



# In your **community.**

2023 Spring Newsletter

## Helping Members in Challenging Times.

The Village of Buffalo Narrows and the surrounding area was under a state of emergency in late May, faced with a mandatory evacuation order due to the proximity of forest fires. People were forced to leave their homes and face the unexpected costs of travel and accommodations in larger city centers like Regina, Saskatoon, and Lloydminster.

“We knew our members needed access to extra money quickly, so we set up a \$500 overdraft option for any impacted member who needed it, no credit check necessary,” says Innovation VP Member Advisors, Chad Gartner. An overdraft is attached to a basic chequing account to make sure additional money is readily available without the need to make transfers. The interest rate is also considerably lower than that of a credit card. “933 people took advantage of the special offer. It meant so much to our entire staff group knowing we could make a small difference during such a stressful time.”

“I am extremely proud of Innovation’s fast response to this situation and the care they demonstrated for not only our staff but for our affected membership,” says Innovation Manager Member Advisors Holly Congrove. “Hearing our members’ stories and the expressions of appreciation for the help was an emotional experience for me, and nearly brought me to tears on more than one occasion. Our members are why we are here, why we do what we do. Seeing Responsible Banking™ in action and the difference it can make to people in need is one of the reasons I love coming to work every day.”



**Buffalo Narrows Staff Members**  
Eva Misponas, Reuben Akpama, and Callie Chartier

It was also our privilege to donate \$4,000 each to the Village of Buffalo Narrows, the Village of Dillon/ Buffalo River Dene Nation, and the Village of Île-à-la-Crosse. “The Île-à-la-Crosse council is looking into purchasing air purifiers for the elderly to help with air quality,” says Shawna Jardine, Innovation Marketing Specialist - Community. “It truly warms my heart knowing our donation is helping fantastic people in need.”

We also were able to donate \$500 to the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs for food and water and \$5,000 to the Alberta Wildfires Red Cross Appeal. Our Red Cross donation tripled to \$15,000 after matching donations.

Our Buffalo Narrows staff is thrilled to be serving members in person again. Please reach out if you need us.

## In this issue:

- Assisting Buffalo Narrows
- Refer a friend
- 2022 Innovation highlights
- Board Election results
- Picnic in the Park recap
- Community give snapshot

## Have you considered referring a friend?

You might think to mention a fantastic hair stylist, massage therapist, or restaurant to a friend, but have you ever thought to refer a friend to Innovation? Here are just a few advantages you can share with someone you care about:

- **Free banking.** They could save as much as \$360/year in bank fees with our No-Fee Bank Account. Even Interac e-Transfer® services are free.
- **Member Rewards.** Members just earned another ~\$1 million in May! Your friend can earn profit sharing dollars just by banking with us.
- **Community Support.** Your friend can feel amazing knowing their credit union shares profits with the communities we serve. Doing business with us makes a difference in people's lives!

And, if you refer a friend right now, **you could earn \$50 and so could your friend!\***

Scan our QR Code or visit our website to learn more.

Thanks again for doing business with us!



## 2022 Innovation Highlights!

Thank you for attending our 2023 Annual Meeting in April! In case you missed it, here are some highlights of another successful year, thanks to you!

### Member Rewards

# \$3,344,504

back to you!



### Concern for Community

# \$494,539

back to communities!



## Stability & Growth



# Successful Board Candidates

Innovation held a Board of Directors election this year that featured a total of 10 outstanding candidates! Successful candidates for District 1 are **Peter Brown** and **Bruce Sack**. Successful candidates for District 2 are **Mike Davis** and **Russ Siemens**.

We'd like to thank Board member Bryon Zanyk for his dedicated service. His term ended April 28, 2023.

**Peter Brown**



**Bruce Sack**



**Mike Davis**



**Russ Siemens**



## Picnic in the Park

Thank you to everyone who could join us June 4th at our 42nd Annual Picnic in the Park in Swift Current, SK!

The “family favourite” event featuring food and beverages at old-fashioned prices, free stage entertainment, free games and activities, as well as community displays and booths, was postponed the last few years due to COVID-19. Reviving this Swift Current staple was something that simply felt necessary.

“It’s one of our favourite annual events because it brings thousands of smiling faces together to enjoy a day of affordable fun,” says Innovation Marketing Specialist, Britt Ruest. “It was extra special this year after our brief hiatus. Our board, management, and staff had such a wonderful time conveying how much we appreciate our membership.”

# Community snapshot.



## Innovation Indigenous Arts Partnership Project

One of our latest partnerships we are incredibly proud to be a part of is the Battlefords Big Brothers & Big Sisters and Concern for Youth's Innovation Indigenous Arts Partnership Project (IAPP). The Innovation (IAPP) is a community youth program where Indigenous friends and neighbours can learn more about art, culture, language, and history in small group activity settings. As a token of gratitude for our involvement, youth from the project created a dreamcatcher. We have installed this beautiful work of art at our North Battleford advice centre.

## Supporting Growth & Education

Watching people learn and prosper (while having fun) is one of our favourite privileges. Join us by spreading the word about some of the fantastic opportunities youth (and adults, in the case of scholarships!) can take advantage of this spring.

- **Scholarships.** If you know of a student who needs help with education costs, minus the hassle of writing that dreaded scholarship essay, send them our way! They can enter to win 1 of 4 monthly \$1,000 scholarship draws: <https://www.innovationcu.ca/community/scholarships.html>
- **Camp Kindling.** Youth can master skills in teamwork, leadership, co-operation, and communication. And have fun doing so! Register soon for a Camp Kindling date. We are sponsoring four full registrations in 2023 and yours could be one of them: <https://www.innovationcu.ca/community/camp-kindling.html>
- **Swift Current Comprehensive High School Business Club.** We were honored to judge the SCCHS Business Club Case Competition that helps build financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills.



David Kim  
May Scholarship Winner