December 2019







www.girlguides.ca/MB

The Buffalo

Message from the Provincial Commissioner

Hello Guiding Sisters,

Where did the year go?? Did you accomplish some of the goals you set in January? Do you have plans, hopes and dreams for what 2020 holds? I hope the answer to both those questions is YES. Norman Vincent Peale said "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." If you're aiming for something, even if you don't achieve it, you'll still be somewhere better than where you started.

One example of this is how busy girls and Guiders across the province have been selling our delicious mint cookies, we aim high but can still go further. Spring cookie orders are due soon and I encourage you to increase your cookie order numbers; province wide you requested over 400 cases from the national wish list which clearly shows an increase is very doable. In past campaigns, our members have received over-whelming positive responses from residents who were thrilled to see "Girl Guides" selling cookies in their communities once again, especially door-to-door. It is awesome how our girls and Guiders have come together as a team to promote cookies and turn the campaign into the astounding success it has become. A huge thank-you to every girl, Guider and parent who continue to help make our cookie campaigns a success. Every box of cookies sold is not only vital to supporting our organization but also an integral part of our leadership programming.

In this edition of the Buffalo you'll find a sneak peek of our Provincial Convention scheduled for April 24-26, 2020. Whether you are a new or experienced Guider, these conventions offer many exciting opportunities for training and interacting with fellow Guiders. Registration will be open in the New Year so keep watch, put yourself out there and don't miss this opportunity!

In this issue:

- Recognizing your Guiders
- Scholarship changes and more
- Sneak peek of the 2020 Provincial Annual Convention!
- Upcoming Council and Ops Forum vacancies

A big goal we have for Guiding in Manitoba in 2020 is Unified Banking! We are gearing up to go live April 1st on the Unified Banking platform. We are just finalizing our Unified Banking Champions (will be announced shortly) who will lead and support Guiders and Treasurers through the process. This is a great initiative which has many, many benefits to units mainly consisting of taking some of the administrative burden off Guiders so they can focus on what matters most – the girls! I am definitely looking forward to Unified Banking not only as a PC but also as a Unit Guider and I hope you are too. More details on trainings and webinars will begin being posted in late January so stay tuned on how to sign up so you can get on board the new platform and start this new adventure.

I know this time of year can be very stressful for some, holidays mean both good and bad things to people, the weather is changing, girls are getting anxious for a holiday break and so are Guiders! Many of you will be taking a few weeks off over the next month for the holiday season and I encourage you to fill your cup with whatever it is you need to re-charge for the New Year. Whether that's taking time with family and friends, getting outdoors, getting out of Manitoba's cold or spending time alone with a good book just ensure you take the time for some self-care because if you're burnt out then you can't do the great things for the girls that I know you all love to do.

As always, thank you for all you do! Your gift of time, patience and encouragement is the foundation that keeps our girls involved and active. You believe in Girl Guides and what we do and you encourage girls to reach for "everything she can be".

I wish you a happy, healthy and fun filled start to the New Year!

Krista Laberge, Provincial Commissioner

Introducing Your Manitoba Council and Ops Forum!

As you saw in our September edition of the Buffalo, in each Buffalo this year we will highlight two of our teams in order to help you understand their role and how they can help you! Today's article will feature the Risk Management and Member teams.

Risk Management Team



Chantel Bage (L) and Jackie Hritzuk (R)

Our Risk Management Team consists of Chantel Bage, Risk and Compliance Coordinator and Jackie Hritzuk, Safe Guide Adviser.

As Risk and Compliance Coordinator, Chantel helps to identify and mitigate exposure to risks that threaten the Provincial Council's ability to accomplish our Mission and provides oversight to the Safe Guide Adviser.

As Safe Guide Adviser, Jackie assists with the oversight and administration of the Safe Guide process. She mentors our provincial Safe Guide Assessors and helps Guiders with Safe Guide related questions and concerns.

Member(s) of Council



Cordelia Yaworski (L) and Lynsey Lodge (R)

As Member(s) of Manitoba Council, Lynsey and Cordelia provide direct input to the delivery of Guiding within Manitoba. They help to bring perspective and opinion of the membership to deliberations of the Council and they are assigned special responsibilities or projects e.g. events, awards, scholarships and more!

Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2019 scholarship recipients!

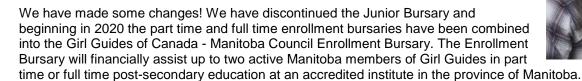
<u>Autumn Wiebe – Full Time Enrolment Bursary</u>

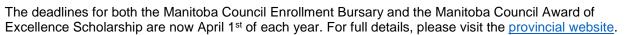
"Guiding has played a huge role in my life as it introduced me to many new and interesting people, topics, careers and places. Without Guiding I don't think I would have nearly as much knowledge and friendships as I do now. Through Guiding I have made a positive impact on the world and have been able to pass that fire along to younger girls that I lead and to then see them pass it along again. Each new person that I have met through Guiding had their own passion that they shared with me which I had then passed on as well, creating a snowball effect for a positive change in the world."



Sandra Eaton - Part Time Enrollment Bursary

"Guiding has provided me with so many amazing opportunities to learn new things, especially about travel and the outdoors. As a girl member I was constantly provided opportunities to practice leadership skills with girls of a variety of ages and interests. These skills have developed through girl guides but I now use them in my career as a teacher."









Manitoba Council and the Girl Engagement Coordinator are looking to fill the International Adviser Position. The International Adviser works closely with the Girl Engagement Team and the members of Manitoba Council.

The International Adviser needs to be detailed orientated, organized, able to communicate well with others, have basic computer skills and a basic knowledge of Safe Guide travel forms and computer skills.

For more information, please feel free to contact <u>Nikki Rosenberger</u>, Girl Engagement Coordinator. Full details of the position as well as how to apply are available on the <u>provincial website</u>.



Manitoba Provincial Convention

April 24 – 26, 2020 Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg

Our Theme for this year's convention is: GET BUSY LIVING!

Your provincial council is working hard to put together sessions that will help move you in a positive direction or move you to try something new... either personally or in within your units where you're working with girls. In other words, to help you to GET BUSY LIVING!

Here's some sneak peeks:

- Diversity and Inclusivity
 - Mental Health
 - Self Defence

- Yoga
- Green Programming
- How to make an escape room!

You can book your hotel room by calling the Fort Garry Hotel at 204-942-8251 or toll free at 800-665-8088 and quoting code 1169El. Guest rooms are limited so don't wait to book!

We can't wait to see you in April!

Safe Guide Forms

Did you know that since the start of the year Manitoba Council has processed over 335 sets of Safe Guide forms? One of the ongoing challenges is that old forms are still being submitted. Effective immediately, any old forms that are submitted will be returned to the Responsible Guider to update and you will be required to resubmit them, which will change your submission date and could result in your event not being approved.

Please ensure you are always using the forms from the website – they are guaranteed to be the correct version and will help to keep your Safe Guide assessment on track!

Norway House Brownie and Guide Units

The 1st Norway House Brownie Pack started in the fall of 1981. They met in the gymnasium at Jack River School. Like many Brownie Units they enjoyed crafts, outdoor activities, knitting, crocheting and signing – Auntie Monika was their favorite song!



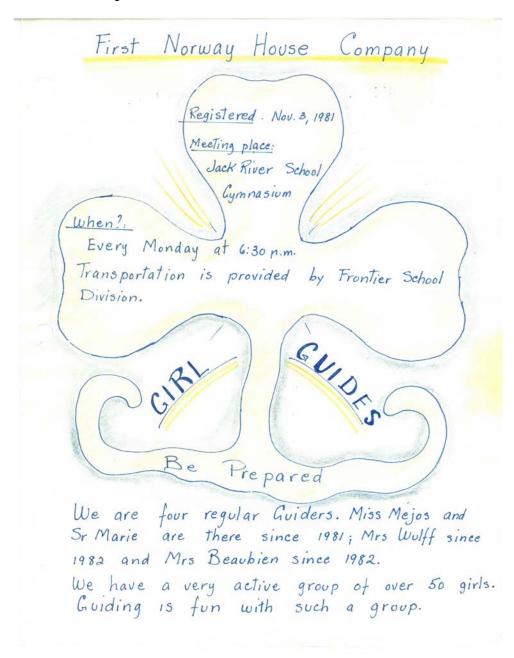


Brownie baking for badges: We used the staff room to bake for badges and to say "thanks" to our bus drivers and care takers. L-R: Melanie Meikle, Allison Dwyer, Snow Owl Mrs. Linda Martin, Roberta Paynter, Stephanie Hart, Clarice Apetagon.

Brownies crafts: Brownies work on crafts with our Tawny Owl, Sister Gabrielle in her classroom.
Clockwise from bottom L: Shawna Bailey, Verla Muswagon, Lisa Clark, Sister Gabrielle, Monica Paupanekis, Freda Paupanekis



The 1st Norway House Guide Company also started in the fall of 1981. They too met at Jack River School. More than 50 girls participated in this Guide Company! Among some of their usual Guide activities this group also worked on their Aircraft Badge!





Guides skits: It is fun to do our skits at the campfire, Bonnie Dixon is the singer of the night.





Guides Aircraft 1 and 2 – Aircraft badge with Mr. and Mrs. Gary Long. This plane ride is not a requirement for the badge but every time Mr. Long gave a plan ride to the girls, they were reminded of their previous lessons.

If you are interested in learning more about Norway House please contact the Heritage Committee at mb-heritage@girlquides.ca

Join Manitoba Council and Ops Forum!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a member of Manitoba Council?

Are you looking for something new in Guiding?

Do you want to build on your leadership skills?

If you any of these questions had you saying "yes!" then we need you! Manitoba Council is currently accepting application for the following positions, each with a start date of April 25, 2020.

Provincial Treasurer

This role helps manage, and monitor the financial affairs, including all budgeting and policy compliance of GGC monies, investments, and assets of the Provincial Council. Must have professional financial credentials (CPA, CA, CGA, or CMA). Guess what – your hours in this role can count towards your professional designation continuing education hours!

Area Commissioner - Cambrian and Grand Pines Area

Area Commissioners help to carry out the Vision and Mission of Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada by promoting and administering the affairs of their Area. The Area Commissioner is the leader of her Area and Chair of her Area Council. She provides leadership and, in her role on the Provincial Council, has input into decisions that support the implementation of policies and programs at the Provincial level of the organization.

Camping Adviser

As Camping Adviser, I have had opportunities to provide outdoor experiences for both girls and guiders. With events like the camping skills events held this year for all branches or the camping badge themed badge days or the international cook-off, the Camping Adviser gets to take part in planning some of the most exciting events held in our province each year! I have become closer with other Guiders by being a part of our provincial event planning team and have made friendships that are sure to extend beyond my term in the position.

I've also become a lot more familiar with our OAL training process and with this role I get to help Guiders reach their goals and get their girls out to camp safely and efficiently. It is always a great moment when I get to tell Guiders they have received official training milestones that will be put into iMIS.

And of course, in my role as Camping Adviser I have had the opportunity to support girls and Guiders who have attended LEAP, SOAR, DAWN, and Voila and all interprovincial camps that have been held across the province in the last few years. Supporting these Guiders and girls has been incredibly rewarding as I get to see them come together and have a fabulous time travelling together. I have had the opportunity to meet and communicate with more of my sisters in guiding and to lend them a hand.

Program Adviser

My time as Program Adviser has been hard work, lots of hours and sometimes frustrating but the thing that has overshadowed all of that is the reward at the end with seeing how much fun the girls are having or seeing them try new things.

It's when during a Spark badge day they come up to you and want to give you a picture or during a Brownie badge day two girls really want to show you their play they made with the sock puppets. These and many

more are what being the Program Adviser is all about creating amazing experiences for the girls that they wouldn't have without guiding.

PR & Communications Adviser

These past few years have been such an amazing opportunity for me to grow in Guiding. From attending and helping at provincial events, taking photos to keep our Social Media updated, curating/creating our Buffalo newsletters, to helping design new advertising for Manitoba Girl Guides. I have interacted with so many new Guiders/Girls across the province, it's been such an amazing experience getting to branch out from just helping within my Unit and District. If you're looking to expand your Guiding experience while promoting Manitoba Girl Guides online, and in our communities, I highly recommend this position!

Did you know: you do not need to have previous area or provincial council experience to apply for one of these positions? One criteria which is a standard in all of the positions descriptions is something we KNOW you have: A commitment to and passion for GGC.

If you are interested in applying for one or more of these positions please fill out the <u>Volunteer Application</u> form and send it to <u>mb-nominations@girlguides.ca</u> by February 1, 2020.

Holiday Cards to the Canadian Forces

During this time of year it can be easy to get caught up in the busyness of holiday dinners, shopping, and gatherings that are fast approaching but there are some Canadians that won't get to come home to spend the holiday season with their family and friends, as they are out protecting our country.

If your group is looking for something to do in the upcoming weeks at your unit meetings, write a card to a member of the Canadian Forces!

The address to send your cards to:

Any Canadian Armed Forces Member PO Box 5004 Stn Forces Belleville, Ont K8N-5W6



Lagimodiere Fall Festival - Kathy Wallmuth



The first Lagimodiere Fall Festival has come and gone but what a day!! The day was held on October 6th, 2019 at Sunova Centre in West St Paul and nearly 300 people were in attendance! Everyone had a great time and when asked, the crowd was very excited about doing this again. I hope groups were able to meet new friends outside of their units and guiders shared conversations and also bridged and made connections to open more bridging opportunities and just strengthen the Lagimodiere community.

Here is a sampling of the activities that took place:

- Inflatable Axe Throwing and corn maze
- Sack races and parachute fun
- Scarecrow building
- Bobbing for Apples
- · Giant Board games
- Crafts Mason jar candles, Bird Suet ring making, and painting with Cotton balls
- Snacks Haystacks (aka Rice Krispie Treats) and of course More Apples

We finished the day with a big dance party. The Macarena was a hit and the ever popular YMCA is timeless. It does not matter the age everyone seems to join in. Everyone who participated will receive their first crest of the season to sew to their blankets or camp ponchos. (Note these have now arrived so units will be getting them very soon).

A big shout out to everyone who helped with the planning, this was my vision but a total group effort. The participants made it a success so thank you everyone for showing up and sharing in the fun!!! So many fabulous pictures were taken - here are a few to celebrate the day. What a perfect way to welcome the new girls and guiders, bridge the units of Lag, and give the girls a chance to celebrate the season, and make new friends. A great start to the 2019/20 Guiding year!!



Axe throwing!



Cotton ball art.



Macarena!





Bobbing for apples

Dance party!

Recognizing your Guiders!

Everyone who belongs to our organization deserves recognition! For Guiders – rewards come in different ways – the personal satisfaction of sharing in the fun and excitement of the girls, experiencing the sisterhood and support of other guiders, the sense of belonging. Recognition becomes even more meaningful when it is a result of a nomination from a sister Guider. Every Guider may make application for an award for another Guider.

Where do I start?

We all know and volunteer with a Guider who goes out of her way to make each meeting, camp and event fun for the girls, helps to plan program, and takes the time to 'lend a hand' to other Guiders. We have District and Area Commissioners who are always there to listen, support and encourage us as leaders. Think about the Guiders who plan events for your district or area – they add so much to Guiding. So, talk to your other Guiders – mention you'd like to recognize this leader – and you'll find they have been thinking of doing this too!

Tips for Writing Letters:

- Begin with an introduction which identifies the nominee, the award being applied for and a summary
 of her role(s) and accomplishments (your Area can provide information on the Guider's roles and
 previous awards).
- Explain why she is deserving of the award. Use specific examples within the letter. Refer to her
 accomplishments in the areas of Guiding; work; personal (e.g. illness, disability, challenges, positive

attitude); community (e.g. other volunteer roles)

- Include the most relevant details that support the award. (Why should this person receive this particular award?)
- Letters can come from: Guiders, parents, girls, other volunteer organizations, employers/colleagues, teachers, etc.

Awards requiring area and/or provincial approval

The following awards must be applied for and approved by the area and provincial awards committee:

<u>Letter of Commendation</u> – may be given to a girl or adult member more than once in recognition of service to GGC.



<u>Gold Thanks</u> – may be given to a girl or adult member more than once for excellent service to guiding.



<u>Team Award</u> – may be given to each member who has been part of team that planned and completed and event or project, or worked well together during a time of adversity.



Unit Guider Awards - Presented to Unit Guiders who:

- provide girls with diverse and exciting programs and opportunities that will help them be empowered
- ensure there are regular bridging opportunities in their unit
- always welcome new members; attend trainings; participate in district or communities of Guiding meetings
- and uphold the values of GGC



Bronze (1-3 years)



Silver (4 – 10 years)



Gold (11+ years)

<u>Commissioner/ACL Award</u> – may be presented to Commissioners and Administrative Community Leaders (ACL) who:

- Uphold the values of GGC, and lead by example
- Actively welcome new members and retain current members; mentor adult members
- Gain the respect of members, girls and parents





<u>Merit Awards</u> – may be presented <u>to</u> Guiders who have demonstrated especially *dedicated or excellent service* to Guiding and have gone above and beyond the basic requirements of their Guiding position. It can be awarded three times in the following order: Bronze Merit; Silver Merit; and Gold Merit





<u>Medal of Merit</u> – may be presented for *exceptional service to*<u>Guiding</u>, and *exceptional commitment* to their Guiding role above and beyond the basic requirements of their Guiding position. Except in special cases, <u>the Medal of Merit is awarded only to</u> those who hold a Gold Merit Award.



Red River Cart – this is a Manitoba Provincial Council Award that recognizes exemplary ongoing services to Guiding in the Province of Manitoba. The nominee must hold the Medal of Merit or higher. Full criteria may be found on the Provincial website. NOTE: a new Red River Cart, with the new logo, will be available in 2020.



The deadline for awards requiring provincial approval (Bronze Merit, Silver Merit, Gold Merit, Medal of Merit, Team Award and Red River Cart) is *February 28, 2020*. Completed applications must be sent by email to the <u>provincial office</u> on or before this deadline. Check with your Area office for Area deadlines.

This is your chance to have a sister Guider recognized - and to show appreciation to a Guider who does all those extra things to make your unit the best it can be!

For more information, sample letters, and application forms, check out our <u>Provincial Website Awards Letter Guidelines</u>, and the <u>National Member Zone</u>. You can also take a look at an <u>Awards Webinar</u> shared with us by Alberta Council and Sue Fortunka. (You may have to download an Adobe Connect application to watch).

Pathfinders and Rangers invade Flin Flon!

We had nearly 70 girls, along with their Guiders, attend a camping skills event in Flin Flon at the beginning of November.

Girls participated in a variety of activities, including:

- First Aid
- Animal Safety
- Plants
- Fire Building
- Shelter Building
- Water Purification

- Adventure camp food
- Geocaching
- Painting
- Crafting
- Knots/lashings

And of course a visit to the famous Flinty statue!

The full day Saturday was spent outside, learning new skills and making new friends. A huge thank you to all girls and Guiders who participated! Here are a few things participants had to say about the event:

"I have acquired new skills and forever long bonds of friendship." – Pathfinder Shaylee

"I loved seeing our new and experienced Pathfinders reach out of their comfort zones to meet new friends and try new things." – Jennifer Roy

"I had a lot of fun doing a lot of activities, It was fun to get to know the other girls from Winnipeg. I hope we get to do it again, maybe next year with all my friends in Girl Guides. I made a friend name Daphne (I hope I spelled her name right) we had fun doing things like eating dehydrated food, building shelters in the forest. We made crafts and paintings. Other then drinking hot chocolate and watching "the sisterhood of the travelling pants" the most fun was making friends." — Pathfinder Scarlett

"This was an awesome event! It was well planned and executed! I took part in 6 sessions and I would say I learned the most from animal safety. My favorite part of the event was Flinty visit and the service project making kindness rocks! I met a lot of new friends and got to know guiders I have seen before a lot better! I would recommend an event like this to all units to try, the ladies in Flin Flon were so nice and very welcoming! It was a wonderful experience for all!" — Tanya Harrap



"My first impression when the buses started pulling in was "wow, that's a lot of people". but after everything was loaded inside, I realized how fun it would be to introduce some Winnipegers to my hometown! Some activities included camping food, shelter building, painting and crafts. I also made a few new friends. It was such a fun camp, one of the many reasons I love Girl Guides." – Pathfinder Isa



Girl Guide Night with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers

We had a blast with girls, Guiders, and their families from across Manitoba at the 3rd annual Girl Guide Night with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers game in September. You could find the girls wrapped up in their Camp Blankets keeping warm, because it was a VERY COLD night for a football game. With all our cheering, we were hoping the Blue Bombers would win, but we still had a great night.









Stay tuned for the next event with the 2019 Grey Cup Champions coming in fall 2020!

Juliette Low Seminar Event - Jordan Dearsley

The Youth Forum ran our own Juliette Low Seminar (JLS) on the 24th of November. We based our programming off the six WAGGGS Leadership Mindsets. Our goal was to help the girls familiarize themselves with these mindsets and learn how to apply them to different situations.



With the Worldly mindset girls had a chance to listen to an Elder. They got to hear about a different perspective and life beyond their own. They listened about the importance of culture for young people and had a chance to broaden their worldview, an essential part of good leadership.

In the Gender Equality mindset, girls had a chance to think critically on the gender stereotypes they see in their lives and how they apply to how women are portrayed in magazines. Girls were given a task to create their own magazine covers to reflect how they want to see women in magazines. Some wanted to see women be allowed to smile instead of being posed, while others wished magazines would stop trying to push wearing revealing clothing as the only way to look beautiful. While looking through one of the magazines a group of girls started keeping tallies of what kind of ads were in the magazines. Only part way through, their tally of ads was up to fourteen with thirteen of those ads being for make-up. Girls learned to recognize stereotypes so that they will be able to lead without bias.

The Collaborative mindset was certainly all fun and games. The girls moved through different stations to advance their token on the game board. These stations consisted of problem solving activities that encouraged them to lead their teams, think through situations as a group and how to incorporate and work with others' ideas.

It was hard to stop the questions and move on to the next activity when Sheilah Lee Restall, the creator of the Poppy Blanket Project was presenting about her way of leadership. The Poppy Blanket Project, a giant chicken wire blanket made of more than 8500 knitted or crocheted poppies was a great example of the utilisation of the Responsible Action mindset. Her message was: anyone can be a leader, and leaders aren't the ones barking orders at others but working with them to create solutions and ideas.

"Yes! And" and "Yes, But" could be heard like a broken record as girls tried the Creative and Critical Thinking mindset and ideas flew between the girls. Let's plan a Girl Guide event resulted in "Yes, and the castle walls should be made of fire!" The girls reflected on how "Yes, and" resulted in a lot more ideas, while "Yes, but" felt like more of an argument; and how it was a lot easier to shut people down (yes but) than to build off (yes and).

The day ended with the Reflective mindset. The girls practiced two different methods of meditation and had a chance to think over all the skills they had improved or acquired throughout the day. This event equipped the girls with the tools to understand leadership and the different aspects to consider in being a good leader. It was a great event to help meet and shape our future leaders.

Revenue Collection Process

All Unit Guiders and Commissioners should familiarize themselves with <u>Manitoba Council's Revenue</u> <u>Collection Process</u>. These are the steps that need to be followed when you have identified that collecting money from a parent/guardian may become a concern. It is essential that the appropriate steps are taken at each level before the matter is escalated up to the next level.

Holiday Office Hours

The provincial and area offices will be closed at noon on December 24th and reopen at 9:00 am on January 2, 2020.



Manitoba Council, Advisers and Staff

Honorary Patrons and Associates

Her Honour the Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M. Honorary Patron

Debra Halligan

Marjorie Doyle **Honorary Associates** Carol Anderson (Former Provincial Commissioners)

Marlo Jurkowski Michelle Barclay

Manitoba Council

Treasurer

Provincial Commissioner Krista Laberge **Deputy Provincial Commissioners** Heather McFadyen

Carolyn Titterton Carmen Kaethler Girl Engagement Coordinator Nikki Rosenberger

Membership Services Coordinator Jasa Cable Risk and Compliance Coordinator Chantel Bage

Youth Forum Coordinators Juliana Barclay and Shelan Emre Members Cordelia Yawkorski and Lynsey Lodge

Cambrian Area Commissioner Nadine Vokey Crocus West Area Commissioner Katie Gross **Grand Pines Area Commissioner** Tammy Welsh

Lagimodiere Area Commissioner Wendy Pilcher (Acting) Prairie Valley Area Commissioner **Brittany Simmons**

Provincial Advisers and Liaisons

Sandra Eaton Camping Adviser International Adviser **VACANT** Carla Paddock Membership Adviser Program Adviser Melissa Lopushniuk Public Relations and Communication Adviser Megan Mailey Safe Guide Adviser Jackie Hritzuk Training Adviser Sherry Thom Trefoil Guild Liaison Sharon Romanow Link Liaison Alanna Rhodes

Provincial and Area Staff

Executive Director Elaine Cullingham Membership Support Coordinator Monika Theissen Bookkeeping and Finance Tammy Rutherford Office Administrator Yvonne Barber

(Grand Pines, Lagimodiere and Prairie

Valley)