Health, Substance Use, and Service Needs Access and Delivery among Two-Spirit, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and other Men who have sex with Men in Manitoba.</i> CIHR – Operating Grant: COVID-19 Mental Health and Substance Use Service Needs and Delivery Funding 2020-2021	\$175,000	U of M
Pino, F. (Co-I). <i>Gender and Sexual Identity Expressions: Experiences of LGBTQ+ Filipino Immigrants in Saskatchewan.</i> President's Research Seed Grant & SSHRC Explore Grant, University of Regina	\$4,912	SPRC
Novotna, G. (Co-I). <i>The project explored the experiences of immigrants in the region of Durham.</i> SSHRC - Partnership Grant	\$25,000	Trent U
Novik, N. (PI). <i>Implementing a Collective Impact Approach in Providing Supports and Services for Older Adults with Dementia and their Care Partners.</i> Mitacs Globalink Research Internship		Research Internship

# RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant Description	\$	Location
Jeffery, B. (PI) & Novik. N. (Co-I). <i>Open Access Publishing Contract: Undergraduate Textbook - Rural, Remote and Northern Social Work Practice: Canadian Perspectives</i> . Open Textbook Creation and Adaptation Grant, University of Regina.	\$23,350	SPHERU
Jeffery, B. (Co-I). <i>Maximizing Saskatchewan Breast Cancer Screening Program Rates</i> . SHRF, Establishment Grant.	\$102,660	SPHERU
Sorensen, M. (Co-I). <i>Retracing, Reimagining and Reconciling our Roots</i> . SSHRC Insight and Development Grant	\$255,260	U of R
Rocke, C. (Co-I). <i>Abinoonjees Nikanenim: Delivering MH Services to Youth Living in Island Lake Anishhininew Nations</i> . CIHR Project Grant.	\$1,296,676	U of M



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# Impacts on Scholarship

02



**Scholarly Publications, Book Chapters,  
and Academia Reports**



**Conference Presentations & Invited Talks**

(\*) We exercise voluntary reporting of research activities. Our data may not capture the full number of publications/presentations. We continue to encourage our Research Associates to share all their research activities with us so we can continue to support them.

# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

**Fletcher, K.**, Beveridge, M. (submitted) *Rethinking relapse and recovery: The need to reconsider addiction language in treatment for substance use and misuse*. Journal of Drug Issues.

King, J., Tupper, S.M., **Fletcher, K.**, Brose, K., Goodridge, D. (2021). *The current practice of social work in pain management: A scoping review on chronic disease*. Social Work in Health Care. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00981389.2021.1878318>

King, J., **Fletcher, K.**, Tupper, S.M., Brose, K., Goodridge, D. (2020). *Pain management in bleeding disorders care: perspective of Canadian Social Workers in Hemophilia Care*. Journal of Hemophilia Practice. 7(1). Doi: 10.17225/jhp00163.

**Fletcher, K.** (2020). *A systematic review of the relationship between child sexual abuse and substance use issues*. Journal of Child Sexual Abuse. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2020.1801937>

Akesson, B., **Milne, L.**, Canavera, M., Meyer, E., & Reinke, C. (in press). *Changing public perceptions and supporting improved working conditions for the social service workforce: Expert perspectives from a global Delphi study*. International Journal of Social Welfare (ID IJSW-2341-OA).

**Milne, L.**, Collin-Vézina, D., & Wekerle, C. (revise and resubmit, April 2021). *Diverse trauma profiles of youth in group care: A cluster analysis*. Child Abuse & Neglect (ID CHIABUNEG-D-20-01108).

**Milne, L.** & Reid, N., Priel, C., Prado, S., Fisher, R., & Ramiz, R. (November 23, 2020). *2020 Canadian Institutes of Health Research Rapid Response Knowledge Synthesis: Translating Knowledge for Child-Serving Organizations Across the Prairies: Managing the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Mental Health of Children, Families, and Workers*. Final Report. 105pp. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52068.html>

# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

**Milne, L.** & Reid, N., Prado, S., Priel, C., & Fisher, R. (June 23, 2020). 2020 *Canadian Institutes of Health Research Rapid Response Knowledge Synthesis: Translating Knowledge for Child Welfare Organizations Across the Prairies: Managing the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Mental Health of Children, Families, and Workers*. Initial Report. 81 pp. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52079.html>

**Milne, L.**, and **Fletcher, K.** (2020). *Experiences of students in University of Regina Faculty of Social Work and Justice Studies field practicum seminars*. University of Regina Distance and Distributed Learning: Unpublished. 51 pp.

**Milne, L.**, Reid, N., Priel, C., & Prado, S. (February 2021). *The Digital Connections Hub: Translating knowledge to support child-serving organizations in managing the impacts of COVID-19 on the mental health of children, families, and workers*. Saskatchewan Social Worker: The Self-Care Edition - Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, 32(1), 18-19.

Williamson, L., Dell, C., **Chalmers, D.**, Cruz, M., & DeGroot, P. (2021). *Recognizing the human-animal bond for enhancing zooeyia among PTSD-diagnosed veterans who have a service dog and problematically use substances*. Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin. (Manuscript Accepted).

Williamson, L., Dell, C., Osgood, N., **Chalmers, D.**, Lohnes, C., Carleton, N., & Asmundson, G. (2021). *Examining changes in posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms and substance use among a sample of Canadian veterans working with service dogs: An exploratory patient-oriented longitudinal study*. Journal of Veterans Studies, 7(1), 113. <https://journal-veterans-studies.org/articles/10.21061/jvs.v7i1.194/>

Gibson, M., Williamson, L., Henwood, G., **Chalmers, D.**, & Dell, C. (2021). *Perceptions and use of alcohol and medical cannabis among Canadian military veterans living with PTSD*. Journal of Veterans Studies.7(1), 59-70. <https://journal-veterans-studies.org/articles/10.21061/jvs.v7i1.200/>

# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

**Chalmers, D.**, Dell, C., Dixon, J., Rohr, B., Dowling, T., & Hanrahan, C., (2020). *Recognizing animals as an important part of helping: A survey exploring knowledge and practice among Canadian social workers*. Critical Social Work, 21(1). <https://ojs.uwindsor.ca/index.php/csw/article/view/6224/5102>

Hanrahan, C. & **Chalmers, D.** (2020). *Animal-informed social work: A more-than-critical practice*. In C. Brown and J. MacDonald (Eds.). Critical clinical social work: Counter storying for social justice. Canadian Scholars' Press.

Oliver, B. & **Chalmers, D.** (2020). *Reflexive photography: Using transformative pedagogies to develop critical practitioners*. In J. Friberg, C. Visconti, & S. Ginsberg (Eds.), Evidence-based education in the classroom: Examples from clinical disciplines. (In Press). Slack Inc.

Allen, W.S, **Gebhard, A.**, & **Pino, F.** (under review). *Navigating the Brick Wall: School Settlement Workers Respond to Exacerbated Inequities for Newcomer Students in COVID-19*. *Intersectionalities: A Global Journal of Social Work Analysis, Research, Polity, and Practice*. Special Edition: Pandemic Social Work: Practice, Education, and Activism in the Time of COVID

**Gebhard, A.**, Novotna, G., Carter, H. & **Oba, F.** (under review). *Racism plays a disappearing act: Discourses of denial in one university campaign in higher education*. Whiteness in Education.

**Gebhard, A.** (2020). *Power Relations, Knowledge Productions, and Teaching Against Oppression on the Canadian Prairies: A Self-Study*. *Studying Teacher Education*. 16 (2), 204-221, DOI: 10.1080/17425964.2020.1742105

**Gebhard, A.** (2020). *Rethinking Pink Day: Ending the bullying catch-all*. Our Schools, Our Selves: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Summer/Fall, 23–25

Jones, C., **Johner, R.**, & Lozhkina, A., (Revised and re-submitted). *Voice, Communication Technology, Disability, and Art: An Interdisciplinary Scoping Review*. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*.

# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

**Pino, F.** (2021). *Torn apart: Racialized feelings and the ethics of doing research with one's own community*. In R.A. Torres, & D. Nyaga (Eds.), *Critical research methodologies: Ethics and responsibilities*. (pp 33-43). PA Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Publisher, Studies in Critical Social Sciences Series. <https://brill.com/view/title/59361>

**Pino, F.** (forthcoming). *Queer and trans theory: Understanding “gender passing” among trans Filipino women*. In S.S. Shaikh & B.A. LeFrançois, & T. Macías (Eds.), *Social Work Theory & Practice*. Fernwood Publishing.

**Pino, F.** (2020). *Miss ACAS beauty pageant: A brief note on love, community, and beauty*. In J. Gallos Aquines (Ed.), *Home is in the body: LGBTQ2IA+ Filipinx Femme, North of the 49th Parallel*. (2 pages; volume 1). Winnipeg, Manitoba: ANAK Publishing Worker Cooperative. <http://anakpublishing.ca/HomeIsInTheBody.html>

Mfoafo-M'Carthy, M, Moasun, F, **Novotna, G** & Christensen, D. (2020). *The typologies and nature of mental health, addiction and problem gambling systems integration in Ontario* (under review). *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

Wyatt, B & **Novotna, G** (2021). *Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs: A Scoping Review*. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*. 21:2, 119 - 138. DOI: 10.1080/1533256X.2021.1893952

**Sanchez, M & Hunter, G.** *Saskatchewan Child and Family Poverty Report*. 2020 Saskatchewan Report Card.

Johnson, S., Bacsu, J., McIntosh, T., **Jeffery & B.**, Novik, N. (May 13, 2021). *Competing challenges for immigrant seniors – Social isolation and the pandemic*. *Healthcare Management Forum*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08404704211009233>

Bacsu, J., Johnson, S., McConnell, M. E., Viger, M., Muharjarine, N., Hackett. P., **Jeffery, B.**, Novik, N., & McIntosh, T. (Accepted, 2020). *Stigma reduction interventions of dementia: A scoping review*. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 41(2), forthcoming 2022.

# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Muhajarine, N., Adeyinka, D., **Jeffery, B.**, McIntosh, T., **Novik, N.**, Pisolkar, V., Coomaran, V., Alam, S., & Kallio, N. (May 2021). *Research Brief: Mental health and COVID-19 in Saskatchewan 2* (March 2020 to February 2021). Saskatoon/Regina: Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU). [https://spheru.ca/images/covid19-images/mh\\_researchbrieffeb1-8\\_final13052021.1.pdf](https://spheru.ca/images/covid19-images/mh_researchbrieffeb1-8_final13052021.1.pdf)

Muhajarine, N., Adeyinka, D., **Jeffery, B.**, McIntosh, T., **Novik, N.**, Alam, S., Pisolkar, V., Coomaran, V., & Kallio, N. (April 2021). *Infographics: Mental health and COVID-19 in Saskatchewan* (March 2020 to February 2021). Saskatoon/Regina: Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU). <https://spheru.ca/images/covid19-images/spheruinfographics21apr2021final.pdf>

**Jeffery, B., Novik, N.**, McIntosh, T. & Mahani, A. (2021). *Dementia knowledge survey*. Regina/Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit.

McIntosh, T., Mahani, A., **Jeffery, B., & Novik, N.** (April 2021). *JSGS Policy Brief: Enhancing social inclusion for older adults living with dementia: A community-based collective impact approach in rural Saskatchewan*. University of Regina: Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU). ISSN 2369-0224 (Print). ISSN 2369-0232 (Online). <https://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/research/publications/policy-brief/enhancing-social-inclusion-for-older-adults-livings-with-dementia.php>

Muhajarine, N., Adeyinka, D., **Jeffery, B.**, McIntosh, T., **Novik, N.**, Pisolkar, V., & Kallio, N. (January 2021). *Research Brief: Mental health and COVID-19 in Saskatchewan*. Saskatoon/Regina: Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU). [https://spheru.ca/covid-19/adultmentalhealth/mh\\_research-brief\\_final\\_21012021.pdf](https://spheru.ca/covid-19/adultmentalhealth/mh_research-brief_final_21012021.pdf)

Balkwill, D., Englok, K., & **Novik, N.** (2020). *Dads need help too: Understanding the needs of young fathers*. Regina, SK.: Family Service Regina – Agency Report.

# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Garbutt, B., & **Novik, N.** (2020). *Improving access to mental health services in rural Saskatchewan: An evaluation report*. Yorkton, SK: SIGN Walk-In Counselling Clinic – Agency Report.

van Tol, T., Englot, K., & **Novik, N.** (2020). *Sex trafficking in Canada: Functional awareness and suggested strategies for service providers*. Regina, SK: Family Service Regin – Agency Report.

**M. Sorensen.** (2021) *Women, Hospitality, and the Academic Office: Ruminations on the Rug*. In E. Lyle & S. Mahani (Eds.) Sister scholars: untangling issues of identity as women in academe. DIO Press

J.Bazzul & **M.Sorensen.** (2021) *Guess What? Reality is Already Queer! A Return to Environmental Education as Creative Ontologies*. In Russel & Joshua (Eds.) Queer Ecopedagogies: Explorations in Nature, Sexuality, and Education. Springer International Publishing.



# LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS

**Fletcher, K.**, McHenry. S. *Saskatoon Health Authority mental health and substance abuse treatment: What is working and what can we improve?* Saskatchewan Health Research Showcase. November 16th, 2020.

**Fletcher, K. & Watkinson A.M.** *Death is more than just medical: Social Work's Role in Medical Assistance in Dying: Findings from a cross-Canada scan.* Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development. Calgary, Alberta. Virtual Conference. July 2020.

King, J., **Fletcher, K.**, Tupper, S., Brose, K., Goodridge, D. *Finding the missing pieces: Education, advocacy, and research in pain management of chronic diseases.* Poster Presentation. Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development. Calgary, Alberta. Virtual Conference. July 2020.

**Fletcher, K. & Watkinson, A.M.** (accepted, canceled due to COVID-19). *Considering the role of social workers in Medical Assistance in Dying: Results from a National Study.* Canadian Association of Social Work Education. Western University, London Ontario. June 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** (accepted, canceled due to COVID-19). *Bringing research to direct practice: A Social Work Research Club in Saskatoon Saskatchewan, 5 slides in 5 minutes.* International Conference on Practice Research, Melbourne Australia. May 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** *How We Say It Matters: Rethinking Language Around Substance Use, Research with Impact Series.* University of Regina. April 20, 2021.

**Fletcher, K.** *Understanding harm reduction.* Invited speaker, Humboldt Association of Social Workers. March 16, 2021

**Sinclair, R.** *Distinguished Indigenous Speakers Series.* Hosted by the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia. May 2, 2021.

# LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS

**Gebhard, A.**, Allen, W.S., & **Pino, F.** (accepted). *School Settlement Work during COVID-19: A Community-Based Appreciative Inquiry*. Canadian Society for the Study of Education Conference, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Edmonton, Alberta. June 2021

**Gebhard, A.**, Allen, W.S & **Pino, F.** (accepted). *Taking a critical turn in Appreciative Inquiry: Lessons learned and Insights Gained in Community-Based Research*. Seventeenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana Champaign, Illinois. May 2021

**Gebhard, A.**, Allen, W., & **Pino, F.** “*The issues we encounter are bigger than ourselves...But we are very determined:*” *School settlement work during COVID-19*. 23rd Metropolis Canada Conference: Migrants, Migration, and Mobility: COVID-19 Response and Recover. March 22, 2021

Allen, W., **Gebhard, A.** & **Pino, F.** *Centering the Voices of Settlement Workers who Support Newcomer Youth in Schools: Critical Insights*. Metropolis Canada Summit: The Economic and Social Impact of Covid-19 on Immigration, Integration, and Settlement in Canada. November 2020.

Reid, L., **Novotna, G.**, **Gebhard, A.**, **Oba, F.**, Hogarth, K., McNeil, B., Luhanga, F., Kalu, U., Carter, H. *Racialized Students Navigating University Programs in Helping Professions as the Spaces for Social Justice, Inclusivity, and Goodness*. [Paper Presentation]. International Federation of Social Workers Online Conference 2020. The 2020 to 2030 Social Work Global Agenda: Co-Building Social Transformation. April 14-17, 2021.

**Gebhard, A.**, Carter, H., Novotna, G. & Hogarth, K. *An Analysis of Race and Equity Discourses across three University Programs*. Canadian Society for the Study of Education Conference, London, ON. 2020

**Gebhard, A.**, Allen, W., & **Pino, F.** *School Settlement Work in COVID-19*. Manitoba SWIS Partnership Meeting, Newcomers Employment, and Education Development Services Inc. April 23, 2021

# LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS

**Gebhard, A.** *Discourse Analysis: A Methodology and a Method.* University of Regina, Qualitative Research in Social Work Education. March 1, 2021.

**Gebhard, A., Pino, F.,** Allen, W.S. *Existing and Exacerbated Educational inequities for Newcomer Students: School Settlement Workers Respond.* Social Policy Research Centre Lunch & Learn Series, University of Regina. November 24, 2020.

Kalu, U., Carter, H., Reid, L., **Gebhard, A., Oba, F.,** McNeil, B., Luhanga, F., Hogarth, K. & **Novotna, G.** *Racialized Students' accounts of Diversity in their Quest of becoming Helpers in predominantly white spaces.* Social Policy Research Centre Lunch & Learn Series, University of Regina. September 22, 2020.

**Gebhard, A. & Novotna, G.** et al. *Students' Accounts of "Diversity" and "Inclusion" at Predominantly White Post-secondary Institutions.* Paper presented at International Social Work Education and Development (ISWED) Online Conference: Human Relationships – Keys to Remaking Social Work for the Future. April 15-17th, 2021.

**Novotna, G.** *Conducting Ethical Research with Vulnerable Populations.* Social Policy Research Centre Lunch & Learn Series, University of Regina. November 18, 2020.

Bacsu, J., Johnson, S., Viger, M., McIntosh, T., **Jeffery, B., Novik, N., &** Hackett, P. (2020). *Supporting rural seniors' engagement in health research, planning and policies: Findings from a rural cognitive health study.* Virtually CAHSPR: Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research Conference 2020. Online, May 28, 2020. <https://cahspr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Bacsu-152.pdf>.

Williams-Roberts H, **Jeffery B.,** Muhajarine N, **Novik N.,** McIntosh T. (2020, November 16-18). *Reducing isolation in older adults: A scoping review of interventions* [Poster presentation]. Saskatchewan Health Research Showcase [virtual], Saskatchewan. November 16-18, 2021. <https://www.skresearchshowcase.com/e-posters>

# LIST OF CONFERENCES & TALKS

**Jeffery, B., & Novik, N.** *Dementia supports in rural Saskatchewan: Implementing a collective impact approach.* Social Policy Research Centre Lunch & Learn Series, University of Regina. March 2021

Muhajarine, N., McIntosh, T., **Jeffery, B.**, Adeyinka, D., **Novik, N.**, Pisolkar, V., & Kallio, N. (2021). *Mental health and COVID-19 in Saskatchewan.* COVID-19 and Public Health Forum, April 21-22, 2021. [virtual presentation]

**Jeffery, B., & Harazny, M.** (2020). *Interventions to Enhance Social Inclusion of Older Adults with Dementia in Saskatchewan.* Presented at Saskatchewan Rural Dementia Action Research Summit, November 9, 2020. [virtual presentation]

**Jeffery, B. & Wolfe, A.** (2020). *Social Isolation in People with Dementia.* Presented at University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine, Continuing Medical Education Webinar on Older Adults, November 4, 2020, [virtual presentation]

**Sorensen, M & Rocke, C.** *Move to “Decolonize” & “Indigenize” Higher Education: A Critical Examination of Western Canadian Universities and the Trouble with Terms.* Social Policy Research Centre Lunch & Learn Series, University of Regina. April 27, 2021.

**Rocke, C.** *Special Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.* Town Hall. President's Office, University of Regina. June 12, 2020.



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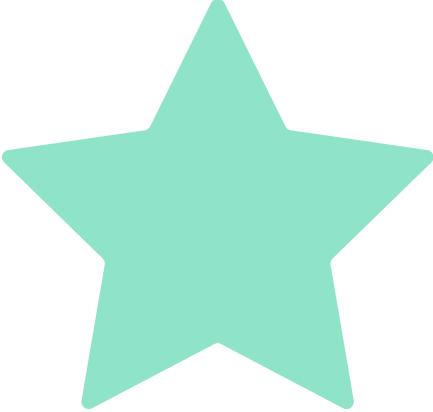
# Impacts on Research Capacity

03



30

**Research Assistants Hired and Trained**



**Paid to Research Assistants**



## MEET OUR RESEARCH ASSISTANT CHANTELLE PRIEL

I started my position as a Research Assistant (RA) with the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) in May 2020 under the supervision of Dr. Lise Milne. At this time, I was a Social Work student in search of full-time summer employment. I graduated in December 2020 with my BSW, and am now a registered Saskatchewan social worker with a full-time contract under the supervision of Dr. Nathalie Reid through the Child Trauma Research Centre (CTRC), and still maintain regular connection with Dr. Milne and the SPRC.

When I started as a student RA with the SPRC, I was given many opportunities that I noticed were more advanced than opportunities commonly available to students. The pay was admirable for a summer student position and continued to inflate with credentials, the hours were plentiful and flexible, and my superiors were incredibly understanding of mental and physical health conditions that may occasionally affect job performance. I immediately felt a connection with my work team, and this proved to stay consistent.

My supervisor(s) were and are constantly looking for development opportunities to support my social work research skills. Under the SPRC, my supervisors never limited my potential due to the fact that I was a student. I have always been given the opportunity to have my work credited rather than exploited through incorporating my name and presence in all authored publications and virtual presentations, provincially and nationally. All of the opportunities I was given were granted to me with consistent guidance from my supervisor(s), SPRC, and the Faculty of Social work. As a student, being an RA in this environment enhanced my educational capacity to: conduct and articulate literature reviews and co-author research publications; develop a deeper understanding of the process of social work research; and allowed me to develop qualities of professionalism. Being allowed to be this involved in each research project has allowed me to feel more prepared for my Master's thesis and future social work research projects where I may occupy a larger role. I felt trusted with extension projects of my own while having guidance available at any time for roles including program evaluation (i.e., focus groups, qualitative interviewing, statistical analysis, etc.), grant writing, knowledge translation, and report writing which has allowed me to feel confident knowing I can take these guided skills and apply them to my own research projects in the future.

As a student throughout 2020, the SPRC was an excellent support system to accommodate my job at the CTRC, through both their policies and their staff. As a registered social worker with a full-time contract, the U of R provides satisfying salary, benefits, and continued professional support. Being an RA through the SPRC has been a fulfilling experience that has opened many doors for me in my continued social work development.

# MEET OUR RESEARCH ASSISTANT ERIN MCLEOD



The experience working as a research assistant has helped me in my current career and my future career in a number of ways. Currently I work in private practice and developing research skill is great in terms of preparing for sessions. When I'm tackling a client issue that may be new, or perhaps needs a new approach, research skills are an asset. Along with this has been the fact that I've been able to access the U of R library as an employee which allows me access to information I wouldn't otherwise have. Also, the content of some of the topics I've researched (such as working with Aging populations) has really helped me to understand my clientele better and be more informed of the issues they face.

As well, it has been a long term goal of mine to teach Social Work courses. Working as both a TA and a research assistant to develop courses with Dr. Jeffery has really given me great experience should I take on a sessional teaching role. I will have some idea of how to develop a course and the amount/type of work that goes into it. As well, just being able to have access to Dr. Jeffery to discuss various aspects of teaching, course development, etc. has been incredibly valuable in guiding my decisions and working towards the goal of teaching. Without the engagement with faculty and with the U of R, I'd be lost in my day-to-day career (which is great! But limits my scope of practice and lens of social work), however this research assistant opportunity keeps me engaged in the practice of social work in new and different ways which ultimately benefits my practice and my skill set as a social worker as a whole.



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# Impacts on Society, Practice and Policy

04



**Lunch & Learn Presentations**



**Media Engagements**



**Research Partners**

# SPRC Hosted Events

Lunch & Learns were held each month from September to April through Zoom. These events allow the community to learn about current research projects, preliminary results, and allow researchers to disseminate this knowledge to the wider community.

## Bring your lunch & learn with us

Every third Tuesday from September to April

Zoom meeting ID: 975 2722 3531

Passcode: 357650

## Recorded past events

<https://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/sprc/Resources/Recorded-Events.html>

# LUNCH & LEARN



09

**Presentations**



11

**Speakers**



**People Attended**

# LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

**Fletcher, K.** *Five tips for the tired heart to make connections this Valentine's Day.* University of Regina homepage. Feb 12, 2021.

<https://www.uregina.ca/external/communications/feature-stories/current/2021/02-12.html>

**Fletcher, K.** *The need to say it nicer: The language we choose when we talk about substance use matters.* The Conversation Canada. Jan 4, 2021.  
<https://theconversation.com/the-need-to-say-it-nicer-the-language-we-choose-when-we-talk-about-substance-use-matters-151055>

**Fletcher, K.**, Brown, J., Shaw, J., Goodridge, D. *Research Report: Acute Advance Requests: A Pilot Study.* Final Report Prepared for Dying with Dignity Canada. Unpublished, 29pp. 2020

**Fletcher, K., Milne, L.** *Research Report: Experiences of Students in University of Regina Faculty of Social Work and Justice Studies Field Practicum Seminars.* Final Report for University of Regina Distance and Distributed Learning Committee: Unpublished. 51pp. 2020

**Fletcher, K.** "What's wrong with reproductive healthcare in Saskatchewan?" *Op ed. Women for Saskatchewan.* <https://womenforsaskatchewan.ca/kara-fletcher-whats-wrong-with-reproductive-health-care-in-saskatchewan/>. Sep 28, 2020

**Fletcher, K.** "Love in the time of coronavirus: 5 tips for communicating with your partner while stuck at home." The Conversation Canada.  
<https://theconversation.com/love-in-the-time-of-coronavirus-5-tips-for-communicating-with-your-partner-while-stuck-at-home-135638> . Apr 12, 2020

**Fletcher, K.** *Five tips for the tired heart to make connections this Valentine's Day.* YouTube Video created by the University of Regina Communications team. 2020

**Fletcher, K.** "#UofRegina Cares: Tips for Relationship Survival During Covid-19." YouTube Video created by University of Regina Communications team. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLYMC-o6iUQ>

# LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

**Fletcher, K.** Podcast Interview. *Language and Substance Use, Bunnyhugs and Mental Health*. May 13, 2021.

**Fletcher, K.** Piper, Lynette. *Shining a light on the experience of addiction*. Saskatchewan Discourse Magazine, University of Regina, <https://www.discoursemagazine.ca/shining-a-light-on-the-lived-experience-of-addiction-in-saskatchewan/2021/05/09/>

**Fletcher, K.** Giesbrecht, Lynn. *'Language matters:' Presentation urges rethink of drug use perceptions*. <https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/language-matters-presentation-urges-rethink-of-drug-use-perceptions>

**Fletcher, K.** CBC Saskatchewan, *Blue Sky, Valentine's Day*, Interview. February 12, 2021.

**Fletcher, K.** CBC Saskatchewan. *The Morning Edition*, Interview. January 12, 2021

**Fletcher, K.** *Coping over the holidays*. CTV News Regina COVID-19 Special. Taped Interview. December 11, 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** *'I'm not ready to leave': Regina woman being evicted from residential program after months of addiction recovery*. CTV News Regina requested interview for comment. <https://regina.ctvnews.ca/i-m-not-ready-to-leave-regina-woman-being-evicted-from-residential-program-after-months-of-addiction-recovery-1.5214662>. Dec 2, 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** *Getting along with your partner while working from home*. CTV NEWS Regina at 5pm. December 1, 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** *Crystal Meth Podcast Project*. Afternoon Edition on CBC Radio Saskatoon 94.1FM. September 23, 2020.

# LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

**Fletcher, K.** *Podcast project hopes to share experiences of Prairie people impacted by crystal meth.* CBC online, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/podcast-project-hopes-to-share-experiences-of-people-impacted-by-crystal-meth-1.5729703> . Sept 21, 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** *U of R podcast will pass the mic to youth affected by Saskatoon's meth crisis* Star Phoenix.

<https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/u-of-r-podcast-will-pass-the-mic-to-youth-affected-by-saskatoons-meth-crisis> . September 10, 2020

**Fletcher, K.** *Federal funding awarded to U of R researchers delving into pressing social, environmental, technological, and economic issues.* University of Regina homepage. September 2, 2020.

**Fletcher, K.** *Couples and COVID-19.* 105.9 The Region, What She Said Radio, Toronto, 13 May 2020.

**Milne, L.** Salt Lake Tribune, Utah, U.S. *Former students at Utah troubled-teen centers say their reports of sex abuse were ignored.* December 27, 2020. <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2020/12/27/former-students-utah/>

**Milne, L.** Discourse Magazine. *Digital Connections.* December 14, 2020 <https://www.discoursemagazine.ca/digital-connections/2020/11/09/>

**Milne, L.** Regina Leader Post. *Website launched to help youth, caregivers through COVID.* December 11, 2020.

<https://leaderpost.com/news/saskatchewan/website-to-help-youth-caregivers-through-covid-19-launched>

**Milne, L.** Academica Group TOP TEN. *URegina launches new initiatives to support children, youth, caregivers during COVID-19.* December 11, 2020. <https://www.academica.ca/top-ten/uregina-launches-new-initiatives-support-children-youth-caregivers-during-covid-19>

# LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

**Milne, L.** Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation. Digital Connection: New online resource helps child services workers support the mental health and well-being of vulnerable children and adolescents. December 9, 2020  
<https://www.shrf.ca/stories/categories/impact> &  
<https://www.shrf.ca/post/digital-connection>

**Milne, L.** University of Regina Homepage. U of R's Child Trauma Research Centre launches Digital Connections Hub to support the well-being of children, youth, families, and service providers in the Prairies  
<https://www.uregina.ca/external/communications/releases/current/nr-12092020.html>

**Milne, L.** Education News Canada. U of R Researchers working to support child welfare organizations in Saskatchewan. August 5, 2020.  
<https://educationnewscanada.com/article/education/level/university/1/847607/u-of-r-researchers-working-to-support-child-welfare-organizations-in-saskatchewan-and-the-prairies.html>

**Milne, L.** Regina Leader Post & MSN.com. Digital hub to help child welfare organizations keep up with COVID-19 research. August 4, 2020.  
<https://leaderpost.com/news/saskatchewan/digital-connection-hub-created-to-help-children-in-care-through-pandemic>

**Milne, L.** Saskatoon Star Phoenix. Child Welfare Workers Get Access to Best Practices. August 4, 2020.  
<https://www.pressreader.com/canada/saskatoon-starphoenix/20200804/281590947905297>

**Milne, L.** University of Regina Homepage. U of R researchers working to support child-welfare organizations in Saskatchewan and the Prairies. July 23, 2020. <https://www.uregina.ca/external/communications/feature-stories/current/2020/07-23.html>

**Chalmers, D.** Youtube video. A PAWSitive Support Project for Veterans with PTSD and Eho Problematically Use Substances – Year 2. April 21, 2021.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXFobyPqtGo>

# LIST OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

**Sinclair, R.** Interactive map allowing Sixties Scoop survivors to share stories. Orilliamatters. <https://www.orilliamatters.com/midland-news/interactive-map-allowing-sixties-scoop-survivors-to-share-stories-2554576>

**Novik, N.** CTV News – Gina Martin – Interview (Novik – co-investigator SPHERU Project – MH and Pandemic). April 30, 2021. <https://regina.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2193042>

**Novik, N.** CJAD 800 & TSN 690 – Montreal NOW With Aaron Rand & Natasha Hall – interview. (Novik – co-investigator SPHERU Project – MH and Pandemic). April 26, 2021.

**Novik, N.** Print coverage in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix and Regina Leader Post – Lynn Giesbrecht – interview: Pandemic takes its toll on young adults mental health. (Novik – co-investigator SPHERU Project – MH and Pandemic). April 26, 2021.

[https://thestarphoenix.pressreader.com/@Sally\\_Machibroda/csb\\_izb8qh0hyt7tym-fe-pBMF2nmaVuIHA7bHweitUVUeFIMC2ffyO\\_lZ9VD6EzEpDu](https://thestarphoenix.pressreader.com/@Sally_Machibroda/csb_izb8qh0hyt7tym-fe-pBMF2nmaVuIHA7bHweitUVUeFIMC2ffyO_lZ9VD6EzEpDu)

**Novik, N.** CBC Radio News – Garth Materie – Afternoon Edition – Interview (Novik – co-investigator SPHERU Project – MH and Pandemic). April 23, 2021.

**Novik, N.** Print coverage in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix – Zak Vescera – interview: Mental health in province spiraling down as COVID lingers. (Novik – co-investigator SPHERU Project) January 6, 2021.

**Novik, N.** CBC Radio News – Julia Peterson – interview: Sask. anxiety, depression rates higher during COVID-19: researchers: New study identifies mental health impacts of COVID-19 (Novik – co-investigator SPHERU Project). December 18, 2020

# OUR SELECTED RESEARCH PARTNERS



Child Trauma  
Research Centre



RESOLVE  
Saskatchewan



McGill University

SSAIC

Saskatoon Sexual Assault  
& Information Centre



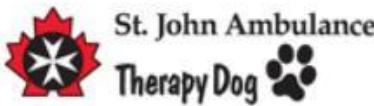
Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Social Services



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES  
OF WESTERN MANITOBA  
FOUNDATION INC.



Corrections  
Service Canada



Alzheimer Society  
SASKATCHEWAN  
Learn More [Live Well](#)



**SAISIA**  
Saskatchewan Association of  
Immigrant Settlement and  
Integration Agencies



City of  
Yorkton

**SPHERU**

SASKATCHEWAN POPULATION HEALTH AND EVALUATION RESEARCH UNIT