



2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



Wascana Centre
a place for you

APRIL 1, 2016 - MARCH 31, 2017

Wascana Centre Authority

Board of Directors 2016-17

Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council
(Five Directors)

Wayne Clifton
Russ Marchuk
Richard Murray
Al Nicholson
Rodney Sieffert

Appointed by the resolution of the City of Regina
(Three Directors)

Mayor Michael Fougere – Chair
Councillor Mike O'Donnell
Councillor Barbara Young

Appointed by the Governors of the University of Regina
(Three Directors)

Dr. Vianne Timmons
Dale Schoffer
Nelson Wagner/Kim McKechney

Your guidance and leadership are valued and appreciated.

Management and Staff

Chief Executive Officer:
Bernadette McIntyre

Chief Operations Officer:
Mike Mamona

Chief Financial Officer:
Michelle Paetsch

Manager of Infrastructure:
Patrick Coulthard

Manager of Forestry & Horticulture:
Ron McEwen

Manager of Human Resources:
Ranae McKenzie

Manager of Safety:
Jim Morgan

Manager of Maintenance:
Nelson Quevillon

Manager of Communications & Events:
Ryan Whippler

Executive Assistant:
Elizabeth Hill



Vision ... To be a place of recreation and beauty for all to enjoy throughout the seasons – the pride of Saskatchewan.

Values ... Caring, Integrity, Teamwork, Innovation

Chair's Message

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he hard work and dedication of staff at Wascana Centre Authority provided Reginans with a wonderful 2016 in the park.

Most significantly, the Authority released the updated Master Plan in May. This is the most vital tool involved in the operation of the Centre, guiding future development of landscape and institutional spaces.

Recognizing the principles upon which Wascana Centre was founded, the update reflects the extensive feedback, public consultation, and website surveys.

In many ways, the 2016 Master Plan takes us back to our roots, embracing the prairie landscape in a big way by identifying areas where we can expand a "low maintenance" landscape. This will better reflect the natural prairie from which the city and the Centre grew. This will help further enhance areas that will continue to receive "high maintenance," such as the Legislature gardens. The Master Plan has also helped fuel infrastructure work that is currently being executed, such as building new trails, improving pathway lighting, and upgrading washrooms.

A special project carried out last year was the renovation of the Lakeshore Totem Pole. A staple of the park for more than 45 years, the son of carver Lloyd Wadhams of the Nimpkish Indian Band performed extensive work on the totem, restoring the entire pole and adding new wings and antennae.

We learned late in 2016 that our efforts to upgrade the Waterfowl Park Display Ponds, home to Wascana Centre's injured and captive waterfowl, will be aided by a grant from the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program. These federal dollars will help continue this revitalization work, which began earlier in the year with a major clean-up of the area. This will help ensure the Display Ponds remain a place for the public to interact close-up with our feathered friends.

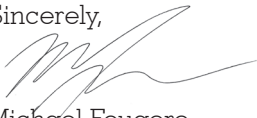
This year also set the table for one of the most significant developments in the history of Wascana Centre, as the board approved the land use for an extension of the University of Regina's College Avenue Campus. The construction of new building, situated on land donated by the City of Regina, will provide a home for Conexus Credit Union to consolidate their business operations. It will also house a multitude of other uses, including a much-needed business incubator and common space that will be shared with Darke Hall for a variety of programming. This is a transformational project that will provide capital for the revitalization of the other College Avenue Campus buildings, ensuring that several Heritage buildings are protected into the future.

We closed out 2016 with a bang, hosting a special New Year's Eve celebration, *Countdown to Canada's 150: New Year's Eve in Regina*. Indoor and outdoor activities held at the Conexus Arts Centre, Saskatchewan Science Centre, and Wascana Centre gave Reginans an all-day fun-fest that featured multicultural and indigenous performances, magicians and comedians, crafts, and outdoor activities. This event gave people an idea of what could be included in our special 150th Canada Day celebrations, which are sure to be remembered for years to come.

These are all significant developments, but Wascana Centre also continues to do what it has always done: provide a space for visitors to get closer to nature and appreciate what that intimacy can offer. From learning opportunities like the Junior Naturalist Program to any number of self-guided tours to the special visit of Sacred Heart School students that wrote to me about their concerns around light pollution, Wascana Centre is a place where we can convene with the natural world and be reminded of its many splendors.

I offer my utmost gratitude and appreciation to the staff of Wascana Centre Authority for working so hard to create a space that thousands of Reginans and visitors from all over the world can enjoy and call their own. As we embark on Wascana Centre's next chapter, we can all be proud of the work that has taken place in this irreplaceable asset for so many generations.

Sincerely,



Michael Fougere
Chair, Wascana Centre Board of Directors



CEO Message



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ascana Centre's origins date back to the late 1880s when the federal government and the CPR built an earth dam across Wascana Creek to create a 65-hectare reservoir, which became Wascana Lake. Upon the creation of the Province of Saskatchewan in 1905, our first Premier, Walter Scott, a true visionary, acquired a 68-hectare site south of the reservoir to be the seat of government and the home of the Legislative building. In 1906, the City of Regina designated the 18 hectares of land, north of the reservoir between Albert and Cornwall streets as a park - the original Wascana Park. As Dr. Riddell notes in his history of Wascana Centre, "these actions by the provincial government and the City were the beginnings of an imaginative and far-sighted plan."

By May of 1913, care of a Frederick Todd landscape plan, nearly 11,000 trees and shrubs had been planted on the grounds surrounding the Legislative Building – the beginning of the finely developed area we know today. The first Master Plan was developed by Thomas Mawson in 1913 and the master planning rigor has continued through to today, with the unveiling of the latest Master Plan in May 2016.

Wascana Centre evolved over more than 112 years, through three lake deepening projects, significant landscape development, government and university growth, the expansion of recreational and cultural opportunities and the preservation of conservation areas. Wascana Centre is known internationally as a beautifully landscaped park area surrounding a 120-hectare lake located in the heart of the City of Regina, Saskatchewan's capital. This 930-hectare parkland development on the prairies, is home to the Legislative Building and other government buildings, the MacKenzie Art Gallery, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, the Conexus Arts Centre, the Saskatchewan Science Centre, Sask Polytechnic, the University of Regina, several recreational facilities and many important commemorations, monuments and art pieces.

The vision, foresight and guidance provided by the existing Board of Directors and those who have served over the decades have developed Wascana Centre into a special place for the people of Saskatchewan now and in the future. Their dedication and determination are to be applauded and appreciated for creating this legacy for us and future generations to enjoy.

Over the years, hundreds of dedicated staff have been stewards of the land within Wascana Centre, working hard to ensure this special place is safe and beautiful for all to enjoy. It has been my privilege and honour to work alongside our dedicated staff.

Donors, volunteers, event organizers, educators, researchers and patrons have all played a positive role in the development and utilization for Wascana Centre. Thank you for your generous support, now and in the future.

The vision for Wascana Centre has served Saskatchewan well for over a century, it is up to all of us to ensure it thrives for another 100 years and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Bernadette McIntyre".

M. Bernadette McIntyre
Chief Executive Officer

Operations Report

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t was another successful year at Wascana Centre Authority (WCA). Because of good planning, great problem solving, scheduling and exceptional teamwork of Wascana Centre Authority managers, Wascana Centre is looking wonderful and is staying the jewel of the City! The operational team has worked together to ensure the Centre is the focus of attention and a place of pride for all to use and enjoy.

WCA updated the logo in 2016. The standardization of the Aspen leaf logo and the branding of the Centre is reflected as street signage is replaced. This branding is starting to make an impact on how WCA is being identified as "Wascana Centre". WCA has also installed new gateway signage that incorporates the Aspen Leaf logo and will assist in identifying Wascana Centre boundaries. By using the WCA Aspen Leaf logo throughout the Centre it has provided a sense of presence for the public and employees. This initiative is helping Wascana Centre in becoming more recognizable and visible each day.

Public safety is a priority for WCA and by installing new LED lights along pathways and retro fitting old inefficient lights with new LED lighting has not only enhanced our pathways but will save on operating costs for years to come. A project to install 13 new lights along the upgraded path from the marina going north toward Wascana Drive was the latest project that has provided the entire west lake pathway system with some type of lighting, making the paths a safer place to walk. WCA has taken advantage of the SaskPower LED light bulb rebate program and bought approximately 1,500 LED light bulbs to replace the existing CFL bulbs currently being used in the iconic globe lights that are throughout Wascana Centre.

The recapping of existing asphalt paths and paving crusher dust pathways has also provided the public with safe walking surfaces. The recapping and paving of pathways is an on-going project and will continue based on the resources available.

A project worth noting consisted of a major undertaking to rejuvenate and update the public washrooms. This project included fixing and upgrading the flooring, fixing all the stall doors and walls, and painting the interior with graffiti proof paint. This has provided a brighter, cleaner look inside the washrooms. The plumbing was maintained and fixtures upgraded providing a level of confidence that fixtures will work when required and reduce customer complaints. Also to note that all of these washrooms have new outside drinking fountains with water bottle filling stations. All five, seasonal public washrooms are now upgraded.

Wascana Centre is looking wonderful and is staying the jewel of the City!



Wascana Centre Authority has a number of service depots throughout the Centre. These service depots are in multiple locations and provide support for the field staff. WCA staff that work from these service depots are responsible for the Centre's ground maintenance, horticultural needs, forestry and pesticide requirements and construction.

These service depots are aging with many requiring substantial repair, refurbishment or replacement. WCA commissioned a service depot study, concentrating on the condition of each service depot along with functionality and location of each of the depots.

The depot study project objectives were:

- ◆ Review the current functionality of the depots, for all seasons
- ◆ Review of the existing six service depots (retain, renovate or remove),
- ◆ Consider the benefit of repairing, replacing or building new
- ◆ Consider what location(s) are or should be
- ◆ Recommend the functional use of the proposed service depot(s)
- ◆ Develop the conceptual design of a new service depot(s)
- ◆ Develop a conceptual serviceable site(s) layout

This project also took into consideration human resources and issues that include training new staff and the safe use and operation of equipment over the next 20-30 years. This project has provided WCA with a functional review that included recommendations on the number of service depots and their required functions and locations within Wascana Centre. The study is complete and the report was issued the week of June 13, 2016. From this report it was noted that there is a critical need to replace Depot 1 (near the Legislative building) and the Forestry/Construction depot (Depot 6) on Lakeshore Drive. Both these depots are deteriorated and require immediate replacement. With the approval of the WCA Board of Directors a 2017 project was initiated for the design of a new service depot to replace these two depots.

Another very important infrastructure project within the Centre is the replacement of our 50 year old irrigation system. WCA developed a RFP for a consultant to provide an irrigation study and commissioned Scatliff + Miller + Murray, a Landscape Consulting Company, to review and report on the existing irrigation system. The outcome of this study provided a phased-in approach to developing and designing a new irrigation system and modifications to the vegetated lands throughout the Centre. The results of this study, if incorporated, in conjunction with the WCA 2016 Master Plan, will ensure the long term reduction in irrigation maintenance and improvement in the health and vigor of the Wascana Centre landscape.



The guiding principles of the irrigation study are;

- ◆ Improved landscape resilience through the use of drought tolerance planting, reducing fertilizer needs, removal of weedy species and improved erosion control.
- ◆ Install, over time and in phases, a new irrigation system that will be up to date, efficient, automated and water/energy smart.
- ◆ Achieve a reduction in long term maintenance needs and costs.
- ◆ Maintain a civic leading high standard for landscape quality, and,
- ◆ Promote sustainability in landscape development, maintenance and design approach.

This report and recommendations are approved and WCA will develop a RFP for a detailed design for phase 1 irrigation replacement in 2017.

As Operations plans for long term sustainability, we have planned and completed many projects that will help sustain this mature and very well developed landscape.



Below is a list of some important projects that have been completed in 2016;

- ◆ The Wascana Centre 2016 Master Plan
- ◆ Service depot(s) study and recommendation
- ◆ Irrigation study and recommendations
- ◆ Redesign and the installation of a new public drinking fountain at the Spruce Island overlook
- ◆ Initiated a structural and functional study for the Bandstand structure
- ◆ Completed structural repairs to the Bandstand
- ◆ Pathway lighting – from the Marina north to Wascana Drive
- ◆ Willow Island – installed a new accessibility ramp
- ◆ Installed a new sidewalk along Wascana Drive from Broad Street to the Marina parking lot entrance
- ◆ Completed a design/study for an additional parking lot at Candy Cane Park
- ◆ Update and renovate the existing public washrooms
- ◆ The emergency replacement of the deck at the Willow on Wascana restaurant
- ◆ Pathway recapping continued from commemoration park to Legislative Drive and the path on Pine Island
- ◆ Completely replaced the sewer line for the Avenue G public washroom

Operations staff continues to work with our Partners in the centre and have developed relationships with each to ensure we are meeting their expectations and providing good customer service.

Wascana Centre operations staff will continue to plan for maintenance and enhancements to the Centre now and in the future.



Safety Message

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his will be an exciting year for Wascana Centre as we begin to implement corrective actions for items identified in the audit completed by the Saskatchewan Safety Council in 2016.

One substantial change for Wascana Centre's safety program is the implementation of a plan to document the training provided to staff for the operation of powered mobile equipment. This process will consist of classroom instruction, hands on demonstrations by both the instructor and the participant, and evaluation of the skills learned for a total of 16 hours of training. Performing this training will help make equipment operators more knowledgeable and skilled in doing their jobs.

To assist in maintaining the momentum of this training system, Wascana Centre will also be introducing some 'Train the Trainer' programs to provide the required knowledge to selected staff to enable them to feel comfortable in providing training and coaching to other staff members.

Safety is everyone's responsibility, and you are the key to its success.



The Saskatchewan Safety Council recognized Wascana Centre Authority with a Certificate of Recognition for our Safety Management System. We are the first organization to successfully meet all the requirements of the Council's Safety Program Certification system.

The Safety Program Certification system enables an organization to develop, implement and review their Health and Safety Management System against a third party recognized standard. The process can be valuable for showcasing due diligence through the ongoing monitoring and evaluating of management systems and continuous improvement.

To reach this level, Wascana Centre Authority had to first meet minimum training and program development requirements. We conducted an internal evaluation of our organization's Safety Management System. The internal evaluation is required to reach a minimum of 80% rating and pass a quality assurance verification. Wascana Centre Authority then applied to have the Saskatchewan Safety Council staff perform an external verification audit of our safety systems. This external audit verified a standing that meets or exceeds the 80% requirement and enabled Wascana Centre Authority to be issued the first Certificate of Recognition from the Saskatchewan Safety Council.

This program adheres to the standards set out by the Saskatchewan Joint Industry Committee.



Photo Caption: CEO of Wascana Centre Authority, Bernadette McIntyre, accepts a Safety Program Certificate of Recognition from Council CEO, Ryan Jacobson

Republished with permission from the Saskatchewan Safety Council

Human Resources

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he Human Resources department is responsible for labour relations, human resources policies, and payroll/benefits. It also supports the organization by coordinating and advising on all staffing, dispute resolution and return to work plans. The organization is comprised of year-round, part-time and seasonal staff.

Our orientation program had 98 new and returning seasonal staff run through the three-day program. We continue to evaluate and improve the orientation process to ensure our staff are trained and informed of WCA policies and procedures.

During the year we have supported staff by coordinating their attendance at various training sessions. Topics included: Managing People for First Time Supervisors, Dealing with Workplace Conflict, and Developing Leadership Skills.

We attended the University of Regina Job Fair in February 2017 again this year to help recruit seasonal workers. We also have great success through word of mouth, social media and web based job postings. Seasonal interviews began in March and ran into May.

Wascana Centre Authority wishes to recognize our dedicated employees that retired during the year:

Garth Loveday	42 years
William Martens	40 years
Shirley Young	40 years
Ken Bone	20 years
Bryan Gessey	13 years
Boyd Harrison	10 years
Daryl Randy Johnson	8 years



Events

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t was another busy and successful year for events throughout Wascana Centre. With over 200 events taking place throughout the year, Wascana Centre continues to be one of the finest outdoor venues in the country to host an event.

A few of the events that highlighted 2016-17 were the annual Canada Day festivities, SaskTel Summer Invasion, the Dragon Boat Festival and the Queen City Marathon. While most of the major events take place throughout the summer, 2017 marked the return of Waskimo to Wascana Centre. Thousands of people headed out to the East Lake during the Family Day holiday to take part in several family activities.

Wascana Centre continues to invest in the trail system throughout our 2,300 acres. From small charitable walks to major runs and marathons, Wascana Centre's unique trail system provided a great venue for events such as the JDRF Walk to Cure, Mayor's Run and Walk and the Regina Police Service half marathon.

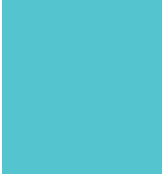
Numerous sporting events also took place throughout the Centre. The Douglas Park area was once again home to numerous track meets, softball games, cricket matches and of course the home to Regina Minor Football at Liebel Field. The Regina Thunder also hosted a game at Liebel Field in 2016 which proved to be tremendously successful.

There are also hundreds of smaller events like picnics, family barbecues and weddings that take place on a weekly basis. Wascana Centre Authority staff take great pride in making sure every event is planned properly to maximize the participant's enjoyment. Wascana Centre staff also works hard to ensure the grounds are properly maintained and their booked areas are ready upon arrival.

A huge thanks goes out to everyone that enjoys and utilizes Wascana Centre on a regular basis. It is amazing the passion this community has for Wascana Centre and because of you we will continue to share in the beauty and pride of this special place.



Ecology



We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories. These are the moments when the world is made whole. In my children's memories, the adventures we've had together in nature will always exist.

– Richard Louv



The Ecology department spends the spring to fall months doing goose management, carp management, monitoring and managing invasive species, gathering data on nesting songbirds and assisting with research projects in the Centre, like the turtle project and insect survey. It is hands down the greatest way to spend the warmer months outside in the field, especially when paired with exciting new projects and environmental education.

Two of our favourite initiatives this past year were the installation of the pollinator garden in the Waterfowl Display Ponds and the explosion of environmental education in the Centre! Both focus on making connections with nature in both subtle and direct ways, engaging the public with nature while educating them on the interconnectedness within nature and the importance of preserving it.

Waterfowl Display Pond's Pollinator Paradise

From the moment you wake up in the morning, your alarm clock blaring, coffee machine whirring with a fresh cup, to driving to work, to enjoying a delicious dinner in the evening, you are using plants. Studies have shown that over 1,300 types of plants are grown globally for the use of beverages, food, medicines, spices, condiments, fabric, etc.; and of these 1,300 plants, roughly 75% are pollinated by animals. Pollinators are crucial to establishing and maintaining our ecosystems but due to excessive pesticide use, there is an alarming decline in pollinator populations. With pollinators facilitating the reproduction of 90% of the world's flowering plants, the status of their population is of major concern.

Still not convinced? Installing the butterfly garden using only native prairie wildflowers and grasses raises awareness of the importance of a natural, native space that is also prime habitat for the declining pollinator populations. The garden is also used as an educational tool to highlight pollinators' environmental importance, raise awareness of the medicinal uses and cultural significance of native plants and to provide an opportunity for the general public to reconnect with nature when they are becoming increasingly disconnected from it. The uses and benefits of this garden are endless and hopefully as it continues to develop, more people will explore the space, making connections with nature.

From the design phase to the implementation phase we had roughly 85 people involved. The program groups and school classes that came out had hands-on experiences with gardening, native prairie species and established a connection with the space, with nature. With over 700 plugs, including over 40 different plant species planted in the garden, students, parents and public will have the opportunity to learn more about prime pollinator habitats as the garden continues to flourish.

Wascana Centre's Environmental Education

One of our goals within the Ecology program at Wascana Centre is to introduce even more environmental education in the park, creating a balance between ecology and education. With creating over 20 programs for schools and running special holiday programs we have really boosted our environmental education presence in the city. Our Junior Naturalist program and Wascana Homeschool Environmental Education program were both full and had a waiting list; our tracking program was full with a waiting list and the special Halloween program saw hundreds of attendees. We also had 70 school programs this fiscal year with more than half booking programs again for the new fiscal year.

One of our favourite programs we were fortunate to be involved with is the United Way Summer Success program designed to help students from K- Grade 3 with their literacy skills so transitioning to the next grade is easier. Without these efforts teachers discovered that many students are not able to read or write and without assistance, barely able to pass and by high school they tend to drop out.

While at first this doesn't sound like an immediate connection, when we discussed how Wascana could be involved we talked about nature/environment themed books that would pair excellently with the park. They could read about wetland, plants, birds, mammals or even insects and we could relate it to the park.

Three of seven teachers ended up choosing Wascana as their destination, enabling students and parents to explore both the Waterfowl Display Ponds and the Habitat Conservation Area. Classes went bird watching, fed waterfowl, learned about pollinators, aquatic invertebrates, beavers, turtles, plants and much more! We made their book come to life right here in the city!

Providing the opportunity to explore these special nature escapes in the city resulted in drawing connections between their books and real-life nature, developing more of an interest in both reading and nature and leading to parents and teachers returning to the park numerous times afterwards. What amazed us with the program is that after completing their second year this summer, there were 120 students that took part and of those 120, 98% maintained their literacy level and 44% improved! With such a spectacular result we are happy to announce that we will take part in Summer Success again this summer, continuing to connect literacy with nature and contribute to their excellent initiative!



2016 & 2017 Wascana Centre Donations



Corporate Partners

Regina & District Food Bank
Friends of Wascana Marsh
South Saskatchewan Community
Foundation Inc.
The G. Murray and Edna Forbes
Foundation

Park Champions

Canada Helps Org.
Queen City Marathon Inc.
Richard and Bernadette McIntyre
United Way of Regina

Park Patrons

Sask. Central

Park Contributors

Adam Hoyt
Dale and Janet Schoffer
Glen Downton
Karen and Chris Pasterfield
Millie Hoyt
Sask Central – Cheryl Bergen
Vernon Hoyt

Park Supporters

Jan Ayer
Lisa Lueck
Neil Petrich
Sheila Fahlman

Media

CBC Saskatchewan
Global TV
Harvard Radio
Rawlco Radio
The Leader Post

Grants

Canada 150 Community Infrastructure
Program
World Wildlife Fund Canada
ASUPCA
City of Regina
Province of Saskatchewan
University of Regina

Tree Sponsors

Barb Adams
Cornelius Beek
Joan Woodward
Michael Kaine
Roy and Alicia Ohashi
Taylor Lexus Toyota

Tree Planting Sponsors

TD Friends of the Environment
Tree Canada Foundation

Bench and Memorial Donations

Anna Dobra
Bernard and Alice Sebastian



Wascana Centre Authority Financial Highlights

Please see www.wascana.ca for complete audited financial statements.

Financial Highlights

As at March 31, 2017

Assets:

Current Assets	\$ 5,484,513
Capital Assets	3,881,910
	<u>\$ 9,449,918</u>

Liabilities and Equity:

Current Liabilities	\$ 4,771,510
Deferred capital contributions	979,174
Equity	3,699,234
	<u>\$ 9,449,918</u>

Financial Highlights

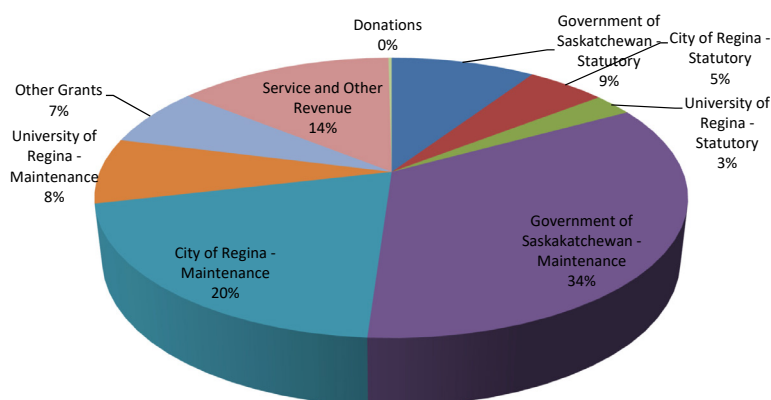
For the year ended March 31, 2017

Grants	\$ 7,148,788
Service and Other Revenue	1,167,243
Donations	17,922
	<u>8,333,953</u>

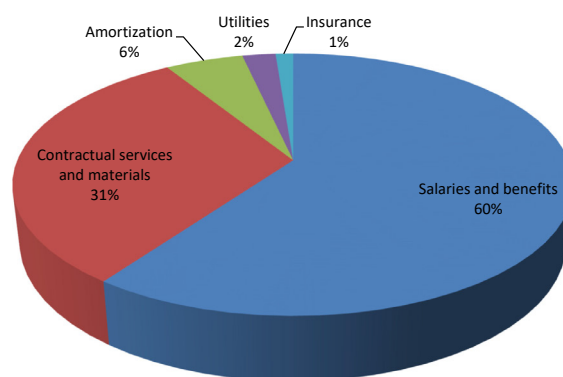
Salaries and benefits	\$ 4,948,471
Contractual services and materials	2,577,707
Amortization	443,603
Utilities	188,994
Insurance	100,136
	<u>8,258,911</u>

Net Income (Loss) for the year	<u><u>\$ 75,042</u></u>
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2017 Revenue



2017 Expenditures



In the 2016-17 fiscal year, WCA's financial position remained stable, reporting an increase in current assets and deferred contributions due to advances in grant funding for the upcoming year. Funding remained status quo from the university and province, while the City of Regina approved the Authority's request for increases to operating and capital funding. Contrary to funding not keeping pace with the challenges of inflation and cost of living increases, WCA achieved a small surplus, the result of strategic management and planning. The majority of expenditures are allocated to salaries and benefits of staff engaged in the delivery of services within the Centre. Included in contractual services and materials is the completion of \$1.1M to development and infrastructure projects with the remainder dedicated to core maintenance which remains status quo with the prior year.



Wascana Centre Authority

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